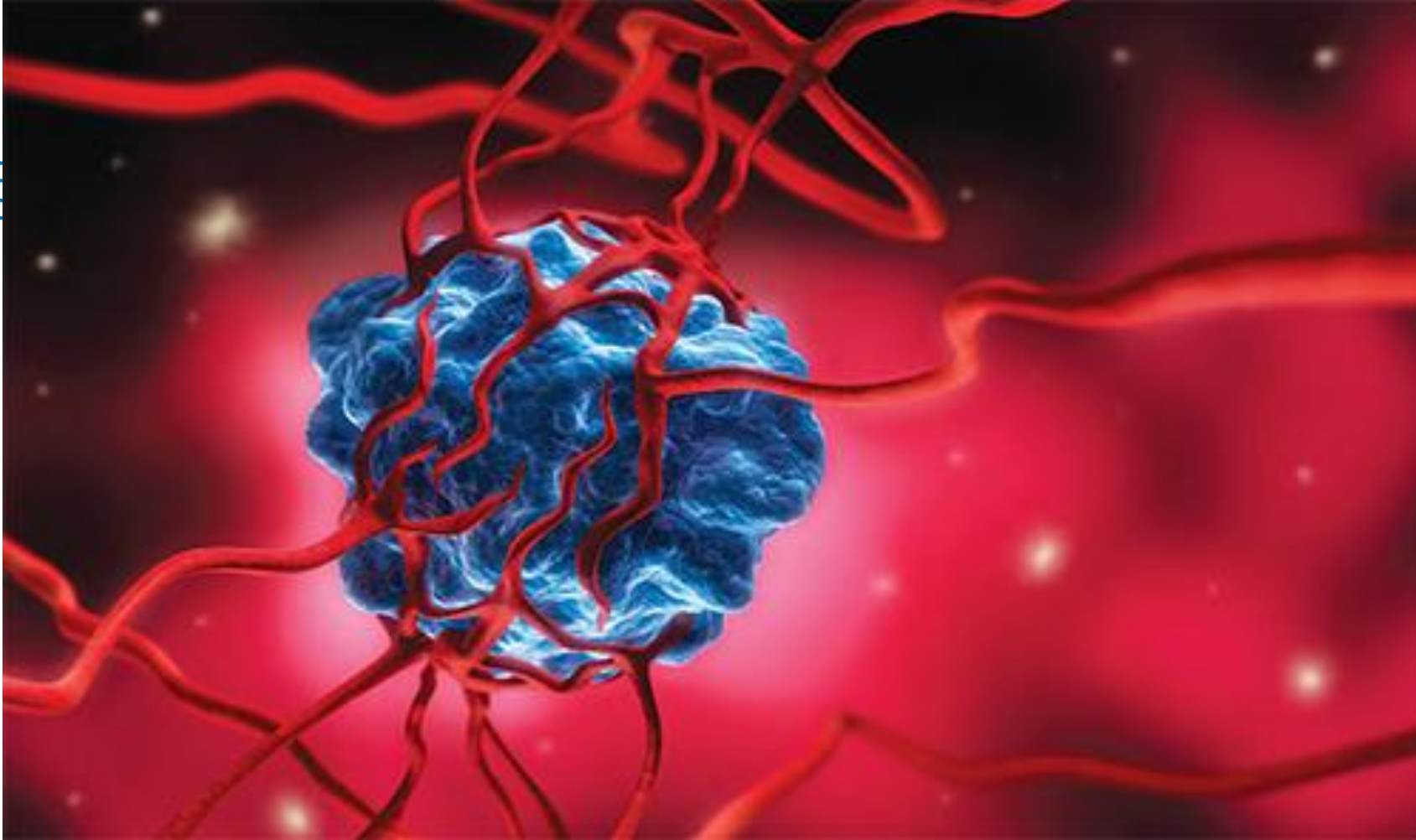


15 Multiple Integrals





15.8

Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates

Context

- Spherical Coordinates
- Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates

Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates (1 of 1)

Another useful coordinate system in three dimensions is the *spherical coordinate system*.

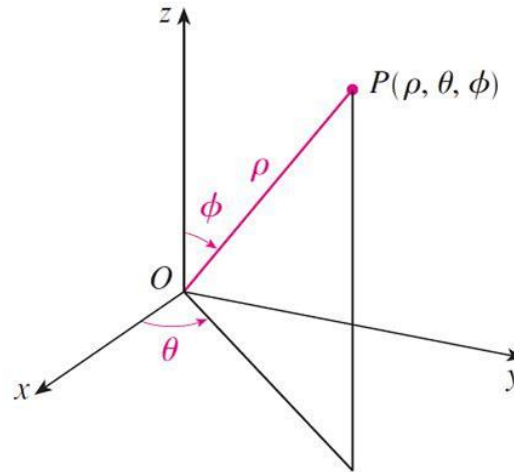
It simplifies the evaluation of triple integrals over regions bounded by spheres or cones.



Spherical Coordinates

Spherical Coordinates (1 of 6)

The **spherical coordinates** (ρ, θ, ϕ) of a point P in space are shown in Figure 1 where $\rho = |OP|$ is the distance from the origin to P , θ is the same angle as in cylindrical coordinates, and ϕ is the angle between the positive z -axis and the line segment OP .



The spherical coordinates of a point

Figure 1

Spherical Coordinates (2 of 6)

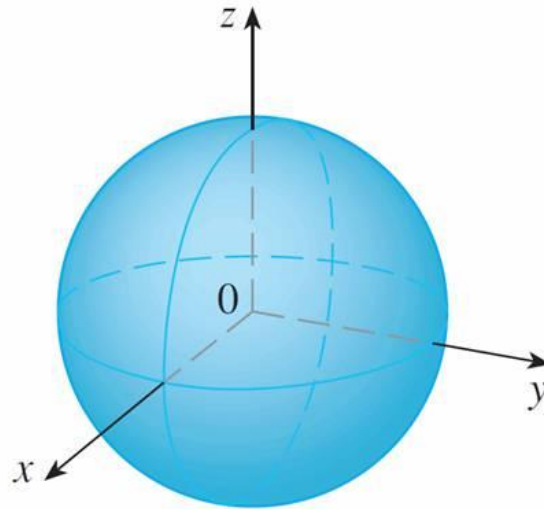
Note that

$$\rho \geq 0 \quad 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$$

The spherical coordinate system is especially useful in problems where there is symmetry about a point, and the origin is placed at this point.

Spherical Coordinates (3 of 6)

For example, the sphere with center the origin and radius c has the simple equation $\rho = c$ (see Figure 2); this is the reason for the name “spherical” coordinates.

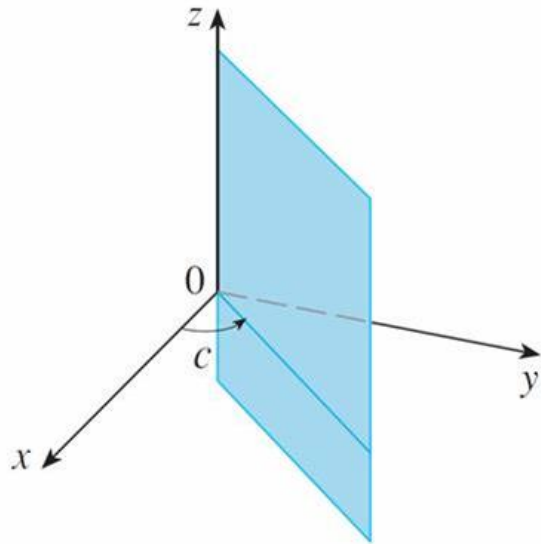


$\rho = c$, a sphere

Figure 2

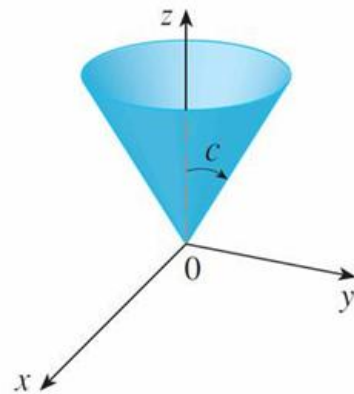
Spherical Coordinates (4 of 6)

The graph of the equation $\theta = c$ is a vertical half-plane (see Figure 3), and the equation $\phi = c$ represents a half-cone with the z-axis as its axis (see Figure 4).



$\theta = c$, a half-plane

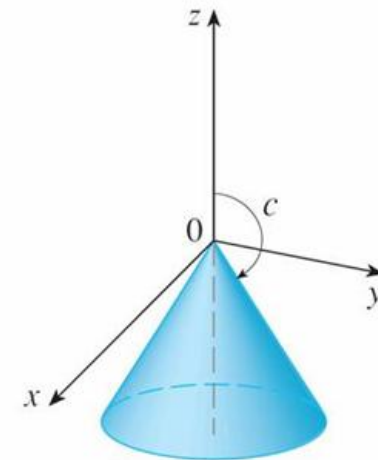
Figure 3



$$0 < c < \pi/2$$

$\phi = c$, a half-cone

Figure 4



$$\pi/2 < c < \pi$$

Spherical Coordinates (5 of 6)

The relationship between rectangular and spherical coordinates can be seen from Figure 5.

From triangles OPQ and OPP' we have

$$z = \rho \cos \phi \quad r = \rho \sin \phi$$

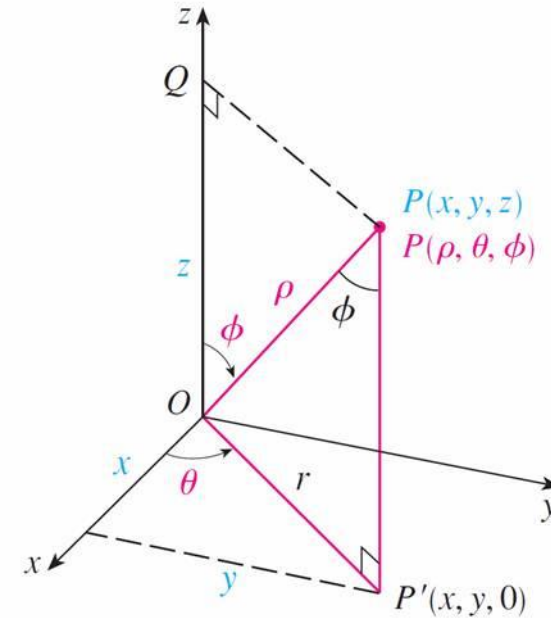


Figure 5

Spherical Coordinates (6 of 6)

But $x = r \cos \theta$ and $y = r \sin \theta$, so to convert from spherical to rectangular coordinates, we use the equations

$$\mathbf{1} \quad x = \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta \quad y = \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta \quad z = \rho \cos \phi$$

Also, the distance formula shows that

$$\mathbf{2} \quad \rho^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

We use this equation in converting from rectangular to spherical coordinates.

Example 1

The point $(2, \pi/4, \pi/3)$ is given in spherical coordinates. Plot the point and find its rectangular coordinates.

Solution:

We plot the point in Figure 6.

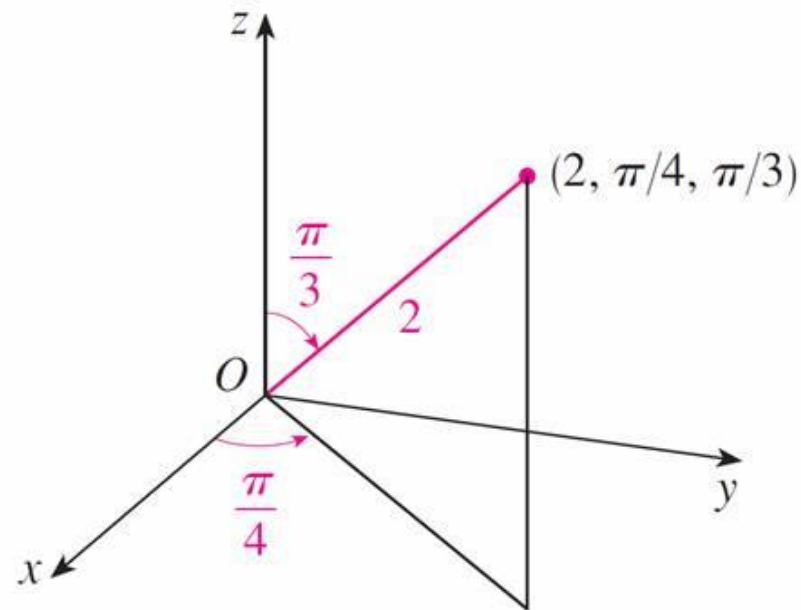


Figure 6

Example 1 – Solution

From Equations 1 we have

$$x = \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta = 2 \sin \frac{\pi}{3} \cos \frac{\pi}{4} = 2 \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$y = \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta = 2 \sin \frac{\pi}{3} \sin \frac{\pi}{4} = 2 \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$z = \rho \cos \phi = 2 \cos \frac{\pi}{3} = 2 \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) = 1$$

Thus the point $(2, \pi/4, \pi/3)$ is $(\sqrt{3/2}, \sqrt{3/2}, 1)$ in rectangular coordinates.



Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates

Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates (1 of 8)

In the spherical coordinate system the counterpart of a rectangular box is a **spherical wedge**

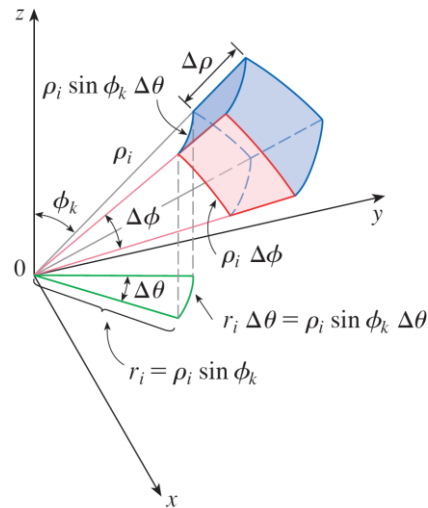
$$E = \{(\rho, \theta, \phi) \mid a \leq \rho \leq b, \alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta, c \leq \phi \leq d\}$$

where $a \geq 0$ and $\beta - \alpha \leq 2\pi$, and $d - c \leq \pi$. Although we defined triple integrals by dividing solids into small boxes, it can be shown that dividing a solid into small spherical wedges always gives the same result.

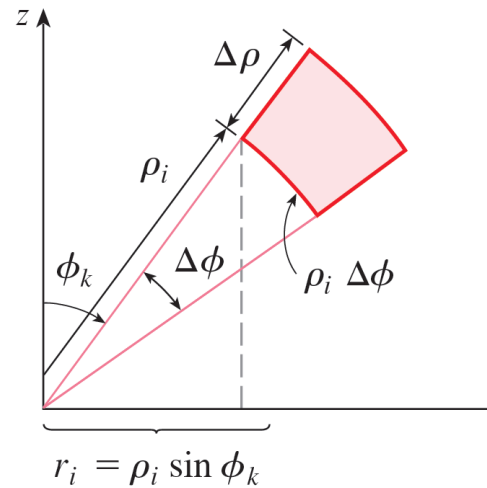
So we divide E into smaller spherical wedges E_{ijk} by means of equally spaced spheres $\rho = \rho_i$, half-planes $\theta = \theta_j$, and half-cones $\phi = \phi_k$.

Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates (2 of 8)

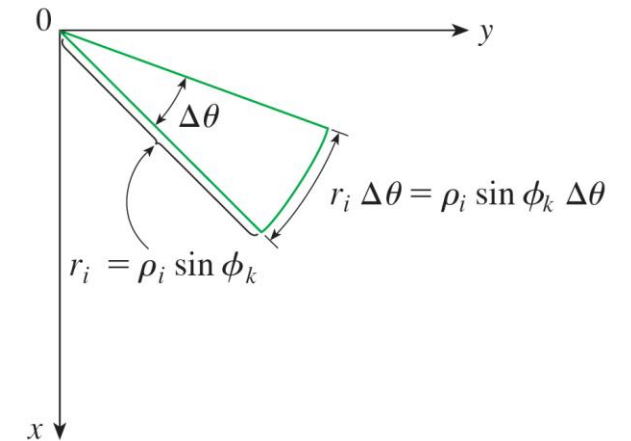
Figure 7 shows that E_{ijk} is approximately a rectangular box with dimensions $\Delta\rho$, $\rho_i \Delta\phi$ (arc of a circle with radius ρ_i , angle $\Delta\phi$), and $\rho_i \sin \phi_k \Delta\theta$ (arc of a circle with radius $\rho_i \sin \phi_k$, angle $\Delta\theta$).



(a) A spherical wedge



(b) Side view



(c) Top view

Figure 7

Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates (3 of 8)

So an approximation to the volume of E_{ijk} is given by

$$\Delta V_{ijk} \approx (\Delta\rho)(\rho_i \Delta\phi)(\rho_i \sin\phi_k \Delta\theta) = \rho_i^2 \sin\phi_k \Delta\rho \Delta\theta \Delta\phi$$

In fact, it can be shown, with the aid of the Mean Value Theorem, that the volume of E_{ijk} is given exactly by

$$\Delta V_{ijk} = \tilde{\rho}_i^2 \sin \tilde{\phi}_k \Delta\rho \Delta\theta \Delta\phi$$

where $(\rho_i, \theta_j, \phi_k)$ is some point in E_{ijk} .

Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates (4 of 8)

Let $(x_{ijk}^*, y_{ijk}^*, z_{ijk}^*)$ be the rectangular coordinates of this point.

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\iiint_F f(x, y, z) dV &= \lim_{l, m, n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_{ijk}^*, y_{ijk}^*, z_{ijk}^*) \Delta V_{ijk} \\ &= \lim_{l, m, n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{k=1}^n f(\rho_i \sin \phi_k \cos \theta_j, \rho_i \sin \phi_k \sin \theta_j, \rho_i \cos \phi_k) \rho_i^2 \sin \phi_k \Delta \rho \Delta \theta \Delta \phi\end{aligned}$$

Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates (5 of 8)

But this sum is a Riemann sum for the function

$$F(\rho, \theta, \phi) = f(\rho \sin \phi \cos \theta, \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta, \rho \cos \phi) \rho^2 \sin \phi$$

Consequently, we have arrived at the following **formula for triple integration in spherical coordinates**.

$$\begin{aligned} \textbf{3} \quad \iiint_E f(x, y, z) \, dv \\ = \int_c^d \int_\alpha^\beta \int_a^b f(\rho \sin \phi \cos \theta, \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta, \rho \cos \phi) \rho^2 \sin \phi \, d\rho \, d\theta \, d\phi \end{aligned}$$

where E is a spherical wedge given by

$$E = \{(\rho, \theta, \phi) \mid a \leq \rho \leq b, \alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta, c \leq \phi \leq d\}$$

Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates (6 of 8)

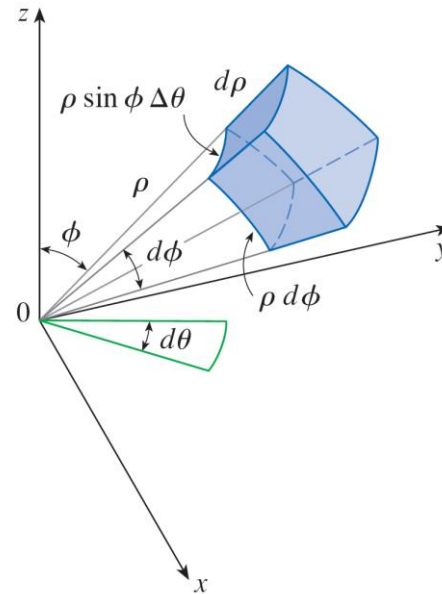
Formula 3 says that we convert a triple integral from rectangular coordinates to spherical coordinates by writing

$$x = \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta \quad y = \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta \quad z = \rho \cos \phi$$

using the appropriate limits of integration, and replacing dv by $\rho^2 \sin \phi \, d\rho \, d\theta \, d\phi$.

Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates (7 of 8)

This is illustrated in Figure 8.



Volume element in spherical coordinates: $dv = \rho^2 \sin \phi \, d\rho \, d\theta \, d\phi$.

Figure 8

Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates (8 of 8)

This formula can be extended to include more general spherical regions such as

$$E = \{(\rho, \theta, \phi) \mid \alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta, c \leq \phi \leq d, g_1(\theta, \phi) \leq \rho \leq g_2(\theta, \phi)\}$$

In this case the formula is the same as in (3) except that the limits of integration for ρ are $g_1(\theta, \phi)$ and $g_2(\theta, \phi)$.

Usually, spherical coordinates are used in triple integrals when surfaces such as cones and spheres form the boundary of the region of integration.

MCQ: $E = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \leq 4, x \geq 0, |y| \leq x, x^2 + y^2 \geq z^2\}$
 Compute $I = \iiint_E 1 \, dV$

- ☐ A $\frac{4\sqrt{3}\pi}{3}$
- ☐ B $\frac{3\sqrt{3}\pi}{4}$
- ☐ C $\frac{5\sqrt{2}\pi}{4}$
- ☒ D $\frac{4\sqrt{2}\pi}{3}$

提交

Example

Solution:

Sphere:

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \leq 4 \Rightarrow 0 \leq \rho \leq 2$$

Cone condition:

$$x^2 + y^2 \geq z^2 \Rightarrow \rho^2 (\sin \phi)^2 \geq \rho^2 (\cos \phi)^2 \Rightarrow (\tan \phi)^2 \geq 1 \Rightarrow \phi \in \left[\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4} \right]$$

Wedge in the xy -plane:

$$|y| \leq x \Rightarrow |\tan \theta| \leq 1 \text{ and } \cos \theta \geq 0 \Rightarrow \theta \in \left[-\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{4} \right]$$

So $x \geq 0$ is effectively redundant.

Evaluate

$$\int_0^2 \rho^2 d\rho = \frac{8}{3}, \quad \int_{\pi/4}^{3\pi/4} \sin \phi d\phi = \sqrt{2}, \quad \int_{-\pi/4}^{\pi/4} d\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Thus

$$\iiint_E 1 dV = \int_{-\pi/4}^{\pi/4} \int_{\pi/4}^{3\pi/4} \int_0^2 \rho^2 \sin \phi d\rho d\phi d\theta = \frac{8}{3} \cdot \sqrt{2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} = \frac{4\sqrt{2}\pi}{3}$$

Example 4

Use spherical coordinates to find the volume of the solid that lies above the cone $z = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ and below the sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = z$. (See Figure 9.)

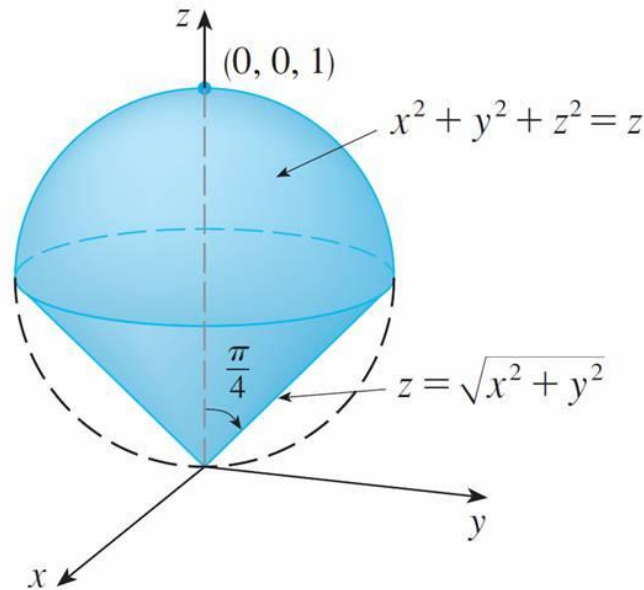


Figure 9

Example 4 – Solution (1 of 4)

Notice that the sphere passes through the origin and has center $\left(0, 0, \frac{1}{2}\right)$. We write the equation of the sphere in spherical coordinates as

$$\rho^2 = \rho \cos \phi \quad \text{or} \quad \rho = \cos \phi$$

The equation of the cone can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \rho \cos \phi &= \sqrt{\rho^2 \sin^2 \phi \cos^2 \theta + \rho^2 \sin^2 \phi \sin^2 \theta} \\ &= \rho \sin \phi \end{aligned}$$

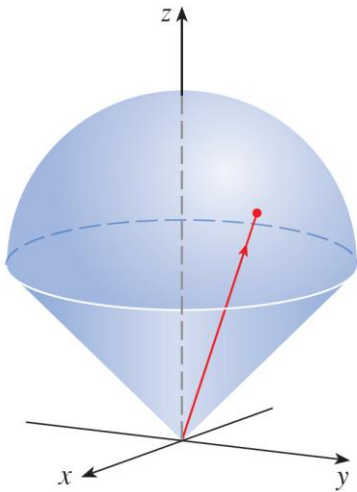
Example 4 – Solution (2 of 4)

This gives $\sin \phi = \cos \phi$, or $\phi = \pi/4$. Therefore the description of the solid E in spherical coordinates is

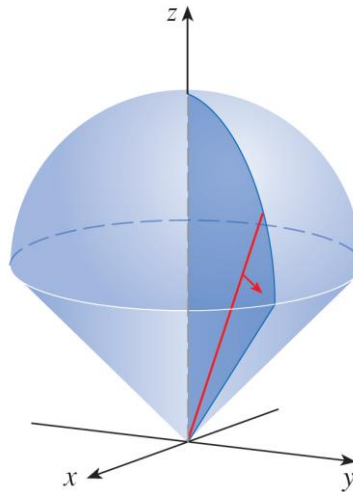
$$E = \{(\rho, \theta, \phi) | 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi/4, 0 \leq \rho \leq \cos \phi\}$$

Example 4 – Solution (3 of 4)

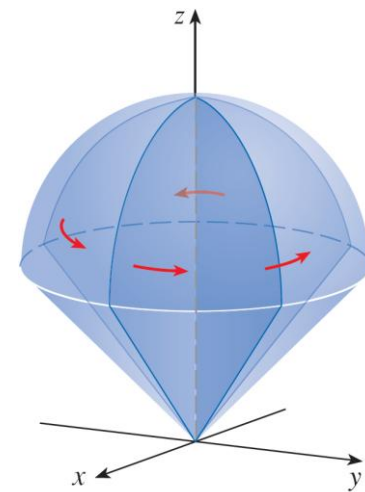
Figure 10 shows how E is swept out if we integrate first with respect to ρ , then ϕ , and then θ .



ρ varies from 0 to $\cos \phi$ while ϕ and θ are constant.



ϕ varies from 0 to $\pi/4$ while θ is constant.



θ varies from 0 to 2π .

Figure 10

Example 4 – Solution (4 of 4)

The volume of E is

$$\begin{aligned} V(E) &= \iiint_E dV = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} \int_0^{\cos \phi} \rho^2 \sin \phi \, d\rho \, d\phi \, d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} \sin \phi \left[\frac{\rho^3}{3} \right]_{\rho=0}^{\rho=\cos \phi} d\phi \\ &= \frac{2\pi}{3} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} \sin \phi \cos^3 \phi \, d\phi = \frac{2\pi}{3} \left[-\frac{\cos^4 \phi}{4} \right]_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} = \frac{\pi}{8} \end{aligned}$$

Recap

- Spherical Coordinates
- Triple Integrals in Spherical Coordinates