

Fiacre Ó Cairbre

Lecture 17

Section 4.2 – Surface Area.

Definition 4.

Suppose $f(x, y)$ and its partial derivatives are continuous on the closed region T in the xy -plane. Then, the area of the surface given by $z = f(x, y)$ over T is given by

$$\int_T \int \sqrt{1 + f_x^2 + f_y^2} dA$$

where

$$f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \quad f_x^2 = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)^2, \quad f_y = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \quad f_y^2 = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)^2$$

Example 7.

Find the surface area of the portion of the surface $z = \frac{1}{2}(x^2 - 2y)$ lying above the triangular region T in the xy -plane bounded by the lines $y = 0$, $x = 2$ and $y = 3x$.

Solution.

We see that $T = \{(x, y) : 0 \leq x \leq 2, 0 \leq y \leq 3x\}$.

Let $f(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}(x^2 - 2y)$. Then

$$f_x = x \quad \text{and} \quad f_y = -1$$

So, the required surface area is

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \int_T \int \sqrt{1 + f_x^2 + f_y^2} dA \\ &= \int_0^2 \left(\int_0^{3x} \sqrt{2 + x^2} dy \right) dx \\ &= \int_0^2 \left[y \sqrt{2 + x^2} \right]_0^{3x} dx \end{aligned}$$

$$= \int_0^2 \left(3x\sqrt{2+x^2} \right) dx \quad (*)$$

Now use substitution on (*) with $u = 2 + x^2$ to get

$$\begin{aligned} (*) &= \frac{3}{2} \int_2^6 \sqrt{u} du \\ &= \left[u^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]_2^6 \\ &= 6\sqrt{6} - 2\sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

Example 8.

Find the surface area of the portion of the surface $z = 2x + 3y$ lying above the rectangular region T given by $-1 \leq x \leq 2$, $0 \leq y \leq 2$.

Solution.

Let $f(x, y) = 2x + 3y$. Then

$$f_x = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad f_y = 3$$

So, the required surface area is

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \int_T \int \sqrt{1 + f_x^2 + f_y^2} dA \\ &= \int_{-1}^2 \left(\int_0^2 \sqrt{1 + 4 + 9} dy \right) dx \\ &= \int_{-1}^2 \left[y\sqrt{14} \right]_0^2 dx \\ &= \int_{-1}^2 \left(2\sqrt{14} \right) dx \\ &= \left[2x\sqrt{14} \right]_{-1}^2 dx \\ &= 6\sqrt{14} \end{aligned}$$

Section 4.3 – Line Integrals.

Remark 9.

We will first discuss what a piecewise smooth curve is. Suppose C is a curve in the xy -plane given by the parametric equations $x = x(t), y = y(t)$ for $a \leq t \leq b$. An example of such a curve is the circle with centre $(0, 0)$ and radius 1 which has parametric equations $x = \cos t, y = \sin t$ for $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$.

We now say that C is smooth if

$$\frac{dx}{dt} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{dy}{dt}$$

are continuous on $[a, b]$. Similarly, suppose B is a curve in \mathbb{R}^3 given by the parametric equations $x = x(t), y = y(t), z = z(t)$ for $a \leq t \leq b$. We say that B is smooth if

$$\frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{dz}{dt}$$

are continuous on $[a, b]$.

A curve W is piecewise smooth if the interval $[a, b]$ can be subdivided into a finite number of subintervals, on each of which W is smooth.

Example 9.

Consider the curve C given by $x = \cos t, y = \sin t$, for $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$. Then, C is smooth. C is the circle of radius 1 with centre at the origin (as mentioned above).

Consider the curve W given by $x = \cos t, y = \sin t, z = t$ for $0 \leq t \leq 4\pi$. Then, W is smooth. W is a helix.