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## derivation of Pappus's centroid theorem

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**I.** Let  $s$  denote the arc rotating about the  $x$ -axis (and its length) and  $R$  be the  $y$ -coordinate of the centroid of the arc. If the arc may be given by the equation

$$y = y(x)$$

where  $a \leq x \leq b$ , the area of the formed surface of revolution is

$$A = 2\pi \int_a^b y(x) \sqrt{1+[y'(x)]^2} dx.$$

This can be concisely written

$$A = 2\pi \int_s y ds \tag{1}$$

since differential-geometrically, the product  $\sqrt{1+[y'(x)]^2} dx$  is the arc-element. We rewrite (1) as

$$A = s \cdot 2\pi \cdot \frac{1}{s} \int_s y ds.$$

Here, the last factor is the ordinate of the centroid of the rotating arc, whence we have the result

$$A = s \cdot 2\pi R$$

which states the first Pappus's centroid theorem.

**II.** For deriving the second Pappus's centroid theorem, we suppose that the region defined by

$$a \leq x \leq b, \quad 0 \leq y_1(x) \leq y \leq y_2(x),$$

having the area  $A$  and the centroid with the ordinate  $R$ , rotates about the  $x$ -axis and forms the solid of revolution with the volume  $V$ . The centroid of the area-element between the arcs  $y = y_1(x)$  and  $y = y_2(x)$  is  $[y_2(x) + y_1(x)]/2$  when the abscissa is  $x$ ; the area of this element with the width  $dx$  is  $[y_2(x) - y_1(x)] dx$ . Thus we get the equation

$$R = \frac{1}{A} \int_a^b \frac{y_2(x) + y_1(x)}{2} [y_2(x) - y_1(x)] dx$$

which may be written shortly

$$R = \frac{1}{2A} \int_a^b (y_2^2 - y_1^2) dx. \tag{2}$$

The volume of the solid of revolution is

$$V = \pi \int_a^b (y_2^2 - y_1^2) dx = A \cdot 2\pi \cdot \frac{1}{2A} \int_a^b (y_2^2 - y_1^2) dx.$$

By (2), this attains the form

$$V = A \cdot 2\pi R.$$