



MATHEMATICS EXTENSION 2

TOPIC 5: VOLUMES

Exercise vol5_p002

Find the volume V of an ellipsoid formed by the rotation of the ellipse

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1 \quad \text{about the X-axis.}$$

Solution

Volume of solid of revolution about the X axis is

$$V = \pi \int_a^b y^2 dx$$

The limits of integration are $x_a = -a$ and $x_b = a$.

The function $y = f(x) \geq 0$ in the interval $[-a, a]$ is

$$y = b \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{a^2} \right)^{1/2} \quad y^2 = b^2 \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{a^2} \right)$$

The volume of the ellipsoid is

$$V = \pi \int_{-a}^a b^2 \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{a^2} \right) dx = \frac{2\pi b^2}{a^2} \int_0^a (a^2 - x^2) dx$$

$$V = \frac{2\pi b^2}{a^2} \left[a^2 x - \frac{1}{3} x^3 \right]_0^a$$

$$V = \frac{4\pi a b^2}{3}$$

For a sphere of radius a $a = b$ $V_{\text{sphere}} = \frac{4\pi a^3}{3}$

QED

