

# Sphere Surface Area Explanation

Jayke Nguyen

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It can be shown that the total surface area of a sphere can be calculated by:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta = 4\pi$$

For some arbitrary portion surface area we can calculate the surface area by:

$$\int_a^b d\phi \int_c^d \sin\theta d\theta = Area$$

Simplifying this becomes:

$$\int_a^b d\phi \int_c^d \sin\theta d\theta = (b-a)(-\cos(d) + \cos(c)) = (b-a)(\cos(c) - \cos(d))$$

Additionally, we know that:

$$b-a = d-c = \pi/r = constant$$

Where  $r$  denotes the resolution that is user-defined. This comes from the fact that the for-loops are defined as the following:

```
for(i = 0; i < ANGULAR_RES; i++){  
    sph.theta = double(PI)/double(ANGULAR_RES) * double(i);  
    for(j = 0; j < ANGULAR_RES*2; j++){  
        sph.phi = double(PI*2.0)/double(ANGULAR_RES*2.0) * double(j);
```

Therefore, we can rearrange the above equation into an equation only dependent on  $d$ .

$$(b-a)(\cos(c) - \cos(d)) = \frac{\pi}{r} \left( \cos\left(d - \frac{\pi}{r}\right) - \cos(d) \right) = Area$$

Where  $d$  is the variable that we are looping over in the  $\theta$  for-loop. So, in the code, I continually add this area until we have integrated over the whole sphere. I implement an "area-counter" variable, that successively adds these areas for only the angles that fulfill the various criterion for a pair match.