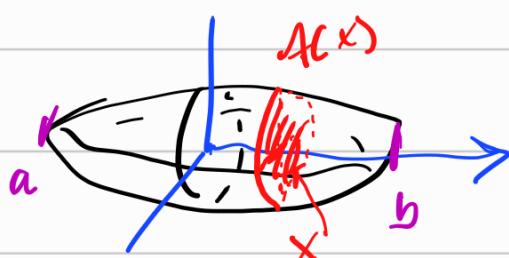


§ 6.3 Shell Method

Recall our definition is that we



have some kind
of volume "lying"
on a coordinate
system

We integrate over a Area function which
tracks "Area slices"

$$\text{Vol} = \int_a^b A(x) dx$$

(based on this
visual)

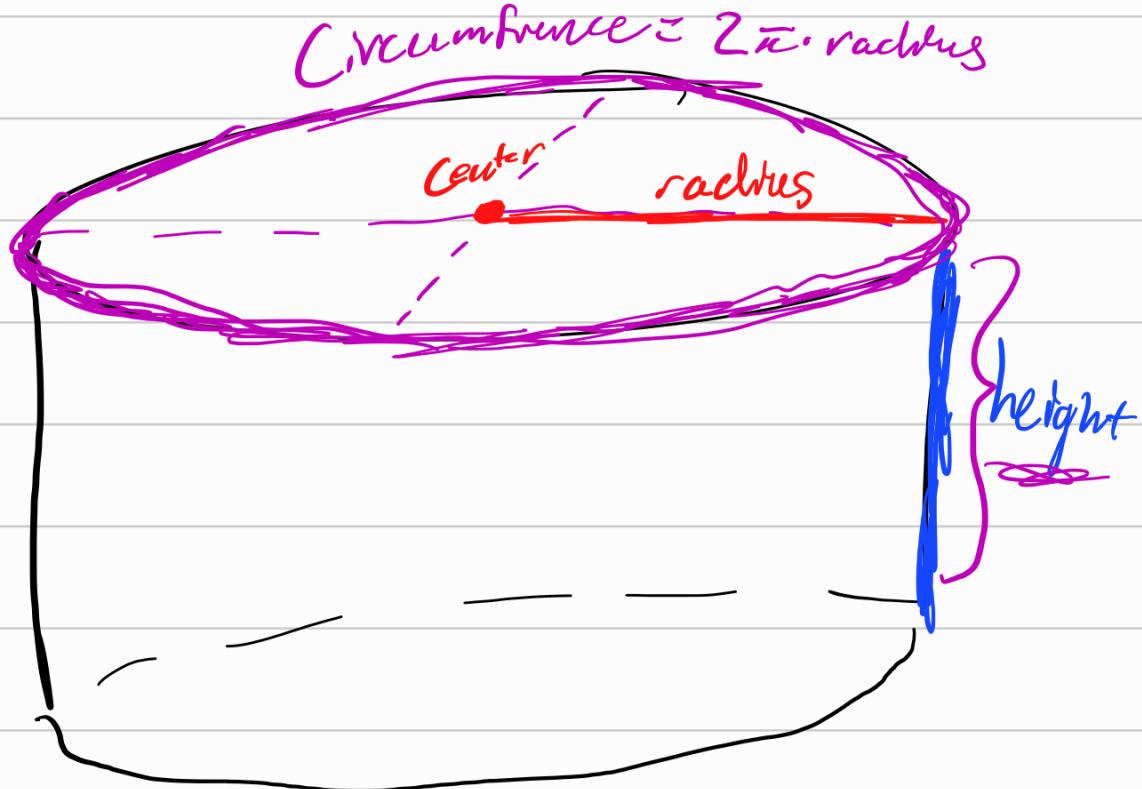
If you want this done more generally than
w/ Shell or Washer method

→ look @ section 6.2 in textbook.

Yesterday we had areas slices that
were washers ("disks").

Today area slices which are the surface area
OF cylindrical SHELLS

Recall cylinders:



2 important components

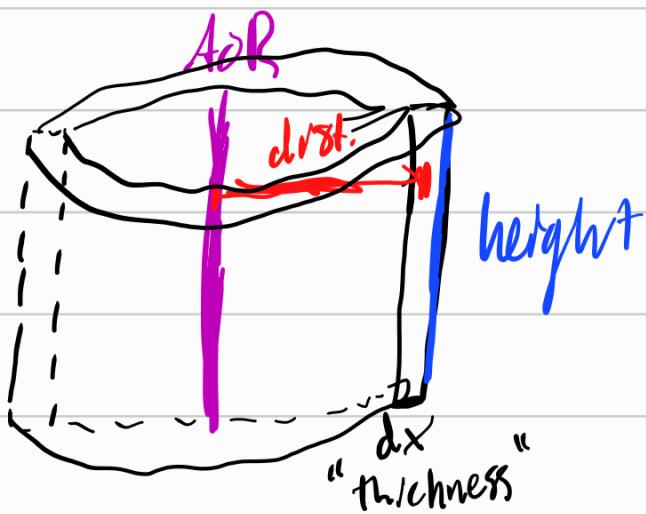
- radius
- height

The surface area of the outside **SHELL** is

$$2\pi \cdot \text{radius} \cdot \text{height}$$

This will simplify components

Consider



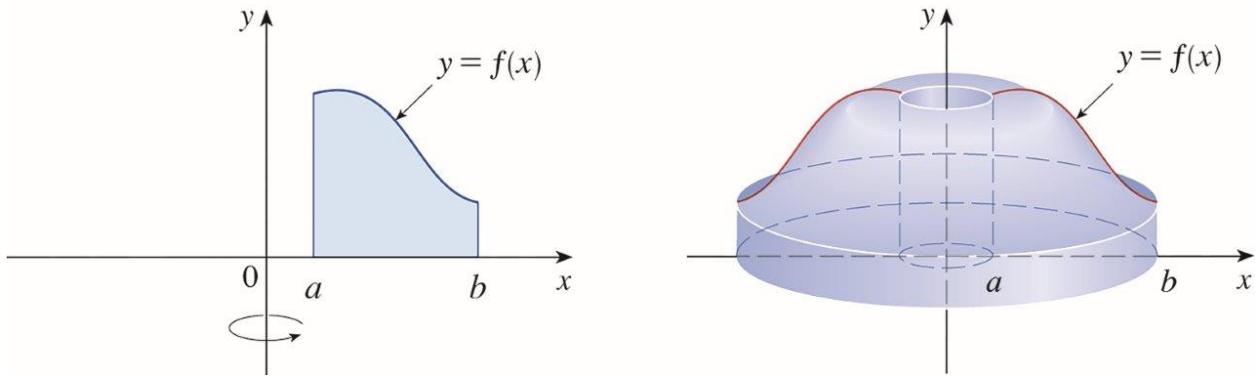
From rectangle we can associate a "volume" of

cylinder \times "thickness"
surface Area

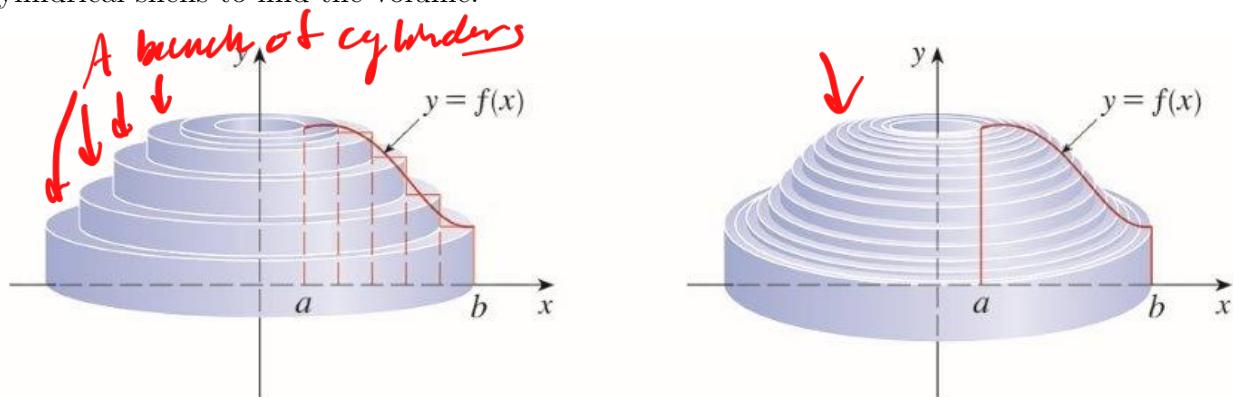
$$2\pi \cdot \text{radius} \cdot \text{height} \cdot dx$$

6.3: Shell Method

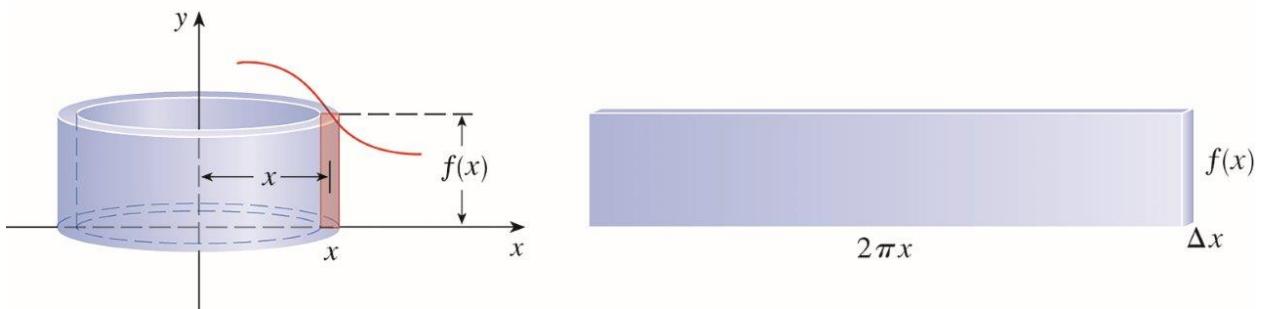
Consider the following region bounded by $y = f(x)$, the x -axis, $x = a$, and $x = b$. We will then rotate the region around the y -axis.



Using the Washer method for this region would be a pain. Instead we can use instead cylindrical shells to find the volume.



Since each volume chunk is given by a cylinder we can find the “length” of each chunk using the circumference of the associated circle ($2\pi \cdot \text{radius}$) and the height of each chunk. For this specific example, the radius is x (the distance to the y -axis) and the height is the value of the top function $y = f(x)$ minus the bottom function $y = 0$.



In Shell our d-whatever should be parallel to AoR

G. Gisolo UD M242

January 6, 2026

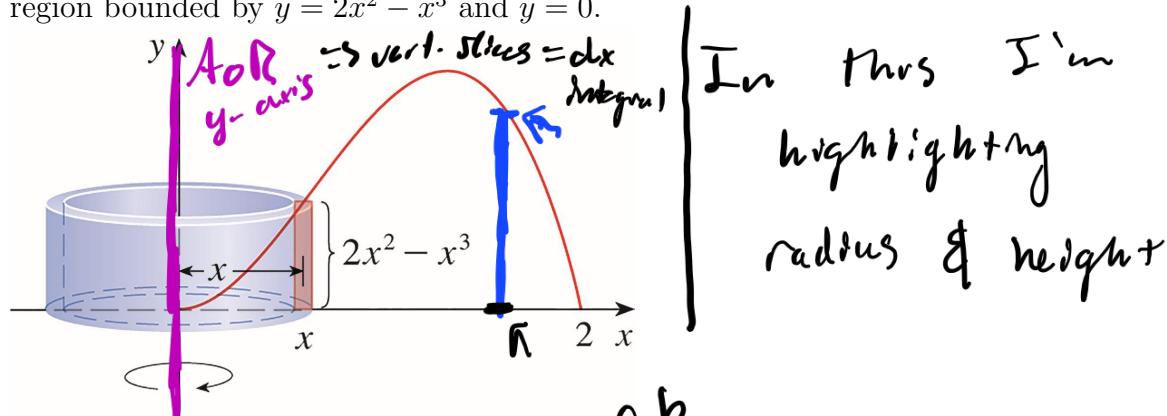
In general the shell method is given by (either dx or dy)

$$\text{Volume via shell method} = \int_a^b 2\pi r(x) h(x) dx$$

- $r(x)$ is the radius of the shell (i.e. "current" distance to axis of rotation)
- $h(x)$ is the height of the shell (i.e. top-bottom or right-left)

"current dist" refers to our dist from the AoR @ a given $x_{\text{or}y}$ value

Example 1. Find the volume of the solid obtain by rotating about the y -axis with the region bounded by $y = 2x^2 - x^3$ and $y = 0$.



General form: $2\pi \int_a^b \text{radius} \cdot \text{height } d(x_{\text{or}y})$

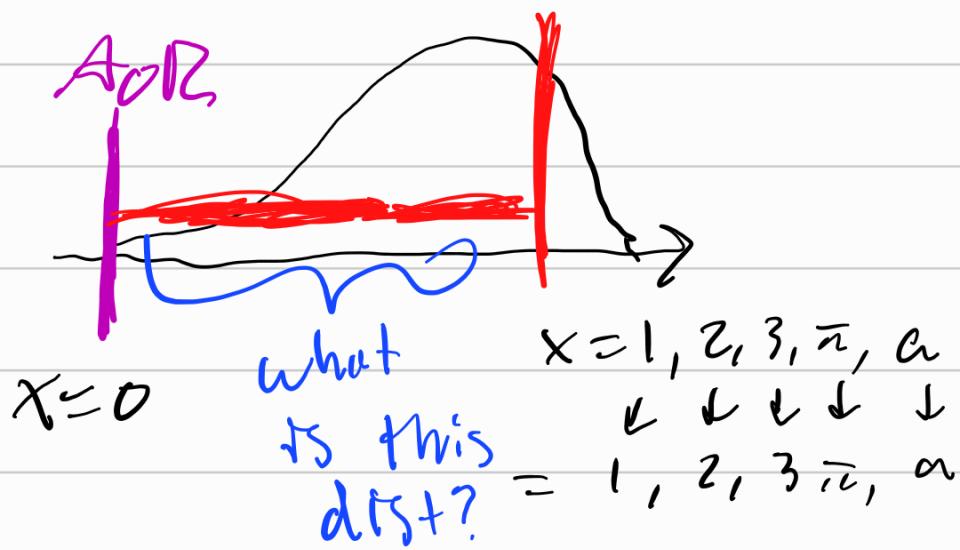
$$2\pi \int_0^2 \text{radius} \cdot \text{height } dx$$

height = top part of the region - bot part of the region

$$= \underbrace{2x^2 - x^3}_{\text{top}} - \underbrace{0}_{\text{bot}}$$

$\int dx$ integral

Radius = "Current" dist. to the AoR



We can denote our current unknown position in an Integral by x & so our

current
 distance to AoR from
 our current position x ↓ locations of AoR
 $\approx x - 0 = x$
↑ Our marker for current position

(you use y for a dy integral)

$$2\pi \int_0^2 x(2x^2 - x^3) dx$$

0 ↑ height
 rad

In a shell method integral the radius

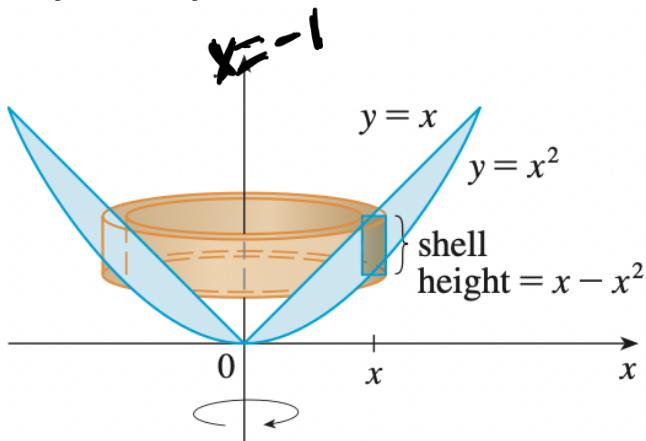
term always features the axis of rotation's location & "our current position"
(denoted by x or y)

↳ Another way of saying "current position" is that the variable x or y denotes the position of the slice.

$x = -1$

Example 2: Find the volume of the solid obtained by rotating about the y -axis with the region between $y = x$ and $y = x^2$.

$x = -1$



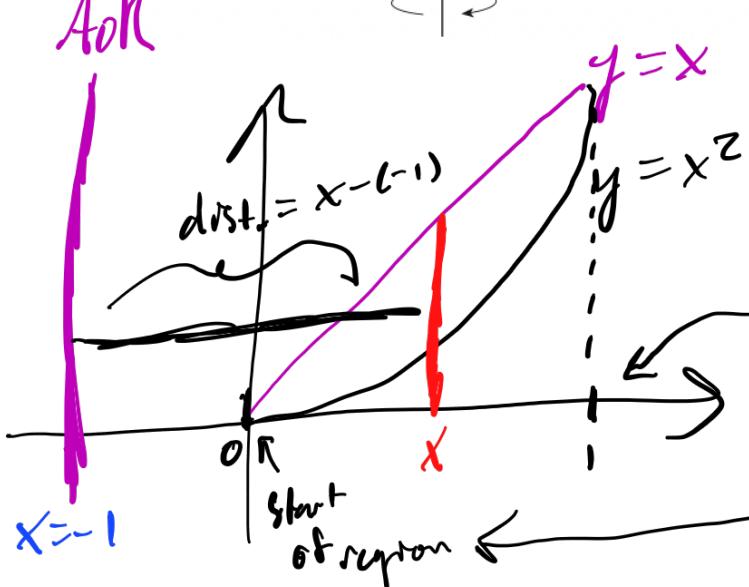
↳ Vert. line

↙ Shell method
(parallel)

↳ Vert. slices
 $\Rightarrow dx$

Vert. line $\Rightarrow x = \pm$ eq.

Shell method
(Same var.) $\rightarrow dx$



$$\text{height} = \text{top} - \text{bot} = x - x^2$$

↙ location AoR

$$\text{radius} = \text{"current dist."} = x - (-1)$$

↖ "current pos."

Q: In shell method is radius always $\frac{x}{y} \pm AoR$?

A: Basically, yes. Either it's $\frac{x}{y}$ thru $AoR \pm \frac{x}{y}$ or that \rightarrow

$$2\pi \int_0^b (x+1)(x-x^2) dx$$

Note In the last 2 examples: We rotated about a vertical "w/ dx integrals" using shell method

If instead we did the washer/disk method we would need to use "dy integral"
But in any case both ways generate the same volume.

Q: So when to use shell vs. washer?

A: "whatever one is easier"

Washer

$$\pi \int_a^b (m)^2 - (m)^2 dx ?$$

squares could be scary

shell

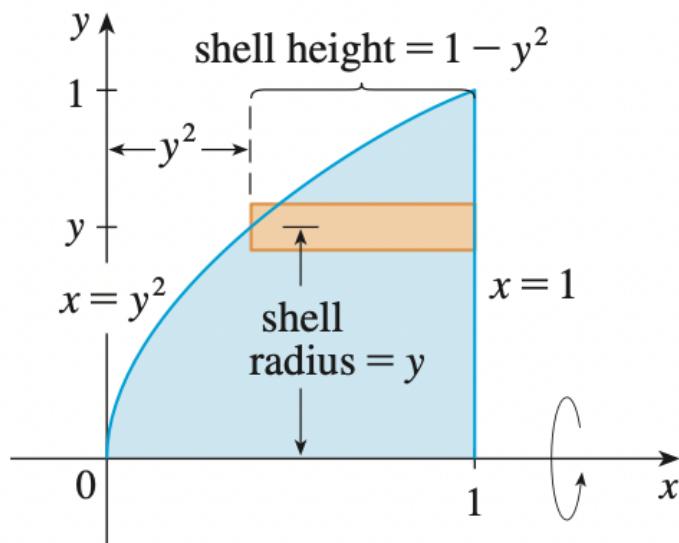
$$2\pi \int_a^b (m) \cdot (m) dx ?$$

m sub, maybe I BP
who knows

On MFE1 I will 100% ask

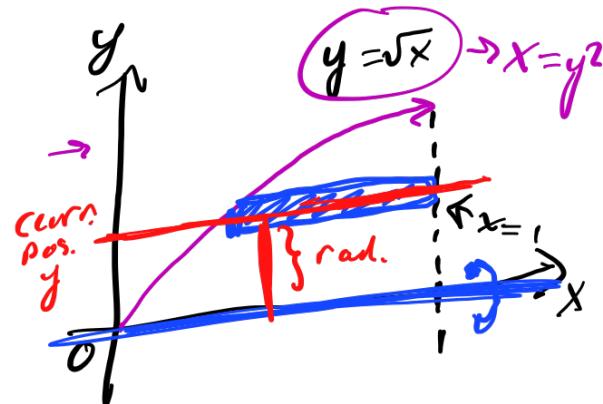
"set up a washer ..." AND "setup a shell..."

Example 3: Use cylindrical shells to find the volume of the solid obtained by rotating about the x -axis the region under the curve $y = \sqrt{x}$ from 0 to 1.



Rotating about
 x -axis \rightarrow horiz. line
+ Shell method \rightarrow
(parallel slrs) \rightarrow horiz. slice
 $\hookrightarrow dy$

$$2\pi \int_{\text{Start}}^{\text{end}} \text{rad} \cdot \text{height} \, dy$$



$$\text{height} = \text{height in } dy = \text{right} - \text{left}$$

$$= 1 - y^2$$

right edge of the area

left edge of the area

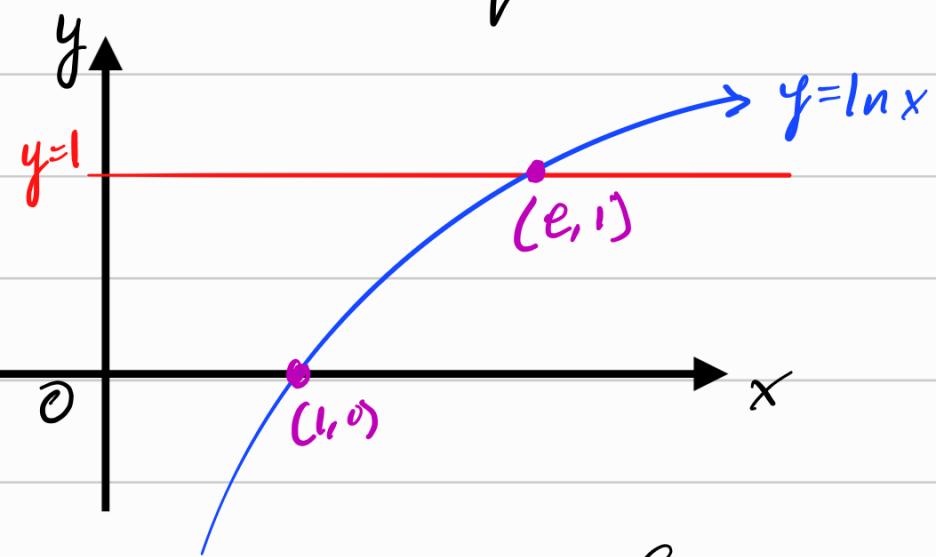
$$\text{radius} = \text{"current dist"} \approx \text{top} - \text{bot.} = y - 0$$

to AdR

"Current pos."

$$2\pi \int_0^1 y(1-y^2) dy$$

Consider the region bounded by $y=1$, $y=\ln x$, in the 1st quadrant.

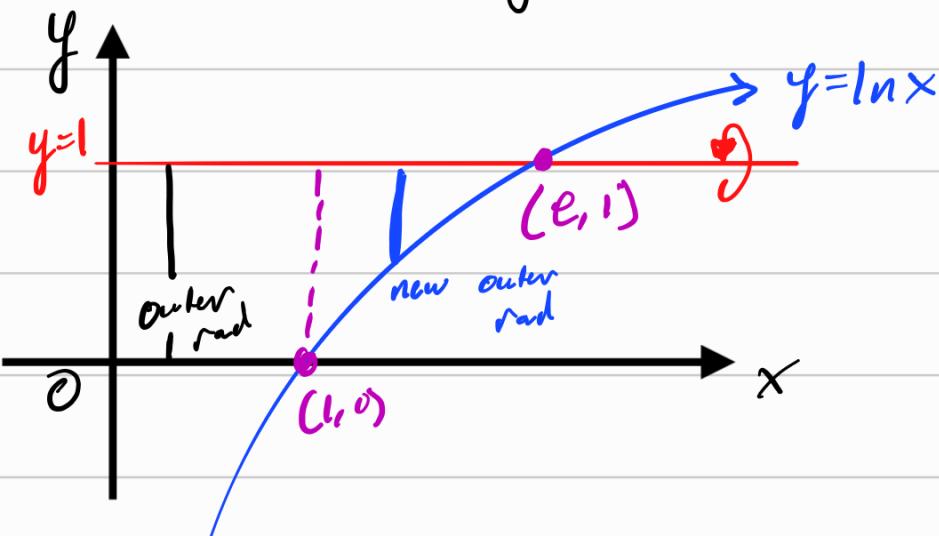


From prev. lecture notes the area of this region is

$$\text{Area via } dx = \int_0^1 dx + \int_1^e 1 - \ln x dx$$

Area via dy $= \int_0^1 e^y dy$

Consider rotating the prev. about $y=1$.



Volume washer

$$\rightarrow \pi \int_{\text{Start}}^{\text{end}} (\text{Outer rad})^2 - (\text{Inner rad})^2 dx$$

$$= \pi \int_0^1 (\text{Outer rad})^2 - (\text{Inner rad})^2 dx$$

Outer rad = $1 - x$ (location AOR on $[0, 1]$)

Outer edge on $[0, 1]$

AOR

new outer rad = $1 - \ln x$ (outer edge on $[1, e]$)

$$\int_1^e (\text{new outer rad})^2 - (\text{inner rad})^2 dx$$

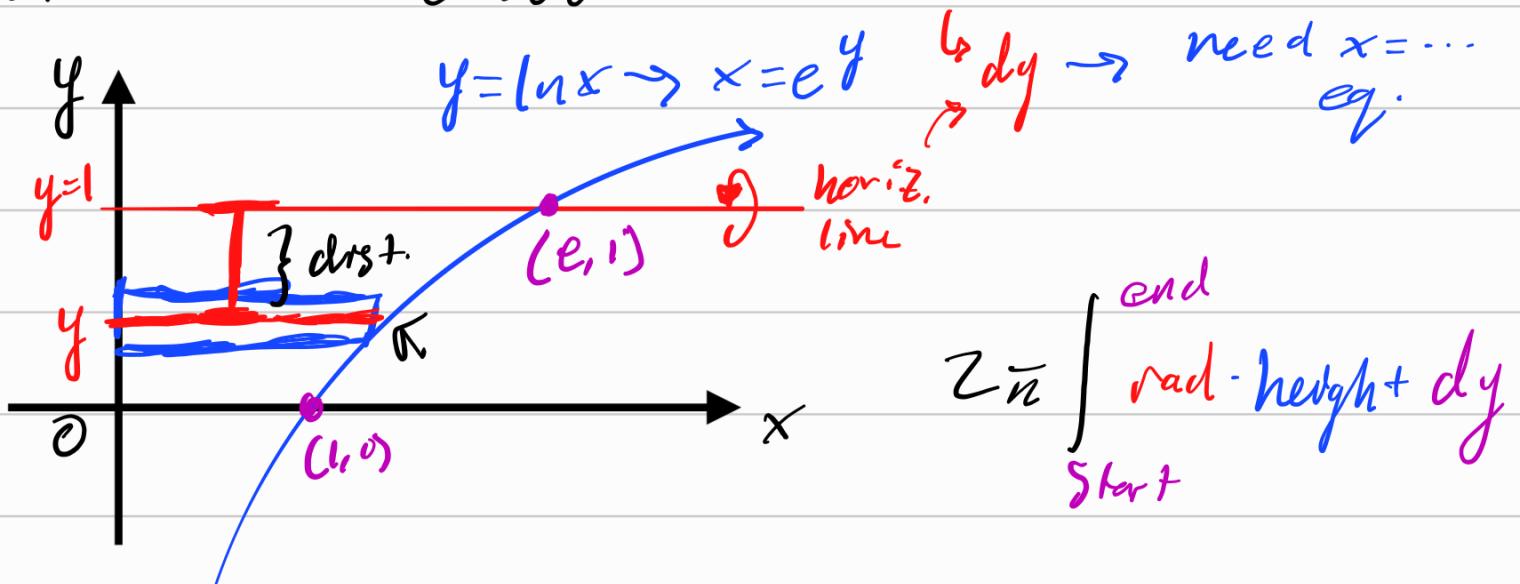
(i) AOR ↓ inner edge ↓
 (ii) $\text{inner rad} = 1 - 1 = 0$

① b/c disk method
 ↳ i.e. The region has the AOR as an edge

$$\pi \int_0^1 1^2 dx + \pi \int_1^e (1 - \ln x)^2 dx$$

$$= 1 - 2\ln x + (\ln x)^2$$

Via Shell Method → parallel slices



$$2\pi \int_0^1 \text{rad} \cdot \text{height} dy$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{height} &= \overbrace{\text{right} - \text{left}}^{dy} \\ &= e^y - 0\end{aligned}$$

$\text{rad} = \text{"current dist."} = \text{top-bot} = 1 - y \leftarrow \begin{matrix} \text{"current pos."} \\ \uparrow \\ \text{A to R} \end{matrix}$

$$2\pi \int_0^1 [1-y] e^y dy$$

look area integral

$$\int_0^1 e^y dy$$

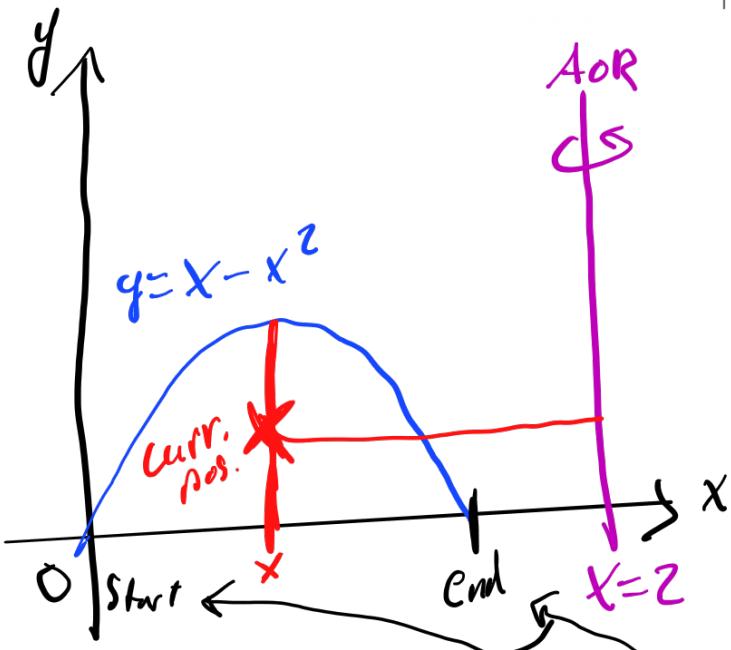
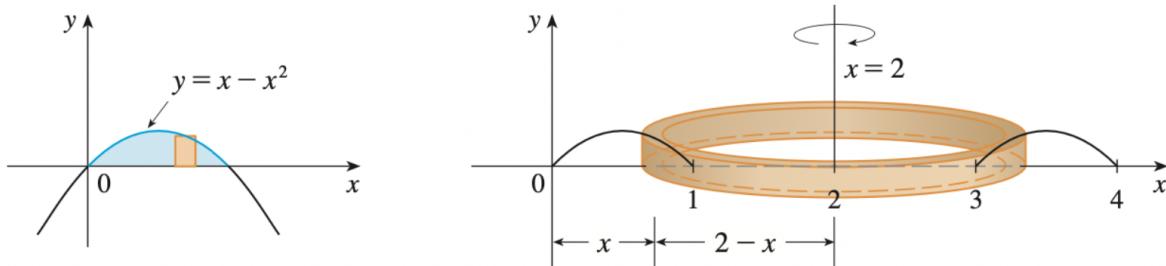
The shell is basically just this integral w/ 2π & the radius term.

There is not a similarly nice statement for area & the washer method.

Q: How do approach using 1 method over the other?

A: Look @ the picture & determine if dx or dy is "less of a headache"

Example 4: Set up the volume V of the solid obtained by rotating the region bounded by $y = x - x^2$ and $y = 0$ about the line $x = 2$.



Vert. line + Shell method \Rightarrow parallel to Vert. $\Rightarrow dx$

$$2\pi \int_{\text{Start}}^{\text{end}} \text{rad} \cdot \text{height} \, dx$$

To find start & end need to find

i.e. where $x - x^2 = 0 \Rightarrow x(1-x) = 0$

@ $x=0$ & $x=1$ Start & end

$$\text{height} = \frac{\text{top} - \text{bot}}{dx \text{ integral}} = \frac{x - x^2}{\substack{\text{top of} \\ \text{region}}} - \underbrace{0}_{\substack{\text{bot of} \\ \text{region}}}$$

$$\text{rad} = \frac{\text{right} - \text{left}}{dx \text{ integral}} = 2 - x \stackrel{\text{curr. pos.}}{\approx} 2 - x \Rightarrow$$

$$2\pi \int_0^1 (2-x)(x-x^2) \, dx$$