

18.02A Topic 32: Polar coordinates, double integrals in polar coordinates.

Read: TB: 16.1, 20.4

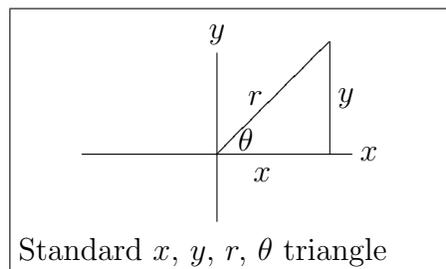
Polar Coordinates

Definition:

$$x = r \cos \theta, \quad y = r \sin \theta.$$

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \quad \theta = \tan^{-1}(y/x).$$

(θ is tricky, \tan^{-1} is in quotes to indicate you need to pick the correct quadrant. Use the picture –see example below.)



Standard x, y, r, θ triangle

Example: (more than one way to represent any point) (The x, y coordinates are at the top of each column and various r, θ representations are below.)

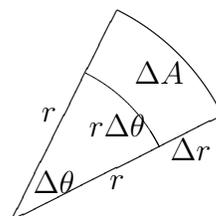
(x, y)	(1, 0)	(0, 1)	(2, 0)	(1, 1)	(-1, 1)	(-1, -1)	(0, 0)
(r, θ)	(1, 0)	(1, $\pi/2$)	(2, 0)	($\sqrt{2}, \pi/4$)	($\sqrt{2}, 3\pi/4$)	($\sqrt{2}, 5\pi/4$)	(0, $\pi/2$)
(r, θ)	(1, 2π)		($\sqrt{2}, 9\pi/4$)		($-\sqrt{2}, \pi/4$)	(0, -7.2)	
(r, θ)	(1, 4π)						

Double integral: $\int \int_R f(x, y) dA$

Write dA in polar coordinates

$$\Delta A \approx r \Delta \theta \Delta r$$

$$\Rightarrow dA = r d\theta dr = r dr d\theta$$



Example: Find the mass of the region R shown if it has density $\delta(x, y) = xy$

In polar coordinates: $\delta = r^2 \cos \theta \sin \theta$.

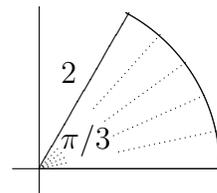
Limits of integration: radial lines sweep out R

$$\Rightarrow \theta: 0 \text{ to } \pi/3; \quad \text{fix } \theta \Rightarrow r: 0 \text{ to } 2.$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \int_R \delta(x, y) dA = \int_{\theta=0}^{\pi/3} \int_{r=0}^2 r^2 \cos \theta \sin \theta r dr d\theta$$

$$\text{Inner: } \int_0^2 r^3 \cos \theta \sin \theta dr = \frac{r^4}{4} \cos \theta \sin \theta \Big|_0^2 = 4 \cos \theta \sin \theta$$

$$\text{Outer: } \int_0^{\pi/3} 4 \cos \theta \sin \theta d\theta = 2 \sin^2 \theta \Big|_0^{\pi/3} = \frac{3}{2}.$$



Example: $I = \int_1^2 \int_0^x \frac{1}{(x^2+y^2)^{3/2}} dy dx$

Draw the region.

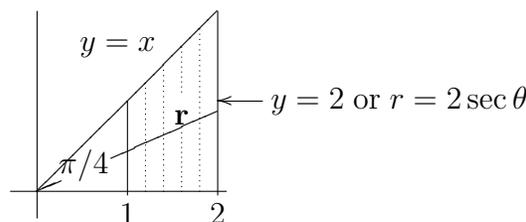
In polar coordinates:

$$\theta: 0 \text{ to } \pi/4; \quad \text{fix } \theta \Rightarrow r: \sec \theta \text{ to } 2 \sec \theta.$$

$$\Rightarrow I = \int_{\theta=0}^{\pi/4} \int_{r=\sec \theta}^{2 \sec \theta} \frac{1}{r^3} r dr d\theta.$$

$$\text{Inner: } \int_{\sec \theta}^{2 \sec \theta} \frac{1}{r^2} dr = -\frac{1}{r} \Big|_{\sec \theta}^{2 \sec \theta} = \frac{1}{2} \cos \theta.$$

$$\text{Outer: } \int_0^{\pi/4} \frac{1}{2} \cos \theta d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \sin \theta \Big|_0^{\pi/4} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}.$$



(continued)

Example: Find the volume of the region above the xy -plane and below the graph of $z = 1 - x^2 - y^2$.

You should draw a picture of this.

In polar coordinates we have $z = 1 - r^2$ and we want the volume under the graph and above the inside of the unit disk.

$$\Rightarrow \text{volume} = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 (1 - r^2) r dr d\theta.$$

$$\text{Inner integral: } \int_0^1 (1 - r^2) r dr = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{r^3}{3} \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{6}.$$

$$\text{Outer integral: } \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{6} d\theta = \frac{\pi}{3} = \text{volume}.$$