

Outline

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1 Improper Integrals and a Mean-Value Theorem

1.1 Improper Integrals of Positive Functions

Example 1 (Improper Integrals over Unbounded Domains). Compute

$$\iint_D e^{-x^2} dA, \quad \text{where } D = \{(x, y) : -x \leq y \leq x, x \geq 0\}$$

Solution:

Let $D_R = D \cap \{0 < x < R\}$ and calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{D_R} e^{-x^2} dA &= \int_0^R dx \int_{-x}^x e^{-x^2} dy \\ &= 2 \int_0^R x e^{-x^2} dx = -R e^{-R^2} + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\iint_D e^{-x^2} dA = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \iint_{D_R} e^{-x^2} dA = 1.$$

Generalized double integrals

Example 2 (Improper Integrals of Unbounded Functions). Let $D = \{(x, y) : x > 0, y > 0, x^2 + y^2 < 1\}$. Compute

$$\iint_D \frac{1}{(x^2 + y^2)^{3/4}} dA.$$

(Hint: $\iint_D f(x, y) dA = \iint_E f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) r dr d\theta$.)

Solution: Let $D_s = D \cap \{x^2 + y^2 > s^2\}$. By the polar coordinates,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{D_s} \frac{1}{(x^2 + y^2)^{3/4}} dA &= \int_s^1 dr \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{r d\theta}{r^{3/2}} = \frac{\pi}{2} \int_s^1 \frac{dr}{r^{1/2}} \\ &= \pi(1 - s^{1/2}) \rightarrow \pi \quad \text{as } s \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence the answer is π .

1.2 A Mean-Value Theorem for Double Integrals

Theorem 1. If f is continuous on a closed, bounded set $D \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, then there is a point $(x_0, y_0) \in D$ such that

$$\iint_D f(x, y) dA = f(x_0, y_0) \cdot (\text{the area of } D).$$

The **mean value** of f over D is given by

$$\bar{f} = \frac{1}{(\text{the area of } D)} \iint_D f(x, y) dA$$

Example 3. Calculate the mean value of

$$x^2 + y^2$$

over the unit disk.

(Hint: $\iint_D f(x, y) dA = \iint_E f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) r dr d\theta$.)

Solution: Let D be the unit disk, $\{(x, y) : x^2 + y^2 \leq 1\}$. Since the area of D is π , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{f} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \iint_D (x^2 + y^2) dA = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^1 r dr \int_0^{2\pi} r^2 d\theta \\ &= 2 \int_0^1 r^3 dr = \frac{1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

2 Double Integrals in Polar Coordinates

2.1 Change of Variables in Double Integrals

In previous examples, we used polar coordinates to compute some integrals, without justifying the formula

$$\iint_D f(x, y) dA = \iint_E f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) r dr d\theta.$$

Formally, this means

$$dx dy = dA = r dr d\theta.$$

Note the Jacobian of map $(x, y) = (r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$ is given by

$$\det \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(r, \theta)} = \det \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & r \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} = r(\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) = r.$$

Hence, the formula can be rewritten as

$$dx dy = \left| \det \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(r, \theta)} \right| dr d\theta.$$

This is true in general, as [the Jacobian measures the rate of change of area](#) for a bijective map.

Theorem 2. Let $x = x(u, v)$ and $y = y(u, v)$ be C^1 bijective mappings from E on uv -plane to D on xy -plane. If $f(x, y)$ is integrable on D and $g(u, v) = f(x(u, v), y(u, v))$ is integrable on E , then ¹

$$\iint_D f(x, y) dx dy = \iint_E g(u, v) \left| \det \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} \right| du dv$$

where

$$\frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)}$$

is the Jacobian matrix.

Example 4. Let $D = \{(x, y) : x^2 + y^2 \leq 1\}$. Use polar coordinates to calculate

$$\iint_D (1 - x^2 - y^2) dx dy.$$

Solution: As for the polar coordinates (r, θ) , we have already observed that

$$\det \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(r, \theta)} = r$$

Therefore, by the change of variables,

$$\iint_D (1 - x^2 - y^2) dx dy = \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \int_0^1 (1 - r^2) r dr d\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

Example 5. Compute the improper integral

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx.$$

Solution: Let a be the value of the integral. Then

$$\begin{aligned} a^2 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-y^2} dy \\ &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} e^{-x^2 - y^2} dx dy \\ &= \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \iint_{D_R} e^{-x^2 - y^2} dx dy, \end{aligned}$$

where $D_R = \{(x, y) : x^2 + y^2 \leq R^2\}$.

Solution continued:

However, using the polar coordinates

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{D_R} e^{-x^2 - y^2} dx dy &= \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \int_0^R r e^{-r^2} dr \\ &= 2\pi \left[-\frac{e^{-r^2}}{2} \right]_0^R \\ &= \pi(1 - e^{-R^2}) \rightarrow 2\pi \quad \text{as } R \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $a^2 = \pi$, or

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{\pi}.$$

¹<http://demonstrations.wolfram.com/2DJacobian/>

2.2 More Exercises

Remark

Note that

$$\det \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} = \frac{1}{\det \frac{\partial(u, v)}{\partial(x, y)}}.$$

Example 6. Determine the Jacobian $\det \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)}$ where

$$(u, v) = (xy, x - y).$$

Solution:

$$\det \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} = \left(\det \frac{\partial(u, v)}{\partial(x, y)} \right)^{-1} = -\frac{1}{x + y}.$$

Example 7. Calculate the double integral

$$\iint_D xy(x^2 - y^2) dx dy,$$

where

$$D = \{(x, y) : 1 < xy < 2, 1 < x - y < 2\}.$$

Solution: Set $(u, v) = (xy, x - y)$. Then

$$\det \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} = -\frac{1}{x + y}.$$

Solution continued:

Thus, by the change of variables, we have

$$(x + y) dx dy = du dv.$$

Hence, setting $E = \{(u, v) : 1 < u < 2, 1 < v < 2\}$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_D xy(x^2 - y^2) dx dy &= \iint_D xy(x - y)(x + y) dx dy \\ &= \iint_E uv du dv = \int_1^2 dv \int_1^2 uv du \\ &= \frac{9}{4}. \end{aligned}$$

Example 8. 1. Show by using the polar coordinates that

$$\iint_D x dx dy = 8/3,$$

if D is given by $x \geq 0$, $y \geq 0$ and $x^2 + y^2 \leq 4$.

2. Show with the change of variables that

$$\iint_D (2y - x) dx dy = \frac{5}{6}$$

if D is given by $0 \leq x + y \leq 1$ and $2 \leq 2y - x \leq 3$.

3. Determine the centre of mass for D given by $x^2 \leq y \leq x$.