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area of spherical zone

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Let us consider the circle

$$(x-r)^2 + y^2 = r^2$$

with radius r and centre $(r, 0)$. A spherical zone may be thought to be formed when an arc of the circle rotates around the x -axis. For finding the area of the zone, we can use the formula

$$A = 2\pi \int_a^b y \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx \quad (1)$$

of the entry area of surface of revolution. Let the ends of the arc correspond the values a and b of the abscissa such that $b-a = h$ is the height of the spherical zone. In the formula, we must use the solved form

$$y = (\pm)\sqrt{rx-x^2}$$

of the equation of the circle. The formula then yields

$$A = 2\pi \int_a^b \sqrt{rx-x^2} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{r-x}{\sqrt{rx-x^2}}\right)^2} dx = 2\pi \int_a^b r dx = 2\pi r(b-a).$$

Hence the area of a spherical zone (and also of a spherical calotte) is

$$A = 2\pi r h. \quad (2)$$

From here one obtains as a special case $h = 2r$ the area of the whole sphere:

$$A = 4\pi r^2. \quad (3)$$

Remark. The formula (2) implies that the centre of mass of a half-sphere is at the halfway point of the axis of symmetry ($h = \frac{r}{2}$).