
For Tutorial 8 Q2, once we reach the integral

$$V_1 = \int_0^r \int_0^{\sqrt{r^2-y^2}} \sqrt{r^2-y^2} dx dy,$$

it is tempting to use polar coordinates “ $y = r \sin \theta$ ” (incorrect) to convert the integral into

$$\text{Incorrect: } \int_0^{\pi/2} \int_0^r \sqrt{r^2 - r^2 \sin^2 \theta} r dr d\theta = \frac{r^3}{3}.$$

This is incorrect because the r in the question is a **constant**, while for polar coordinates, the radius “ r ” should be a **variable**.

Hence if we really want to use polar coordinates, we need to **call our radius something else, say R** . So $y = R \sin \theta$ instead.

It is doable, but it turns out it is quite tedious:

$$\begin{aligned} V_1 &= \int_0^{\pi/2} \int_0^r \sqrt{r^2 - R^2 \sin^2 \theta} R dR d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{-1}{2 \sin^2 \theta} \left[\int_0^r \sqrt{r^2 - R^2 \sin^2 \theta} (-2R \sin^2 \theta) dR \right] d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{-1}{2 \sin^2 \theta} \left[\frac{(r^2 - R^2 \sin^2 \theta)^{3/2}}{3/2} \right]_{R=0}^{R=r} d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{-1}{2 \sin^2 \theta} \left[\frac{r^3 \cos^3 \theta - r^3}{3/2} \right] d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{3} r^3 \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{1 - \cos^3 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta \\ &= \frac{2}{3} r^3 \quad (\text{see explanation below for why the integral is 2}) \end{aligned}$$

There are two ways to see why

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{1 - \cos^3 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta = 2.$$

First way is to use your Graphical Calculator's numerical integration program. Second way is to use this method (improper integral):

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{1 - \cos^3 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta &= \lim_{a \rightarrow 0^+} \int_a^{\pi/2} \frac{1 - \cos^3 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta \\ &= \lim_{a \rightarrow 0^+} \int_a^{\pi/2} \csc^2 \theta - \frac{(1 - \sin^2 \theta)}{\sin^2 \theta} \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \lim_{a \rightarrow 0^+} \left[-\cot \theta + \frac{1}{\sin \theta} + \sin \theta \right]_a^{\pi/2} \\ &= \lim_{a \rightarrow 0^+} \left[2 - \left(-\cot a + \frac{1}{\sin a} + \sin a \right) \right] \\ &= 2 - \lim_{a \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{-\cos a + 1 + \sin^2 a}{\sin a} \right) \\ &= 2 - \lim_{a \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\sin a + 2 \sin a \cos a}{\cos a} \quad (\text{L'Hopital}) \\ &= 2.\end{aligned}$$