

25. CHANGE OF COORDINATES: I

Definition 25.1. A function $f: U \longrightarrow V$ between two open subsets of \mathbb{R}^n is called a **diffeomorphism** if:

- (1) f is a bijection,
- (2) f is differentiable, and
- (3) f^{-1} is differentiable.

Almost by definition of the inverse function, $f \circ f^{-1}: V \longrightarrow V$ and $f^{-1} \circ f: U \longrightarrow U$ are both the identity function, so that

$$(f \circ f^{-1})(\vec{y}) = \vec{y} \quad \text{and} \quad (f^{-1} \circ f)(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}.$$

It follows that

$$Df(\vec{x})Df^{-1}(\vec{y}) = I_n \quad \text{and} \quad Df^{-1}(\vec{y})Df(\vec{x}) = I_n,$$

by the chain rule. Taking determinants, we see that

$$\det(Df) \det(Df^{-1}) = \det I_n = 1.$$

Therefore,

$$\det(Df^{-1}) = (\det(Df))^{-1}.$$

It follows that

$$\det(Df) \neq 0.$$

Theorem 25.2 (Inverse function theorem). *Let $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be an open subset and let $f: U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function.*

Suppose that

- (1) f is injective,
- (2) f is \mathcal{C}^1 , and
- (3) $Df(\vec{x}) \neq 0$ for all $\vec{x} \in U$.

Then $V = f(U) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is open and the induced map $f: U \longrightarrow V$ is a diffeomorphism.

Example 25.3. *Let $f(r, \theta) = (r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$. Then*

$$Df(r, \theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -r \sin \theta & r \cos \theta \end{pmatrix},$$

so that

$$\det Df(r, \theta) = r.$$

It follows that f defines a diffeomorphism $f: U \longrightarrow V$ between

$$U = (0, \infty) \times (0, 2\pi) \quad \text{and} \quad V = \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid y = 0, x \geq 0 \}.$$

Theorem 25.4. *Let $g: U \longrightarrow V$ be a diffeomorphism between open subsets of \mathbb{R}^2 ,*

$$g(u, v) = (x(u, v), y(u, v)).$$

Let $D^ \subset U$ be a region and let $D = g(D^*) \subset V$. Let $f: D \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function.*

Then

$$\iint_D f(x, y) \, dx \, dy = \iint_{D^*} f(x(u, v), y(u, v)) |\det Dg(u, v)| \, du \, dv.$$

It is convenient to use the following notation:

$$\frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)}(u, v) = \det Dg(u, v).$$

The LHS is called the **Jacobian**. Note that

$$\frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)}(u, v) = \left(\frac{\partial(u, v)}{\partial(x, y)}(x, y) \right)^{-1}.$$

Example 25.5. *There is no simple expression for the integral of e^{-x^2} . However it is possible to compute the following integral*

$$I = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} \, dx.$$

(In what follows, we will ignore issues relating to the fact that the integrals are improper; in practice all integrals converge). Instead of

computing I , we compute I^2 ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 I^2 &= \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx \right) \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-y^2} dy \right) \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2-y^2} dx \right) dy \\
 &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} e^{-x^2-y^2} dx dy \\
 &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} r e^{-r^2} dr d\theta \\
 &= \int_0^{\infty} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} r e^{-r^2} d\theta \right) dr \\
 &= \int_0^{\infty} r e^{-r^2} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \right) dr \\
 &= 2\pi \int_0^{\infty} r e^{-r^2} dr \\
 &= 2\pi \left[-\frac{e^{-r^2}}{2} \right]_0^{\infty} \\
 &= \pi.
 \end{aligned}$$

So $I = \sqrt{\pi}$.

Example 25.6. Find the area of the region D bounded by the four curves

$$xy = 1, \quad xy = 3, \quad y = x^3, \quad \text{and} \quad y = 2x^3.$$

Define two new variables,

$$u = \frac{x^3}{y} \quad \text{and} \quad v = xy.$$

Then D is a rectangle in uv -coordinates,

$$D^* = [1/2, 1] \times [1, 3]$$

Now for the Jacobian we have

$$\frac{\partial(u, v)}{\partial(x, y)}(x, y) = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{3x^2}{y} & -\frac{x^3}{y^2} \\ y & x \end{vmatrix} = \frac{4x^3}{y} = 4u.$$

It follows that

$$\frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)}(u, v) = \frac{1}{4u}.$$

This is nowhere zero. In fact note that we can solve for x and y explicitly in terms of u and v .

$$uv = x^4 \quad \text{and} \quad y = \frac{x}{v}.$$

So

$$x = (uv)^{1/4} \quad \text{and} \quad y = u^{-1/4}v^{3/4}.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \text{area}(D) &= \iint_D dx \, dy \\ &= \iint_{D^*} \frac{1}{4u} \, du \, dv \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_1^3 \left(\int_{1/2}^1 \frac{1}{u} \, du \right) dv \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_1^3 [\ln u]_{1/2}^1 dv \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_1^3 \ln 2 \, dv \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \ln 2. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 25.7. Let $g: U \longrightarrow V$ be a diffeomorphism between open subsets of \mathbb{R}^3 ,

$$g(u, v, w) = (x(u, v, w), y(u, v, w), z(u, v, w)).$$

Let $W^* \subset U$ be a region and let $W = f(W^*) \subset V$. Let $f: W \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function.

Then

$$\iiint_W f(x, y, z) \, dx \, dy \, dz = \iiint_{W^*} f(x(u, v, w), y(u, v, w), z(u, v, w)) |\det Dg(u, v, w)| \, du \, dv \, dw.$$

As before, it is convenient to introduce more notation:

$$\frac{\partial(x, y, z)}{\partial(u, v, w)}(u, v, w) = \det Dg(u, v, w).$$

26. CHANGE OF COORDINATES: II

Example 26.1. Let D be the region bounded by the cardioid,

$$r = 1 - \cos \theta.$$

If we multiply both sides by r , take $r \cos \theta$ over the other side, then we get

$$(x^2 + y^2 + x)^2 = x^2 + y^2.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{area}(D) &= \iint_D dx \, dy \\ &= \iint_{D^*} r \, dr \, d\theta \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left(\int_0^{1-\cos \theta} r \, dr \right) d\theta \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left[\frac{r^2}{2} \right]_0^{1-\cos \theta} d\theta \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{(1 - \cos \theta)^2}{2} d\theta \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1}{2} - \cos \theta + \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{2} d\theta \\ &= \left[\frac{\theta}{2} - \sin \theta \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{\pi}{2} \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

In \mathbb{R}^3 , we can either use cylindrical or spherical coordinates, instead of Cartesian coordinates.

Let's first do the case of cylindrical coordinates. Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} x &= r \cos \theta \\ y &= r \sin \theta \\ z &= z. \end{aligned}$$

So the Jacobian is given by

$$\frac{\partial(x, y, z)}{\partial(r, \theta, z)}(r, \theta, z) = \begin{vmatrix} \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & r \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = r.$$

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So,

$$\iiint_W f(x, y, z) \, dx \, dy \, dz = \iiint_{W^*} f(r, \theta, z) \, dr \, d\theta \, dz.$$

Example 26.2. Consider a cone of height b and base radius a . Put the vertex of the cone at the point $(0, 0, b)$, so that the base of the cone is the circle of radius a , centred at the origin, in the xy -plane. Note that at height z , we have a circle of radius

$$a \left(1 - \frac{z}{b}\right).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{vol}(W) &= \iiint_W dx \, dy \, dz \\ &= \iiint_{W^*} r \, dr \, d\theta \, dz \\ &= \int_0^b \left(\int_0^{2\pi} \left(\int_0^{a(1-z/b)} r \, dr \right) d\theta \right) dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^b \left(\int_0^{2\pi} [r^2]_0^{a(1-z/b)} d\theta \right) dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^b \left(\int_0^{2\pi} a^2 \left(1 - \frac{z}{b}\right)^2 d\theta \right) dz \\ &= \pi a^2 \int_0^b \left(1 - \frac{z}{b}\right)^2 dz \\ &= -\pi a^2 b \int_1^0 u^2 \, du \\ &= \pi a^2 b \int_0^1 u^2 \, du \\ &= \frac{\pi a^2 b}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

Example 26.3. Consider a ball of radius a . Put the centre of the ball at the point $(0, 0, 0)$. Note that

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2,$$

translates to the equation

$$r^2 + z^2 = a^2,$$

so that

$$r = \sqrt{a^2 - z^2}.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{vol}(W) &= \iiint_W dx \, dy \, dz \\
&= \iiint_{W^*} r \, dr \, d\theta \, dz \\
&= \int_{-a}^a \left(\int_0^{2\pi} \left(\int_0^{\sqrt{a^2-z^2}} r \, dr \right) d\theta \right) dz \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-a}^a \left(\int_0^{2\pi} [r^2]_0^{\sqrt{a^2-z^2}} d\theta \right) dz \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-a}^a \left(\int_0^{2\pi} a^2 - z^2 d\theta \right) dz \\
&= \pi \int_{-a}^a a^2 - z^2 dz \\
&= \pi \left[a^2 z - \frac{z^3}{3} \right]_{-a}^a \\
&= \frac{4\pi a^3}{3}.
\end{aligned}$$

Now consider using spherical coordinates. Recall that

$$\begin{aligned}
x &= \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta \\
y &= \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta \\
z &= \rho \cos \phi.
\end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial(x, y, z)}{\partial(\rho, \phi, \theta)}(\rho, \phi, \theta) &= \begin{vmatrix} \sin \phi \cos \theta & \rho \cos \phi \cos \theta & -\rho \sin \phi \sin \theta \\ \sin \phi \sin \theta & \rho \cos \phi \sin \theta & \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta \\ \cos \phi & -\rho \sin \phi & 0 \end{vmatrix} \\
&= \rho^2 \cos^2 \phi \sin \phi + \rho^2 \sin^3 \phi = \rho^2 \sin \phi.
\end{aligned}$$

Notice that this is greater than zero, if $0 < \phi < \pi$. So,

$$\iiint_W f(x, y, z) \, dx \, dy \, dz = \iiint_{W^*} f(\rho, \phi, \theta) \rho^2 \sin \phi \, d\rho \, d\theta \, dz.$$

Example 26.4. Consider a ball of radius a . Put the centre of the ball at the point $(0, 0, 0)$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{vol}(W) &= \iiint_W dx \, dy \, dz \\
 &= \iiint_{W^*} \rho^2 \sin \phi \, d\rho \, d\phi \, d\theta \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\int_0^\pi \left(\int_0^a \rho^2 \sin \phi \, d\rho \right) d\phi \right) d\theta \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\int_0^\pi \sin \phi \left[\frac{\rho^3}{3} \right]_0^a d\phi \right) d\theta \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\int_0^\pi \sin \phi \frac{a^3}{3} d\phi \right) d\theta \\
 &= \frac{a^3}{3} \int_0^{2\pi} [-\cos \phi]_0^\pi d\theta \\
 &= \frac{2a^3}{3} \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \\
 &= \frac{4\pi a^3}{3}.
 \end{aligned}$$