

Lecture 16: Line Integrals continued.

Lecture 17: Area of a parameterized surface.

A **Parameterized surface** is given in terms of two parameters

$$x = x(u, v), \quad y = y(u, v), \quad z = z(u, v), \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{T}(u, v) = x \mathbf{i} + y \mathbf{j} + z \mathbf{k},$$

where (u, v) is in some region D . Cut D into small rectangles R_{ij} with vertex (u_i, v_j) .

$$R_{ij} = \{(u, v); u_i \leq u \leq u_i + \Delta u, v_j \leq v \leq v_j + \Delta v\}.$$

For i, j fixed, $u \rightarrow T(u, v_0)$ and $v \rightarrow T(u_0, v)$ are curves on the surface and hence

$$\mathbf{T}_u = \frac{\partial \mathbf{T}}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial u} \mathbf{k}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{T}_v = \frac{\partial \mathbf{T}}{\partial v} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} \mathbf{k}.$$

are **tangent vectors** to the surface. For $(u, v) \sim (u_i, v_j)$ the surface is close to its tangent plane at the point (u_i, v_j) and \mathbf{T} is close to the **linear approximation**:

$$\mathbf{T}(u, v) \approx \mathbf{L}_{ij}(u, v) = \mathbf{T}(u_i, v_j) + \mathbf{T}_u(u_i, v_j)(u - u_i) + \mathbf{T}_v(u_i, v_j)(v - v_j)$$

The image $S_{ij} = \mathbf{T}(R_{ij})$ is close to $\mathbf{L}_{ij}(R_{ij})$ which is a parallelogram with adjacent sides $\mathbf{T}_u \Delta u$ and $\mathbf{T}_v \Delta v$ so

$$\text{Area}(S_{ij}) \approx \|\mathbf{T}_u \times \mathbf{T}_v\| \Delta u \Delta v = \|\mathbf{T}_u \times \mathbf{T}_v\| \text{Area}(R_{ij})$$

Summing up over all small rectangles in the u - v plane we get

$$\text{Area}(S) = \sum \text{Area}(S_{ij}) \approx \sum \|\mathbf{T}_u \times \mathbf{T}_v(u_i, v_j)\| \Delta u \Delta v$$

and in the limit as $\Delta u, \Delta v \rightarrow 0$ we get the formula for the **surface area** of a parameterized surface:

$$\text{Area}(S) = \iint \|\mathbf{T}_u \times \mathbf{T}_v(u, v)\| \, du \, dv$$

Example. Using the parameterization $(x, y, z) = (r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta, r)$ for $0 \leq r \leq 1$, $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$, calculate the surface area of the cone $z^2 = x^2 + y^2$ with $0 \leq z \leq 1$.

Solution. We have

$$\begin{aligned} dS = \|\mathbf{T}_r \times \mathbf{T}_\theta\| \, dr \, d\theta &= \left\| \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ \cos \theta & \sin \theta & 1 \\ -r \sin \theta & r \cos \theta & 0 \end{array} \right\| \, dr \, d\theta = \|(-r \cos \theta, -r \sin \theta, r)\| \, dr \, d\theta \\ &= \sqrt{2} r \, dr \, d\theta. \end{aligned}$$

Hence area is

$$A = \int_S dS = \int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{2} r \, dr \, d\theta = \sqrt{2} \pi.$$

Surface area of a graph. In the special case of a graph $z = f(x, y)$ we have $\mathbf{T}(x, y) = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + f(x, y)\mathbf{k}$ we have $\mathbf{T}_x = \mathbf{i} + f_x(x, y)\mathbf{k}$, $\mathbf{T}_y = \mathbf{j} + f_y(x, y)\mathbf{k}$ and

$$\mathbf{T}_x \times \mathbf{T}_y = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 1 & 0 & f_x \\ 0 & 1 & f_y \end{vmatrix} = -f_x\mathbf{i} - f_y\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$$

and

$$\|\mathbf{T}_x \times \mathbf{T}_y\| = \sqrt{1 + f_x^2 + f_y^2}$$

and hence we get the formula for the area of a graph:

$$\text{Area}(S) = \iint \sqrt{1 + f_x^2 + f_y^2} \, dxdy$$

There is however a simpler way to remember this formula. If the graph of f is a plane S , let \mathbf{n} be the unit normal to S . Choose $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{k}$ so that \mathbf{e} is a horizontal vector parallel to S . Choose $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{e} \times \mathbf{k}$ so \mathbf{f} is vector in the plane orthonormal to \mathbf{e} . Suppose S_{ij} is a rectangle in S corresponding to a rectangle R_{ij} in the xy plane, and suppose S_{ij} has sides E and F parallel to vectors \mathbf{e} and \mathbf{f} respectively. The side E is horizontal and so projects down to a side of R_{ij} having the same length. However, the side F is at an angle $\cos \gamma$ to the horizontal where γ is the angle between \mathbf{n} and \mathbf{k} . Hence it projects down to a side with $|\cos \gamma|$ times the length. Hence

$$\text{Area of } S_{ij} = \frac{1}{|\cos \gamma|} \times \text{Area of } R_{ij}.$$

$$dS = \frac{1}{|\cos \gamma|} dxdy = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{k}|} dxdy.$$

Since locally the surface can be approximated by the tangent plane, this formula actually holds for a surface, where now \mathbf{n} is the unit normal to the surface which may vary from point to point. We can check that this agrees with our previous formula. Indeed, the normal to the graph $z = f(x, y)$ is

$$\nabla(z - f(x, y)) = -f_x\mathbf{i} - f_y\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}.$$

Hence a unit normal is

$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{-f_x\mathbf{i} - f_y\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}}{\sqrt{f_x^2 + f_y^2 + 1}}, \quad \frac{1}{|\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{k}|} = \sqrt{f_x^2 + f_y^2 + 1}.$$

Example. Find the area of the part of the cone S given by $z^2 = x^2 + y^2$ with $0 \leq z \leq 1$.

Solution. The surface is a graph and the angle between the surface and the $x - y$

plane is $\gamma = \pi/4$, since when say $y = 0$ its just $z = |x|$. Hence $\cos \gamma = 1/\sqrt{2}$. Alternatively one can calculate $|\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{k}|$. Hence

$$\text{Area}(S) = \int_{x^2+y^2 \leq 1} \frac{dxdy}{|\cos \gamma|} = \sqrt{2} \int_{x^2+y^2 \leq 1} dxdy = \sqrt{2} \times \text{Area of unit disc} = \sqrt{2}\pi.$$

Example. Find the area of the sphere S of radius r .

Solution. Using the parametrization $\mathbf{T} = r \sin \phi \cos \theta \mathbf{i} + r \sin \phi \sin \theta \mathbf{j} + r \cos \phi \mathbf{k}$ we get $\mathbf{T}_\phi = r \cos \phi \cos \theta \mathbf{i} + r \cos \phi \sin \theta \mathbf{j} - r \sin \phi \mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{T}_\theta = -r \sin \phi \sin \theta \mathbf{i} + r \sin \phi \cos \theta \mathbf{j}$;

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{T}_\phi \times \mathbf{T}_\theta &= \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ r \cos \phi \cos \theta & r \cos \phi \sin \theta & -r \sin \phi \\ -r \sin \phi \sin \theta & r \sin \phi \cos \theta & 0 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= r^2 \sin^2 \phi \cos \theta \mathbf{i} + r^2 \sin^2 \phi \sin \theta \mathbf{j} + r^2 \sin \phi \cos \phi \mathbf{k} \end{aligned}$$

and $|\mathbf{T}_\phi \times \mathbf{T}_\theta| = r^2 |\sin \phi| \sqrt{\sin^2 \phi \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \phi \sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \phi} = r^2 \sin \phi$. Hence

$$\text{Area}(S) = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi r^2 \sin \phi d\phi d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} -r^2 \cos \phi \Big|_0^\pi d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} 2r^2 d\theta = 4\pi r^2.$$