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## example of Riemann triple integral

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Determine the volume of the solid in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  by the part of the surface

$$(x^2+y^2+z^2)^3 = 3a^3xyz$$

being in the first octant ( $a > 0$ ).

Since  $x^2+y^2+z^2$  is the squared distance of the point  $(x, y, z)$  from the origin, the solid is apparently defined by

$$D := \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x \geq 0, y \geq 0, z \geq 0, (x^2+y^2+z^2)^3 \leq 3a^3xyz\}.$$

By the definition

$$\mathbf{meas}(D) := \int \chi_D(v) dv$$

in the <http://planetmath.org/RiemannMultipleIntegralparent> entry, the volume in the question is

$$V = \int_D 1 dv = \iiint_D dx dy dz. \quad (1)$$

For calculating the integral (1) we express it by the (geographic) spherical coordinates through

$$\begin{cases} x = r \cos \varphi \cos \lambda \\ y = r \cos \varphi \sin \lambda \\ z = r \sin \varphi \end{cases}$$

where the latitude angle  $\varphi$  of the position vector  $\vec{r}$  is measured from the  $xy$ -plane (not as the colatitude  $\phi$  from the positive  $z$ -axis);  $\lambda$  is the longitude. For the change of coordinates, we need the Jacobian determinant

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

which is simplified to  $r^2 \cos \varphi$ . The equation of the surface attains the form

$$r^6 = 3a^3 r^3 \cos^2 \varphi \sin \varphi \cos \lambda \sin \lambda,$$

or

$$r = \sqrt[3]{3a^3 \cos^2 \varphi \sin \varphi \cos \lambda \sin \lambda} := r(\varphi, \lambda).$$

In the solid, we have  $0 \leq r \leq r(\varphi, \lambda)$  and

$$r = 0 \quad \text{if only if} \quad \cos^2 \varphi \sin \varphi \cos \lambda \sin \lambda = 0.$$

Thus we can write

$$V = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \int_0^{r(\varphi, \lambda)} r^2 \cos \varphi \, d\varphi \, d\lambda \, dr = \frac{1}{3} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left( \int_{r=0}^{r(\varphi, \lambda)} r^3 \right) \cos \varphi \, d\varphi \, d\lambda,$$

getting then

$$V = a^3 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\cos^3 \varphi)(-\sin \varphi) \, d\varphi \cdot \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\cos \lambda)(-\sin \lambda) \, d\lambda = a^3 \int_{\varphi=0}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\cos^4 \varphi}{4} \cdot \int_{\lambda=0}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\cos^2 \lambda}{2} = \frac{a^3}{8}.$$

**Remark.** The general for variable changing in a triple integral is

$$\iiint_D f(x, y, z) \, dx \, dy \, dz = \iiint_{\Delta} f(x(\xi, \eta, \zeta), y(\xi, \eta, \zeta), z(\xi, \eta, \zeta)) \left| \frac{\partial(x, y, z)}{\partial(\xi, \eta, \zeta)} \right| \, d\xi \, d\eta \, d\zeta.$$