

Double Integral

Ali Saraeb

Trick 1: Distance \Rightarrow squared distance

Key idea

If you want the **closest/farthest** point, you are optimizing a *distance*

$$d(x, y) = \sqrt{(x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2}.$$

Since $\sqrt{}$ is **increasing**, minimizing/maximizing d is the same as minimizing/maximizing

$$D(x, y) = d(x, y)^2 = (x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2.$$

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Mini-example

Closest point on $x^2 + y^2 = 4$ to $(3, 3)$: optimize $D = (x - 3)^2 + (y - 3)^2$ on the circle, then take \sqrt{D} at the end.

Trick 2: Log trick for products/ratios (avoid product/quotient rule)

Key idea (must have $F > 0$)

If $F(x, y, \dots) > 0$, then

$$\text{maximize/minimize } F \iff \text{maximize/minimize } \ln F,$$

because $\ln(\cdot)$ is **increasing**.

- $\ln(\text{product}) = \text{sum of logs.}$

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Example (ratio \rightarrow reduce scale, then log)

$$\text{Maximize } F(x, y) = \frac{x^2ye^x}{(x^2 + 1)^3} \text{ subject to } x + y = 1.$$

$$\text{Maximize } 2\ln x + \ln y + x - 3\ln(x^2 + 1) \text{ subject to } x + y = 1.$$

Trick 3: Lagrange gives candidates, but max/min may not exist

Important warning

Lagrange multipliers find **critical candidates** assuming an absolute max/min exists. If the constraint set is **unbounded** (not closed/bounded), or f is **not continuous** on it, an absolute maximum/minimum may **not exist**.

- (You *can* still have a minimum: here the minimum is 2 at $(1, 1)$ and $(-1, -1)$.)

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Example: no maximum

Let $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$ on the constraint $xy = 1$.

Write $y = \frac{1}{x}$:

$$f(x, 1/x) = x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} \xrightarrow{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \infty \quad \text{and} \quad f(x, 1/x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 0} \infty.$$

So f has **no maximum** on $xy = 1$ (it is unbounded above).

- (You can still have a minimum: here the minimum is 2 at $(1, 1)$ and $(-1, -1)$.)

Double integrals: what are we computing?

Big picture

A **double integral** adds up values of $f(x, y)$ over a region $R \subset \mathbb{R}^2$:

$$\iint_R f(x, y) dA.$$

- If $f(x, y) \geq 0$, then $\iint_R f dA$ is the **volume** under $z = f(x, y)$ above the region R .

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- Think: “area” in 2D becomes “volume” in 3D.
- The tiny area element is

$$dA = dx dy \quad \text{or} \quad dA = dy dx$$

(same dA , just a different order of integration later).

Definition via a Double Riemann Sum (rectangle $R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$)

Definition

For $R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$, partition $[a, b]$ into m pieces and $[c, d]$ into n pieces:

$$\Delta x = \frac{b - a}{m}, \quad \Delta y = \frac{d - c}{n}, \quad \Delta A = \Delta x \Delta y.$$

Pick a sample point (x_i^*, y_j^*) in each sub-rectangle. Then

$$\iint_R f(x, y) dA = \lim_{m,n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n f(x_i^*, y_j^*) \Delta A.$$

- Each term $f(x_i^*, y_j^*)\Delta A$ is like “height \times base area” of a tiny box.

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- Each term $f(x_i^*, y_j^*)\Delta A$ is like “height \times base area” of a tiny box.
- Add all boxes \Rightarrow total volume.

Iterated integrals (Fubini's Theorem for rectangles)

Fubini (rectangle case)

If f is continuous on the rectangle $R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$, then

$$\iint_R f(x, y) \, dA = \int_a^b \int_c^d f(x, y) \, dy \, dx = \int_c^d \int_a^b f(x, y) \, dx \, dy.$$

- **Inner bounds** can depend on the **outer variable**.

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How to read the order

$$\int_a^b \int_c^d f(x, y) \underline{dy} dx \quad \text{means: integrate in } y \text{ first (inner), then in } x \text{ (outer).}$$

- **Inner bounds** can depend on the **outer variable**.
- For rectangles, bounds are constants either way.

Double integrals over a general region D

Two common descriptions of D

Type I (vertical slices):

$$D = \{(x, y) \mid a \leq x \leq b, \quad g_1(x) \leq y \leq g_2(x)\}.$$

Type II (horizontal slices):

$$D = \{(x, y) \mid c \leq y \leq d, \quad h_1(y) \leq x \leq h_2(y)\}.$$

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Iterated integral setups

If D is Type I: $\iint_D f(x, y) \, dA = \int_a^b \int_{g_1(x)}^{g_2(x)} f(x, y) \, dy \, dx.$

If D is Type II: $\iint_D f(x, y) \, dA = \int_c^d \int_{h_1(y)}^{h_2(y)} f(x, y) \, dx \, dy.$

Trick

To switch the order in $\int \int f(x, y) dy dx$:

1. Sketch the region from the bounds.
2. Outer boundaries must be constants. Inner boundaries can only depend on the outer variable. i.e must be of the form $\int_a^b \int_{g_1(x)}^{g_2(x)} f(x, y) dy dx$ or $\int_c^d \int_{h_1(y)}^{h_2(y)} f(x, y) dx dy$.
3. Outer variable is fixed. Draw ray along the axis of the inner variable.

Problem

Select the iterated integral equivalent to $\int_0^2 \int_{x^2}^{2x} f(x, y) dy dx$.

Choices:

- (A) $\int_0^2 \int_{y/2}^{\sqrt{y}} f(x, y) dx dy$ (B) $\int_0^4 \int_{y/2}^{\sqrt{y}} f(x, y) dx dy$
- (C) $\int_{y/2}^{\sqrt{y}} \int_0^2 f(x, y) dx dy$ (D) $\int_0^4 \int_{\sqrt{y}}^{y/2} f(x, y) dx dy$ (E) $\int_0^2 \int_{\sqrt{y}}^{y/2} f(x, y) dx dy$

Solution (region → new bounds)

1. The region is

$$0 \leq x \leq 2, \quad x^2 \leq y \leq 2x.$$

So y is between the parabola $y = x^2$ (bottom) and the line $y = 2x$ (top).

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2. Find where they meet:

$$x^2 = 2x \implies x(x - 2) = 0 \implies x = 0 \text{ or } 2.$$

At those points, $y = 0$ and $y = 4$. So the overall y -range is $0 \leq y \leq 4$.

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3. For a fixed $y \in [0, 4]$, solve each boundary for x :

$$y = x^2 \implies x = \sqrt{y} \quad (\text{since } x \geq 0), \quad y = 2x \implies x = \frac{y}{2}.$$

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4. Left/right bounds: $\frac{y}{2} \leq x \leq \sqrt{y}$.

Answer

Equivalent integral (order $dx dy$)

$$\iint_R f(x, y) dA = \int_0^4 \int_{y/2}^{\sqrt{y}} f(x, y) dx dy.$$

Multiple choice

Correct choice: (B)

Trick

- Draw the region.
- Ask yourself if I send a ray parallel to x-axis do the starting and ending curves change as we vary the ray? Ask same question for y-axis.
- If when going parallel to y-axis, for example, you always encounter the same starting and ending curve, then that's the right inner variable i.e. $\int_{\cdot}^{\cdot} \int_{\cdot}^{\cdot} \dots dydx$

Problem

Consider the integral $\iint_D 5x \, dA$, where D is the region in the **first quadrant** bounded by the y -axis and the curves $y + x = 2$, $y - x^2 = 0$.

- Sketch and shade the region D . Label any intersection points.
- What does $\iint_D 5x \, dA$ represent geometrically?
- Evaluate the integral.

Solution (i): sketch + bounds

Step 1: rewrite the boundary curves

$$y + x = 2 \Rightarrow y = 2 - x \quad (\text{a line}), \quad y - x^2 = 0 \Rightarrow y = x^2 \quad (\text{a parabola}).$$

Step 2: intersection points

Solve $x^2 = 2 - x$:

$$x^2 + x - 2 = 0 \Rightarrow (x + 2)(x - 1) = 0 \Rightarrow x = 1 \quad (\text{in Q1}),$$

so the curves meet at $(1, 1)$. On the y -axis ($x = 0$): the parabola gives $(0, 0)$ and the line gives $(0, 2)$.

Region description

$$0 \leq x \leq 1, \quad x^2 \leq y \leq 2 - x.$$

Solution (ii): geometric meaning

Recall

$\iint_D f(x, y) dA$ is the **volume** under $z = f(x, y)$ above the region D (when $f \geq 0$).

Here

Since the integrand is $5x$, the surface is

$$z = 5x \quad (\text{a plane}).$$

So $\iint_D 5x dA$ represents the **volume of the solid**:

above D in the xy -plane, below $z = 5x$, and above $z = 0$.

Solution (iii): evaluate $\iint_D 5x \, dA$

Trick

Sending a ray along y-axis we always encounter $y = -x + 2$ then $y = x^2$, so integrate in y first.

$$\begin{aligned}\iint_D 5x \, dA &= \int_0^1 \int_{x^2}^{2-x} 5x \, dy \, dx \\&= \int_0^1 5x \left[(2-x) - x^2 \right] \, dx \\&= 5 \int_0^1 (2x - x^2 - x^3) \, dx \\&= 5 \left[x^2 - \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} \right]_0^1 = 5 \left(1 - \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} \right) = 5 \cdot \frac{5}{12} = \boxed{\frac{25}{12}}.\end{aligned}$$

Trick

If the inner integral looks impossible (here: $\int \sin(x^2) dx$), try to **switch the order**.

1. Draw the region D .
2. Interchange order of integration and update boundaries.

Problem

Consider the integral

$$\int_0^3 \int_{y^2}^9 y \sin(x^2) dx dy.$$

- (a) Sketch the region of integration.
- (b) Evaluate the integral.

Solution (a): describe the region D

Read bounds as inequalities

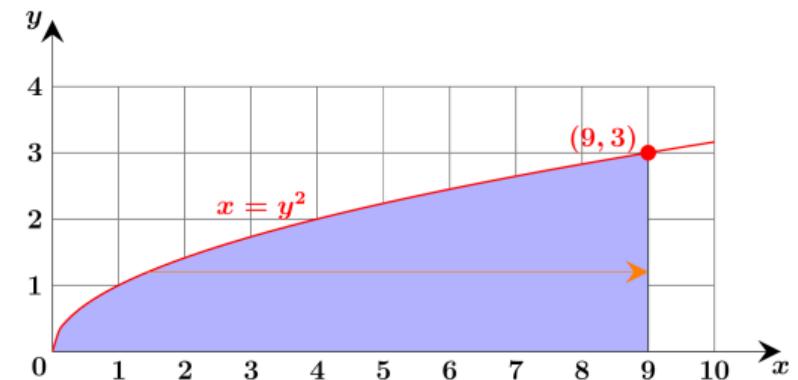
$$0 \leq y \leq 3, \quad y^2 \leq x \leq 9.$$

So D is in the first quadrant, between the curve $x = y^2$ and the vertical line $x = 9$, from $y = 0$ up to $y = 3$.

Equivalent description (solve for y)

From $x \geq y^2$ with $y \geq 0$, we get $0 \leq y \leq \sqrt{x}$. Also x runs from 0 to 9. Hence

$$D = \{(x, y) \mid 0 \leq x \leq 9, \quad 0 \leq y \leq \sqrt{x}\}.$$



Solution (b): switch order, then integrate

Switch the order

Using $D = \{0 \leq x \leq 9, 0 \leq y \leq \sqrt{x}\}$,

$$\int_0^3 \int_{y^2}^9 y \sin(x^2) dx dy = \int_0^9 \int_0^{\sqrt{x}} y \sin(x^2) dy dx.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^9 \int_0^{\sqrt{x}} y \sin(x^2) dy dx &= \int_0^9 \sin(x^2) \left[\frac{y^2}{2} \right]_0^{\sqrt{x}} dx \\ &= \int_0^9 \frac{x}{2} \sin(x^2) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Last step: substitution

Let $u = x^2$, so $du = 2x dx$, hence $\frac{x}{2} dx = \frac{1}{4} du$.

Finish

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^9 \frac{x}{2} \sin(x^2) dx &= \frac{1}{4} \int_0^{81} \sin u du \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left[-\cos u \right]_0^{81} = \frac{1}{4} (1 - \cos 81).\end{aligned}$$

Answer

$$\int_0^3 \int_{y^2}^9 y \sin(x^2) dx dy = \frac{1}{4} (1 - \cos 81).$$

Trick

Remember to draw a plane (e.g $z = y$)

- you can pick 3 points on the plane and trace the triangle or
- pick a point the plane and go in direction of the normal
- set one of the variables to 0, draw the line, and then extend it to 3D.

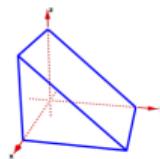
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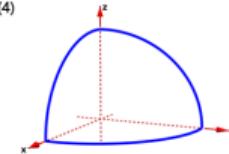
$$\int_0^1 \int_0^2 y \, dy \, dx.$$

- Evaluate the integral. (*No partial credit.*)
- Interpret it as a volume. Which picture best represents the solid?

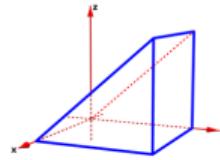
(1)



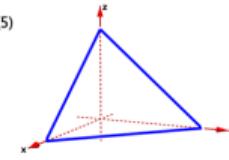
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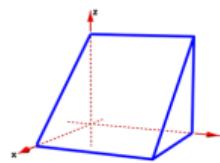
(2)



(5)



(3)



Solution (a): evaluate

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^2 y \, dy \, dx = \int_0^1 \left[\frac{y^2}{2} \right]_0^2 \, dx = \int_0^1 2 \, dx = 2.$$

Answer

2

Solution (b): what solid is it?

Geometric meaning (straight to the point)

$$\iint_R y \, dA$$

is the volume under the surface $z = y$ above the rectangle

$$0 \leq x \leq 1, \quad 0 \leq y \leq 2$$

and above $z = 0$.

Key shape clue

Since $z = y$ does **not** depend on x , the solid is a **prism extruded in the x -direction**.
For each fixed x , the cross-section in the yz -plane is the triangle

$$0 \leq y \leq 2, \quad 0 \leq z \leq y.$$
 So it's a **triangular prism (a wedge)**.

Trick

If the **inner integral has no nice antiderivative** (here: $\int e^{y^4} dy$), try reversing the order so the inner integral.

Problem

Compute the iterated integral

$$\int_0^1 \int_{x^{1/3}}^1 e^{y^4} dy dx.$$

Solution (step 1): describe the region and swap order

Read the bounds as a region D

$$0 \leq x \leq 1, \quad x^{1/3} \leq y \leq 1.$$

So D is above $y = x^{1/3}$ and below $y = 1$, for $0 \leq x \leq 1$.

Rewrite D the other way

From $x^{1/3} \leq y$ we get $x \leq y^3$. Also y runs from 0 to 1. Hence

$$0 \leq y \leq 1, \quad 0 \leq x \leq y^3.$$

So the reversed-order integral is

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^{y^3} e^{y^4} dx dy.$$

Solution (step 2): evaluate

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^1 \int_0^{y^3} e^{y^4} dx dy &= \int_0^1 \left[x e^{y^4} \right]_0^{y^3} dy \\ &= \int_0^1 y^3 e^{y^4} dy.\end{aligned}$$

Substitution

Let $u = y^4$. Then $du = 4y^3 dy$, so $y^3 dy = \frac{1}{4} du$. When $y = 0$, $u = 0$. When $y = 1$, $u = 1$.

$$\int_0^1 y^3 e^{y^4} dy = \frac{1}{4} \int_0^1 e^u du = \frac{1}{4} \left[e^u \right]_0^1 = \boxed{\frac{e - 1}{4}}.$$

Problem

Let R be the region in the first quadrant bounded by

$$x = 0, \quad y = x^2, \quad y = 8 - x^2.$$

Evaluate

$$\iint_R (x + y) dA.$$

Solution (step 1): describe the region and bounds

Intersect the two curves to find the x -range

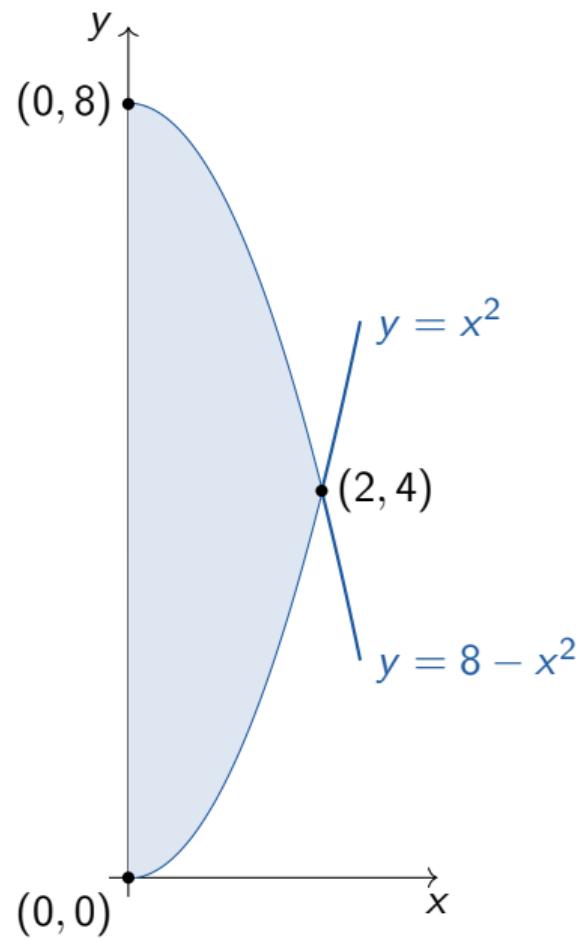
$$x^2 = 8 - x^2 \implies 2x^2 = 8 \implies x^2 = 4 \implies x = 2 \quad (\text{first quadrant}).$$

So $0 \leq x \leq 2$.

For each fixed $x \in [0, 2]$

Lower curve: $y = x^2$, Upper curve: $y = 8 - x^2$. So

$$x^2 \leq y \leq 8 - x^2.$$



Solution (step 2): set up and compute

$$\iint_R (x + y) dA = \int_0^2 \int_{x^2}^{8-x^2} (x + y) dy dx.$$

Inner integral

$$\int (x + y) dy = xy + \frac{y^2}{2}.$$

So

$$\int_{x^2}^{8-x^2} (x + y) dy = \left(xy + \frac{y^2}{2} \right) \Big|_{y=x^2}^{y=8-x^2}.$$

Finish (clean algebra)

Compute the difference:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(xy + \frac{y^2}{2} \right) \Big|_{x^2}^{8-x^2} &= \left(x(8-x^2) + \frac{(8-x^2)^2}{2} \right) - \left(x(x^2) + \frac{(x^2)^2}{2} \right) \\ &= \left(8x - x^3 + \frac{64 - 16x^2 + x^4}{2} \right) - \left(x^3 + \frac{x^4}{2} \right) \\ &= 8x - x^3 + 32 - 8x^2 + \frac{x^4}{2} - x^3 - \frac{x^4}{2} \\ &= 32 + 8x - 8x^2 - 2x^3. \end{aligned}$$

Now integrate in x :

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_R (x+y) dA &= \int_0^2 (32 + 8x - 8x^2 - 2x^3) dx \\ &= \left[32x + 4x^2 - \frac{8}{3}x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^4 \right]_0^2 \\ &= 64 + 16 - \frac{64}{3} - 8 = 72 - \frac{64}{3} = \boxed{\frac{152}{3}} \end{aligned}$$

Trick

Recall the fundamental theorem of calculus

$$\int_a^b F'(x)dx = F(b) - F(a).$$

Problem

Suppose the second partial derivatives of f are continuous on

$$R = \{(x, y) : 0 \leq x \leq a, 0 \leq y \leq b\}.$$

Show that

$$\iint_R \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}(x, y) dA = f(a, b) - f(a, 0) - f(0, b) + f(0, 0).$$

Solution

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\iint_R f_{xy}(x, y) \, dA &= \int_0^b \int_0^a f_{xy}(x, y) \, dx \, dy \\&= \int_0^b \left[f_y(x, y) \right]_{x=0}^{x=a} \, dy = \int_0^b (f_y(a, y) - f_y(0, y)) \, dy \\&= \left[f(a, y) - f(0, y) \right]_{y=0}^{y=b} \\&= f(a, b) - f(a, 0) - f(0, b) + f(0, 0).\end{aligned}$$

Trick (seperable integrand)

If the region is a rectangle $R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$ and the integrand factors:

$$f(x, y) = g(x) h(y),$$

then you can separate:

$$\iint_R g(x)h(y) dA = \left(\int_a^b g(x) dx \right) \left(\int_c^d h(y) dy \right).$$

Problem

Evaluate

$$\iint_{[0,2] \times [1,3]} x^2 e^y dA.$$

Solution

Since $x^2 e^y = (x^2)(e^y)$ and $R = [0, 2] \times [1, 3]$,

$$\begin{aligned}\iint_R x^2 e^y \, dA &= \left(\int_0^2 x^2 \, dx \right) \left(\int_1^3 e^y \, dy \right) \\ &= \left[\frac{x^3}{3} \right]_0^2 \cdot [e^y]_1^3 = \frac{8}{3} (e^3 - e).\end{aligned}$$

Problem

Find the volume

Find the volume of the solid bounded by

$$y^2 + z^2 = 9, \quad z = 0, \quad y = 0, \quad x = 0, \quad 2x + y = 2.$$

Set up as a *double* integral

Because $y^2 + z^2 = 9$ and $z \geq 0$, the top surface is

$$z = \sqrt{9 - y^2}.$$

So the volume is the double integral

$$V = \iint_D \sqrt{9 - y^2} dA.$$

The region D is in the xy -plane and is bounded by

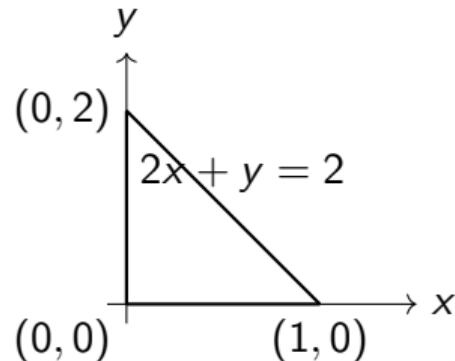
$$x = 0, \quad y = 0, \quad 2x + y = 2 \quad (\text{i.e. } x = 1 - \frac{y}{2}).$$

Thus

$$D = \{(x, y) : 0 \leq y \leq 2, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1 - \frac{y}{2}\}.$$

$$V = \int_0^2 \int_0^{1-\frac{y}{2}} \sqrt{9 - y^2} dx dy$$

Compute the double integral



Integrate in x first (since the integrand has no x):

$$V = \int_0^2 \left[x\sqrt{9 - y^2} \right]_0^{1 - \frac{y}{2}} dy = \int_0^2 \left(1 - \frac{y}{2} \right) \sqrt{9 - y^2} dy.$$

Split:

$$V = \int_0^2 \sqrt{9 - y^2} dy - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^2 y\sqrt{9 - y^2} dy.$$

(1)

$$\int \sqrt{9 - y^2} dy \quad \text{let } y = 3 \sin \theta, \quad dy = 3 \cos \theta d\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{9 - y^2} &= 3 \cos \theta \quad \Rightarrow \quad \int \sqrt{9 - y^2} dy = 9 \int \cos^2 \theta d\theta = 9 \int \frac{1 + \cos 2\theta}{2} d\theta \\ &= \frac{9}{2} \left(\theta + \frac{1}{2} \sin 2\theta \right) + C\end{aligned}$$

$$\theta = \arcsin\left(\frac{y}{3}\right), \quad \sin 2\theta = 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta = 2\left(\frac{y}{3}\right)\left(\frac{\sqrt{9-y^2}}{3}\right) = \frac{2y\sqrt{9-y^2}}{9}$$

$$\boxed{\int \sqrt{9 - y^2} dy = \frac{y}{2} \sqrt{9 - y^2} + \frac{9}{2} \arcsin\left(\frac{y}{3}\right) + C.}$$

So

$$\int_0^2 \sqrt{9 - y^2} dy = \frac{1}{2} \left(2\sqrt{5} + 9 \arcsin(2/3) \right).$$

(2) Let $u = 9 - y^2$, so $du = -2y dy$:

$$\int_0^2 y \sqrt{9 - y^2} dy = -\frac{1}{2} \int_9^5 u^{1/2} du = \frac{1}{2} \int_5^9 u^{1/2} du = \frac{1}{3} (27 - 5\sqrt{5}).$$