

8.2. Area of a surface of revolution. (Sec. 8.2 in the textbook)

Note that the surface area of a cone of which cutting isosceles triangle has sides length ℓ and bottom length $2r$ is $(\pi\ell^2) \cdot \frac{2\pi r}{2\pi\ell} = \pi r\ell$. If the cone of side length $\ell_1 + \ell$ and bottom length $2r_2$ is cut out the top part of which cutting isosceles triangle has side length ℓ_1 and bottom length $2r_1$, then the area of the remaining band is

$$A = \pi r_2(\ell + \ell_1) - \pi r_1\ell_1 = \pi r_2\ell + \pi(r_2 - r_1) \cdot \frac{r_1\ell}{r_2 - r_1} = \pi(r_1 + r_2)\ell.$$

Let f be a function which is nonnegative on $[a, b]$ and A be the area of the surface obtained by rotating the curve $y = f(x)$ on $[a, b]$ about the x -axis. By partitioning $[a, b]$ into n subintervals of equal width, one has

$$A \approx \sum_{i=1}^n \pi[f(x_{i-1}) + f(x_i)]\sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + [f(x_{i-1}) - f(x_i)]^2},$$

where $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n}$ and $x_i = a + i\Delta x$. Assume that f is differentiable on $[a, b]$. By the mean value theorem, we may choose $x_i^* \in (x_{i-1}, x_i)$ such that $\sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + [f(x_{i-1}) - f(x_i)]^2} = \sqrt{1 + [f'(x_i^*)]^2}\Delta x$. Note that $f(x_{i-1}) \approx f(x_i^*)$ and $f(x_i) \approx f(x_i^*)$. In addition with the continuity of f' on $[a, b]$, we obtain

$$A = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \pi[f(x_{i-1}) + f(x_i)]\sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + [f(x_{i-1}) - f(x_i)]^2} = \int_a^b 2\pi f(x)\sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2}dx.$$

Theorem 8.2. *If f is non-negative and has continuous derivative on $[a, b]$, then the area of the surface obtained by rotating the curve $y = f(x)$ with $x \in [a, b]$ about the x -axis is given by*

$$A = \int_a^b 2\pi f(x)\sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2}dx = \int_a^b 2\pi y\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2}dx.$$

Remark 8.2. If g is nonnegative and continuously differentiable on $[c, d]$, then the area of the surface obtained by rotating the curve $x = g(y)$ with $y \in [c, d]$ about the y -axis is given by

$$A = \int_c^d 2\pi g(y)\sqrt{1 + [g'(y)]^2}dy = \int_c^d 2\pi x\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^2}dy.$$

Remark 8.3. Let s be the arc length function of $f(x)$ or $g(y)$ and A_x, A_y be the areas of the surfaces obtained by rotating $y = f(x)$ and $x = g(y)$ about the x -axis and y -axis. Then, $A_x = \int 2\pi y ds$ and $A_y = \int 2\pi x ds$.

Example 8.3. Let A be the area of the surface obtained by rotating the curve $y = x^2$ with $x \in [1, 2]$ about the y -axis. By rewriting $x = y^{1/2}$ with $y \in [1, 4]$, we have

$$A = \int 2\pi x ds = \int_1^4 2\pi y^{1/2}\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{4y}}dy = \int_1^2 2\pi x\sqrt{1 + 4x^2}dx = \frac{\pi}{6}(17\sqrt{17} - 5\sqrt{5}).$$

Example 8.4. To compute the area A of the surface of a ball with radius r , let $y = \sqrt{r^2 - x^2}$ with $x \in [-r, r]$. Then,

$$A = \int 2\pi y ds = \int_{-r}^r 2\pi\sqrt{r^2 - x^2}\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{-x}{\sqrt{r^2 - x^2}}\right)^2}dx = \int_{-r}^r 2\pi r dx = 4\pi r^2.$$