

## Double integrals in Polar co-ordinates

Consider the integral

$$\int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} \int_{r_1}^{r_2} f(r, \theta) dr d\theta$$

which is in polar form. This integral is bounded over the region by the straight line  $\theta = \theta_1, \theta = \theta_2$  and the curves  $r = r_1, r = r_2$ .

**Example:**

Evaluate  $\int_0^\pi \int_0^{\sin\theta} r dr d\theta$

**Solution:**

Given  $\int_0^\pi \int_0^{\sin\theta} r dr d\theta$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_0^\pi \left[ \frac{r^2}{2} \right]_0^{\sin\theta} d\theta \\ &= \int_0^\pi \frac{\sin^2\theta}{2} d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\pi \left[ \frac{1 - \cos 2\theta}{2} \right] d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left[ \theta - \frac{\sin 2\theta}{2} \right]_0^\pi \\ &= \frac{1}{4} [(\pi - 0) - (0 - 0)] \\ &= \frac{\pi}{4} \end{aligned}$$

**Example:**

Evaluate  $\int_0^\pi \int_0^a r dr d\theta$

**Solution:**

Given  $\int_0^\pi \int_0^a r dr d\theta$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_0^\pi \left[ \frac{r^2}{2} \right]_0^a d\theta \\ &= \int_0^\pi \frac{a^2}{2} d\theta \\ &= \frac{a^2}{2} [\theta]_0^\pi \\ &= \frac{\pi a^2}{2} \end{aligned}$$

**Example:**

Evaluate  $\int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \int_0^{2\cos\theta} r^2 d\theta dr$

**Solution:**

Given  $\int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \int_0^{2\cos\theta} r^2 d\theta dr$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \int_0^{2\cos\theta} r^2 dr d\theta \quad (\text{correct form}) \\
 &= \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \left[ \frac{r^3}{3} \right]_0^{2\cos\theta} d\theta \\
 &= \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \left[ \frac{(2\cos\theta)^3}{3} - 0 \right] d\theta \\
 &= \frac{8}{3} \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \cos^3\theta d\theta \\
 &= \frac{8}{3} (2) \int_0^{\pi/2} \cos^3\theta d\theta \\
 &= \frac{16}{3} \left[ \frac{2}{3} \cdot 1 \right] = \frac{32}{9}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Example:**

**Evaluate**  $\int_0^{\pi/2} \int_{a(1-\cos\theta)}^a r^2 d\theta dr$

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Given } & \int_0^{\pi/2} \int_{a(1-\cos\theta)}^a r^2 d\theta dr \\
 &= \int_0^{\pi/2} \left[ \frac{r^3}{3} \right]_{a(1-\cos\theta)}^a d\theta \\
 &= \int_0^{\pi/2} \left[ \frac{a^3}{3} - \frac{a^3(1-\cos\theta)^3}{3} \right] d\theta \\
 &= \frac{a^3}{3} \int_0^{\pi/2} [1 - (1 - \cos\theta)^3] d\theta \\
 &= \frac{a^3}{3} \int_0^{\pi/2} [1 - (1 - 3\cos\theta + 3\cos^2\theta - \cos^3\theta)] d\theta \\
 &= \frac{a^3}{3} \int_0^{\pi/2} [3\cos\theta + 3\cos^2\theta - \cos^3\theta] d\theta \\
 &= \frac{a^3}{3} \left[ (3\sin\theta)_0^{\pi/2} - 3 \left[ \frac{1}{2} \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{2}{3} \right] \right] \\
 &= \frac{a^3}{3} \left[ 3 - 3 \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{2}{3} \right] \\
 &= \frac{a^3}{3} \left[ \frac{36 - 9\pi + 8}{12} \right] \\
 &= \frac{a^3}{36} [44 - 9\pi]
 \end{aligned}$$