

1 | an example: semicircle revolved around the x-axis to create a sphere

We can make cuts perpendicular to the axis of rotation. In this case, you end up with a bunch of circular disks, where the height of each slice is your semicircle function.

Thus, the volume of the disk is

$$\pi f^2(x_i)\Delta x = (a^2 - x_i^2)\pi\Delta x$$

This is kinda like a Riemann Sum, but with more stuff added on. We can take the limit of the sum

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \pi(a^2 - x_i^2)\Delta x$$

Where $\Delta x = \frac{1}{n}$ and $x_i = -a + \frac{2ak}{n}$

Expressed as an integral:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-a}^a \pi(a^2 - x^2)dx &\rightarrow \int \pi a^2 dx - \int \pi x^2 dx \\ &= \pi a^2 x - \pi \frac{1}{3} x^3 \\ &\rightarrow \pi a^3 - \pi \frac{1}{3} a^3 + \pi a^3 + \pi \frac{1}{3} (-a)^3 \\ &= 2\pi a^3 - \pi \frac{2}{3} a^3 \\ &= \frac{4}{3} \pi a^3 \end{aligned}$$