Chapter

15

MULTIPLE INTEGRALS

OVERVIEW   In this chapter we consider the integral of a function of two variables $f(x, y)$ over a region in the plane and the integral of a function of three variables $f(x, y, z)$ over a region in space. These integrals are called *multiple integrals* and are defined as the limit of approximating Riemann sums, much like the single-variable integrals presented in Chapter 5. We can use multiple integrals to calculate quantities that vary over two or three dimensions, such as the total mass or the angular momentum of an object of varying density and the volumes of solids with general curved boundaries.

15.1 Double Integrals

In Chapter 5 we defined the definite integral of a continuous function $f(x)$ over an interval $[a, b]$ as a limit of Riemann sums. In this section we extend this idea to define the integral of a continuous function of two variables $f(x, y)$ over a bounded region R in the plane. In both cases the integrals are limits of approximating Riemann sums. The Riemann sums for the integral of a single-variable function $f(x)$ are obtained by partitioning a finite interval into thin subintervals, multiplying the width of each subinterval by the value of f at a point c_k inside that subinterval, and then adding together all the products. A similar method of partitioning, multiplying, and summing is used to construct double integrals. However, this time we pack a planar region R with small rectangles, rather than small subintervals. We then take the product of each small rectangle's area with the value of f at a point inside that rectangle, and finally sum together all these products. When f is continuous, these sums converge to a single number as each of the small rectangles shrinks in both width and height. The limit is the *double integral* of f over R. As with single integrals, we can evaluate multiple integrals via antiderivatives, which frees us from the formidable task of calculating a double integral directly from its definition as a limit of Riemann sums. The major practical problem that arises in evaluating multiple integrals lies in determining the limits of integration. While the integrals of Chapter 5 were evaluated over an interval, which is determined by its two endpoints, multiple integrals are evaluated over a region in the plane or in space. This gives rise to limits of integration which often involve variables, not just constants. Describing the regions of integration is the main new issue that arises in the calculation of multiple integrals.

Double Integrals over Rectangles

We begin our investigation of double integrals by considering the simplest type of planar region, a rectangle. We consider a function $f(x, y)$ defined on a rectangular region R,
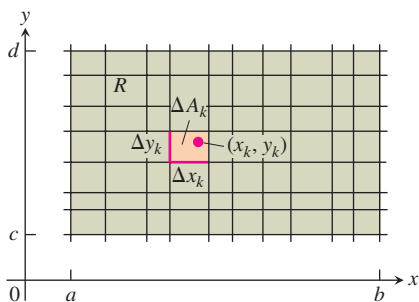
$$R: \quad a \le x \le b, \quad c \le y \le d.$$

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FIGURE 15.1 Rectangular grid partitioning the region R into small rectangles of area $\Delta A_k = \Delta x_k \, \Delta y_k$.

We subdivide R into small rectangles using a network of lines parallel to the x- and y-axes (Figure 15.1). The lines divide R into n rectangular pieces, where the number of such pieces n gets large as the width and height of each piece gets small. These rectangles form a **partition** of R. A small rectangular piece of width Δx and height Δy has area $\Delta A = \Delta x \Delta y$. If we number the small pieces partitioning R in some order, then their areas are given by numbers $\Delta A_1, \Delta A_2, \ldots, \Delta A_n$, where ΔA_k is the area of the kth small rectangle.

To form a Riemann sum over R, we choose a point (x_k, y_k) in the kth small rectangle, multiply the value of f at that point by the area ΔA_k, and add together the products:

$$S_n = \sum_{k=1}^{n} f(x_k, y_k) \, \Delta A_k.$$

Depending on how we pick (x_k, y_k) in the kth small rectangle, we may get different values for S_n.

We are interested in what happens to these Riemann sums as the widths and heights of all the small rectangles in the partition of R approach zero. The **norm** of a partition P, written $\|P\|$, is the largest width or height of any rectangle in the partition. If $\|P\| = 0.1$ then all the rectangles in the partition of R have width at most 0.1 and height at most 0.1. Sometimes the Riemann sums converge as the norm of P goes to zero, written $\|P\| \rightarrow 0$. The resulting limit is then written as

$$\lim_{\|P\| \to 0} \sum_{k=1}^{n} f(x_k, y_k) \, \Delta A_k.$$

As $\|P\| \rightarrow 0$ and the rectangles get narrow and short, their number n increases, so we can also write this limit as

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{k=1}^{n} f(x_k, y_k) \, \Delta A_k.$$

with the understanding that $\Delta A_k \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and $\|P\| \rightarrow 0$.

There are many choices involved in a limit of this kind. The collection of small rectangles is determined by the grid of vertical and horizontal lines that determine a rectangular partition of R. In each of the resulting small rectangles there is a choice of an arbitrary point (x_k, y_k) at which f is evaluated. These choices together determine a single Riemann sum. To form a limit, we repeat the whole process again and again, choosing partitions whose rectangle widths and heights both go to zero and whose number goes to infinity.

When a limit of the sums S_n exists, giving the same limiting value no matter what choices are made, then the function f is said to be **integrable** and the limit is called the **double integral** of f over R, written as

$$\iint\limits_{R} f(x, y) \, dA \qquad \text{or} \qquad \iint\limits_{R} f(x, y) \, dx \, dy.$$

It can be shown that if $f(x, y)$ is a continuous function throughout R, then f is integrable, as in the single-variable case discussed in Chapter 5. Many discontinuous functions are also integrable, including functions which are discontinuous only on a finite number of points or smooth curves. We leave the proof of these facts to a more advanced text.

Double Integrals as Volumes

When $f(x, y)$ is a positive function over a rectangular region R in the xy-plane, we may interpret the double integral of f over R as the volume of the 3-dimensional solid region over the xy-plane bounded below by R and above by the surface $z = f(x, y)$ (Figure 15.2). Each term $f(x_k, y_k)\Delta A_k$ in the sum $S_n = \sum f(x_k, y_k)\Delta A_k$ is the volume of a vertical
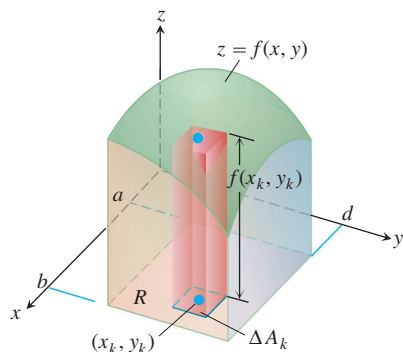
FIGURE 15.2 Approximating solids with rectangular boxes leads us to define the volumes of more general solids as double integrals. The volume of the solid shown here is the double integral of $f(x, y)$ over the base region R.

rectangular box that approximates the volume of the portion of the solid that stands directly above the base ΔA_k. The sum S_n thus approximates what we want to call the total volume of the solid. We *define* this volume to be

$$\text{Volume} = \lim_{n \to \infty} S_n = \iint_R f(x, y) \, dA,$$

where $\Delta A_k \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$.

As you might expect, this more general method of calculating volume agrees with the methods in Chapter 6, but we do not prove this here. Figure 15.3 shows Riemann sum approximations to the volume becoming more accurate as the number n of boxes increases.
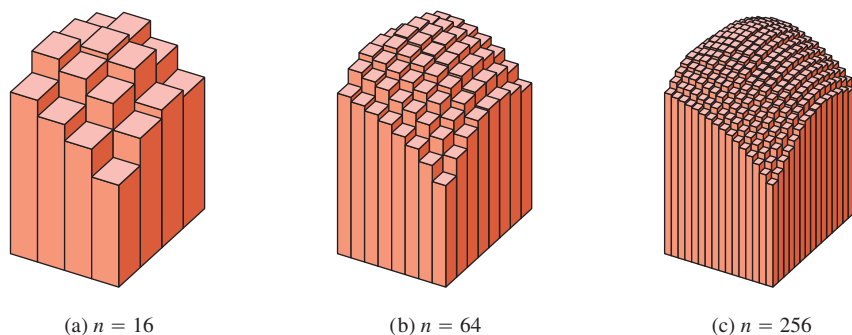

(a) $n = 16$ (b) $n = 64$ (c) $n = 256$

FIGURE 15.3 As n increases, the Riemann sum approximations approach the total volume of the solid shown in Figure 15.2.

Fubini's Theorem for Calculating Double Integrals

Suppose that we wish to calculate the volume under the plane $z = 4 - x - y$ over the rectangular region R: $0 \le x \le 2, 0 \le y \le 1$ in the xy-plane. If we apply the method of slicing from Section 6.1, with slices perpendicular to the x-axis (Figure 15.4), then the volume is

$$\int_{x=0}^{x=2} A(x) \, dx, \tag{1}$$

where $A(x)$ is the cross-sectional area at x. For each value of x, we may calculate $A(x)$ as the integral

$$A(x) = \int_{y=0}^{y=1} (4 - x - y) \, dy, \tag{2}$$

which is the area under the curve $z = 4 - x - y$ in the plane of the cross-section at x. In calculating $A(x)$, x is held fixed and the integration takes place with respect to y. Combining Equations (1) and (2), we see that the volume of the entire solid is

$$\text{Volume} = \int_{x=0}^{x=2} A(x) \, dx = \int_{x=0}^{x=2} \left(\int_{y=0}^{y=1} (4 - x - y) \, dy \right) dx$$

$$= \int_{x=0}^{x=2} \left[4y - xy - \frac{y^2}{2} \right]_{y=0}^{y=1} dx = \int_{x=0}^{x=2} \left(\frac{7}{2} - x \right) dx$$

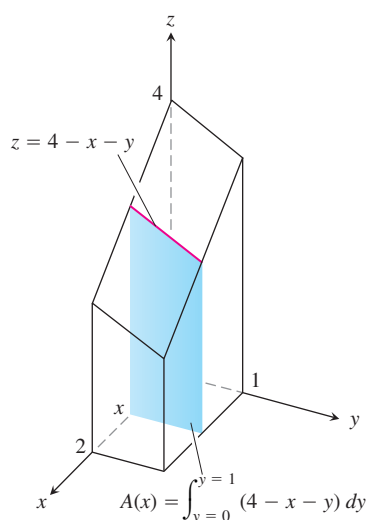$$= \left[\frac{7}{2} x - \frac{x^2}{2} \right]_0^2 = 5. \tag{3}$$

FIGURE 15.4 To obtain the cross-sectional area $A(x)$, we hold x fixed and integrate with respect to y.
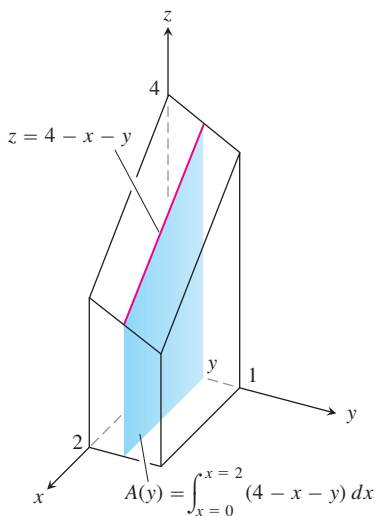
FIGURE 15.5   To obtain the cross-sectional area $A(y)$, we hold y fixed and integrate with respect to x.

If we just wanted to write a formula for the volume, without carrying out any of the integrations, we could write

$$\text{Volume} = \int_0^2 \int_0^1 (4 - x - y)\, dy\, dx.$$

The expression on the right, called an **iterated** or **repeated integral**, says that the volume is obtained by integrating $4 - x - y$ with respect to y from $y = 0$ to $y = 1$, holding x fixed, and then integrating the resulting expression in x with respect to x from $x = 0$ to $x = 2$. The limits of integration 0 and 1 are associated with y, so they are placed on the integral closest to dy. The other limits of integration, 0 and 2, are associated with the variable x, so they are placed on the outside integral symbol that is paired with dx.

What would have happened if we had calculated the volume by slicing with planes perpendicular to the y-axis (Figure 15.5)? As a function of y, the typical cross-sectional area is

$$A(y) = \int_{x=0}^{x=2} (4 - x - y)\, dx = \left[4x - \frac{x^2}{2} - xy \right]_{x=0}^{x=2} = 6 - 2y. \tag{4}$$

The volume of the entire solid is therefore

$$\text{Volume} = \int_{y=0}^{y=1} A(y)\, dy = \int_{y=0}^{y=1} (6 - 2y)\, dy = \left[6y - y^2 \right]_0^1 = 5,$$

in agreement with our earlier calculation.

Again, we may give a formula for the volume as an iterated integral by writing

$$\text{Volume} = \int_0^1 \int_0^2 (4 - x - y)\, dx\, dy.$$

The expression on the right says we can find the volume by integrating $4 - x - y$ with respect to x from $x = 0$ to $x = 2$ as in Equation (4) and integrating the result with respect to y from $y = 0$ to $y = 1$. In this iterated integral, the order of integration is first x and then y, the reverse of the order in Equation (3).

What do these two volume calculations with iterated integrals have to do with the double integral

$$\iint_R (4 - x - y)\, dA$$

over the rectangle $R: 0 \le x \le 2,\ 0 \le y \le 1$? The answer is that both iterated integrals give the value of the double integral. This is what we would reasonably expect, since the double integral measures the volume of the same region as the two iterated integrals. A theorem published in 1907 by Guido Fubini says that the double integral of any continuous function over a rectangle can be calculated as an iterated integral in either order of integration. (Fubini proved his theorem in greater generality, but this is what it says in our setting.)

THEOREM 1   Fubini's Theorem (First Form)

If $f(x, y)$ is continuous throughout the rectangular region $R: a \le x \le b$, $c \le y \le d$, then

$$\iint_R f(x, y)\, dA = \int_c^d \int_a^b f(x, y)\, dx\, dy = \int_a^b \int_c^d f(x, y)\, dy\, dx.$$

Fubini's Theorem says that double integrals over rectangles can be calculated as iterated integrals. Thus, we can evaluate a double integral by integrating with respect to one variable at a time.

Fubini's Theorem also says that we may calculate the double integral by integrating in *either* order, a genuine convenience, as we see in Example 3. When we calculate a volume by slicing, we may use either planes perpendicular to the *x*-axis or planes perpendicular to the *y*-axis.

EXAMPLE 1   Evaluating a Double Integral

Calculate $\iint_R f(x, y)\, dA$ for

$$f(x, y) = 1 - 6x^2y \qquad \text{and} \qquad R: \quad 0 \le x \le 2, \quad -1 \le y \le 1.$$

Solution   By Fubini's Theorem,

$$\iint\limits_R f(x, y)\, dA = \int_{-1}^{1}\!\!\int_{0}^{2} (1 - 6x^2y)\, dx\, dy = \int_{-1}^{1} \Big[x - 2x^3y\Big]_{x=0}^{x=2}\, dy$$

$$= \int_{-1}^{1} (2 - 16y)\, dy = \Big[2y - 8y^2\Big]_{-1}^{1} = 4.$$

Reversing the order of integration gives the same answer:

$$\int_{0}^{2}\!\!\int_{-1}^{1} (1 - 6x^2y)\, dy\, dx = \int_{0}^{2} \Big[y - 3x^2y^2\Big]_{y=-1}^{y=1}\, dx$$

$$= \int_{0}^{2} [(1 - 3x^2) - (-1 - 3x^2)]\, dx$$

$$= \int_{0}^{2} 2\, dx = 4. \qquad \blacksquare$$

USING TECHNOLOGY   Multiple Integration

Most CAS can calculate both multiple and iterated integrals. The typical procedure is to apply the CAS integrate command in nested iterations according to the order of integration you specify.

Integral	Typical CAS Formulation
$\displaystyle\iint x^2y\, dx\, dy$	int (int ($x \wedge 2 * y, x$), y) ;
$\displaystyle\int_{-\pi/3}^{\pi/4}\!\!\int_{0}^{1} x \cos y\, dx\, dy$	int (int ($x * \cos(y), x = 0 .. 1$), $y = -$Pi$/3 ..$ Pi$/4$);

If a CAS cannot produce an exact value for a definite integral, it can usually find an approximate value numerically. Setting up a multiple integral for a CAS to solve can be a highly nontrivial task, and requires an understanding of how to describe the boundaries of the region and set up an appropriate integral.
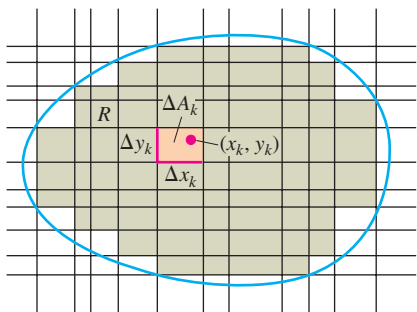
FIGURE 15.6 A rectangular grid partitioning a bounded nonrectangular region into rectangular cells.

Double Integrals over Bounded Nonrectangular Regions

To define the double integral of a function $f(x, y)$ over a bounded, nonrectangular region R, such as the one in Figure 15.6, we again begin by covering R with a grid of small rectangular cells whose union contains all points of R. This time, however, we cannot exactly fill R with a finite number of rectangles lying inside R, since its boundary is curved, and some of the small rectangles in the grid lie partly outside R. A partition of R is formed by taking the rectangles that lie completely inside it, not using any that are either partly or completely outside. For commonly arising regions, more and more of R is included as the norm of a partition (the largest width or height of any rectangle used) approaches zero.

Once we have a partition of R, we number the rectangles in some order from 1 to n and let ΔA_k be the area of the kth rectangle. We then choose a point (x_k, y_k) in the kth rectangle and form the Riemann sum

$$S_n = \sum_{k=1}^{n} f(x_k, y_k) \, \Delta A_k.$$

As the norm of the partition forming S_n goes to zero, $\|P\| \to 0$, the width and height of each enclosed rectangle goes to zero and their number goes to infinity. If $f(x, y)$ is a continuous function, then these Riemann sums converge to a limiting value, not dependent on any of the choices we made. This limit is called the **double integral** of $f(x, y)$ over R:

$$\lim_{\|P\| \to 0} \sum_{k=1}^{n} f(x_k, y_k) \, \Delta A_k = \iint_R f(x, y) \, dA.$$

The nature of the boundary of R introduces issues not found in integrals over an interval. When R has a curved boundary, the n rectangles of a partition lie inside R but do not cover all of R. In order for a partition to approximate R well, the parts of R covered by small rectangles lying partly outside R must become negligible as the norm of the partition approaches zero. This property of being nearly filled in by a partition of small norm is satisfied by all the regions that we will encounter. There is no problem with boundaries made from polygons, circles, ellipses, and from continuous graphs over an interval, joined end to end. A curve with a "fractal" type of shape would be problematic, but such curves are not relevant for most applications. A careful discussion of which type of regions R can be used for computing double integrals is left to a more advanced text.

Double integrals of continuous functions over nonrectangular regions have the same algebraic properties (summarized further on) as integrals over rectangular regions. The domain Additivity Property says that if R is decomposed into nonoverlapping regions R_1 and R_2 with boundaries that are again made of a finite number of line segments or smooth curves (see Figure 15.7 for an example), then

$$\iint_R f(x, y) \, dA = \iint_{R_1} f(x, y) \, dA + \iint_{R_2} f(x, y) \, dA.$$

If $f(x, y)$ is positive and continuous over R we define the volume of the solid region between R and the surface $z = f(x, y)$ to be $\iint_R f(x, y) \, dA$, as before (Figure 15.8).

If R is a region like the one shown in the xy-plane in Figure 15.9, bounded "above" and "below" by the curves $y = g_2(x)$ and $y = g_1(x)$ and on the sides by the lines $x = a, x = b$, we may again calculate the volume by the method of slicing. We first calculate the cross-sectional area

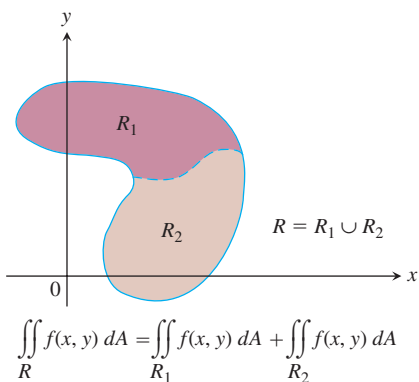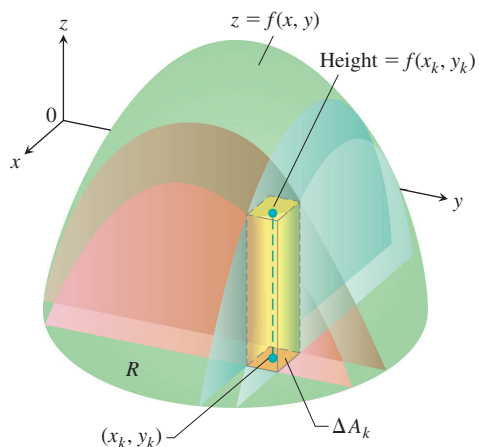$$A(x) = \int_{y=g_1(x)}^{y=g_2(x)} f(x, y) \, dy$$

$$\iint_R f(x, y) \, dA = \iint_{R_1} f(x, y) \, dA + \iint_{R_2} f(x, y) \, dA$$

FIGURE 15.7 The Additivity Property for rectangular regions holds for regions bounded by continuous curves.

$$\text{Volume} = \lim \sum f(x_k, y_k)\, \Delta A_k = \iint\limits_R f(x, y)\, dA$$

FIGURE 15.8 We define the volumes of solids with curved bases the same way we define the volumes of solids with rectangular bases.
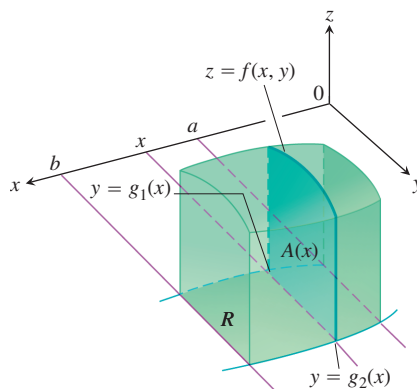

FIGURE 15.9 The area of the vertical slice shown here is

$$A(x) = \int_{g_1(x)}^{g_2(x)} f(x, y)\, dy.$$

To calculate the volume of the solid, we integrate this area from $x = a$ to $x = b$.
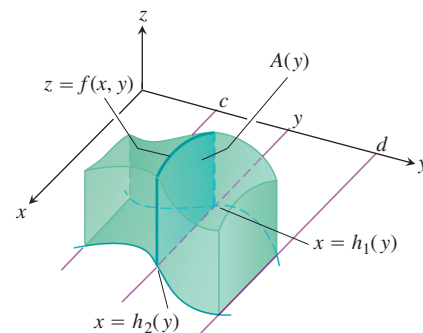

FIGURE 15.10 The volume of the solid shown here is

$$\int_c^d A(y)\, dy = \int_c^d \int_{h_1(y)}^{h_2(y)} f(x, y)\, dx\, dy.$$

and then integrate $A(x)$ from $x = a$ to $x = b$ to get the volume as an iterated integral:

$$V = \int_a^b A(x)\, dx = \int_a^b \int_{g_1(x)}^{g_2(x)} f(x, y)\, dy\, dx. \tag{5}$$

Similarly, if R is a region like the one shown in Figure 15.10, bounded by the curves $x = h_2(y)$ and $x = h_1(y)$ and the lines $y = c$ and $y = d$, then the volume calculated by slicing is given by the iterated integral

$$\text{Volume} = \int_c^d \int_{h_1(y)}^{h_2(y)} f(x, y)\, dx\, dy. \tag{6}$$

That the iterated integrals in Equations (5) and (6) both give the volume that we defined to be the double integral of f over R is a consequence of the following stronger form of Fubini's Theorem.

THEOREM 2   Fubini's Theorem (Stronger Form)

Let $f(x, y)$ be continuous on a region R.

1. If R is defined by $a \le x \le b, g_1(x) \le y \le g_2(x)$, with g_1 and g_2 continuous on $[a, b]$, then

$$\iint\limits_R f(x, y)\, dA = \int_a^b \int_{g_1(x)}^{g_2(x)} f(x, y)\, dy\, dx.$$

2. If R is defined by $c \le y \le d, h_1(y) \le x \le h_2(y)$, with h_1 and h_2 continuous on $[c, d]$, then

$$\iint\limits_R f(x, y)\, dA = \int_c^d \int_{h_1(y)}^{h_2(y)} f(x, y)\, dx\, dy.$$

EXAMPLE 2   Finding Volume

Find the volume of the prism whose base is the triangle in the xy-plane bounded by the x-axis and the lines $y = x$ and $x = 1$ and whose top lies in the plane

$$z = f(x, y) = 3 - x - y.$$

Solution   See Figure 15.11 on page 1075. For any x between 0 and 1, y may vary from $y = 0$ to $y = x$ (Figure 15.11b). Hence,

$$V = \int_0^1 \int_0^x (3 - x - y) \, dy \, dx = \int_0^1 \left[3y - xy - \frac{y^2}{2} \right]_{y=0}^{y=x} dx$$

$$= \int_0^1 \left(3x - \frac{3x^2}{2} \right) dx = \left[\frac{3x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{2} \right]_{x=0}^{x=1} = 1.$$

When the order of integration is reversed (Figure 15.11c), the integral for the volume is

$$V = \int_0^1 \int_y^1 (3 - x - y) \, dx \, dy = \int_0^1 \left[3x - \frac{x^2}{2} - xy \right]_{x=y}^{x=1} dy$$

$$= \int_0^1 \left(3 - \frac{1}{2} - y - 3y + \frac{y^2}{2} + y^2 \right) dy$$

$$= \int_0^1 \left(\frac{5}{2} - 4y + \frac{3}{2} y^2 \right) dy = \left[\frac{5}{2} y - 2y^2 + \frac{y^3}{2} \right]_{y=0}^{y=1} = 1.$$

The two integrals are equal, as they should be.   ∎

Although Fubini's Theorem assures us that a double integral may be calculated as an iterated integral in either order of integration, the value of one integral may be easier to find than the value of the other. The next example shows how this can happen.

EXAMPLE 3   Evaluating a Double Integral

Calculate

$$\iint\limits_R \frac{\sin x}{x} \, dA,$$

where R is the triangle in the xy-plane bounded by the x-axis, the line $y = x$, and the line $x = 1$.

Solution   The region of integration is shown in Figure 15.12. If we integrate first with respect to y and then with respect to x, we find

$$\int_0^1 \left(\int_0^x \frac{\sin x}{x} \, dy \right) dx = \int_0^1 \left(y \frac{\sin x}{x} \Big]_{y=0}^{y=x} \right) dx = \int_0^1 \sin x \, dx$$

$$= -\cos(1) + 1 \approx 0.46.$$

If we reverse the order of integration and attempt to calculate

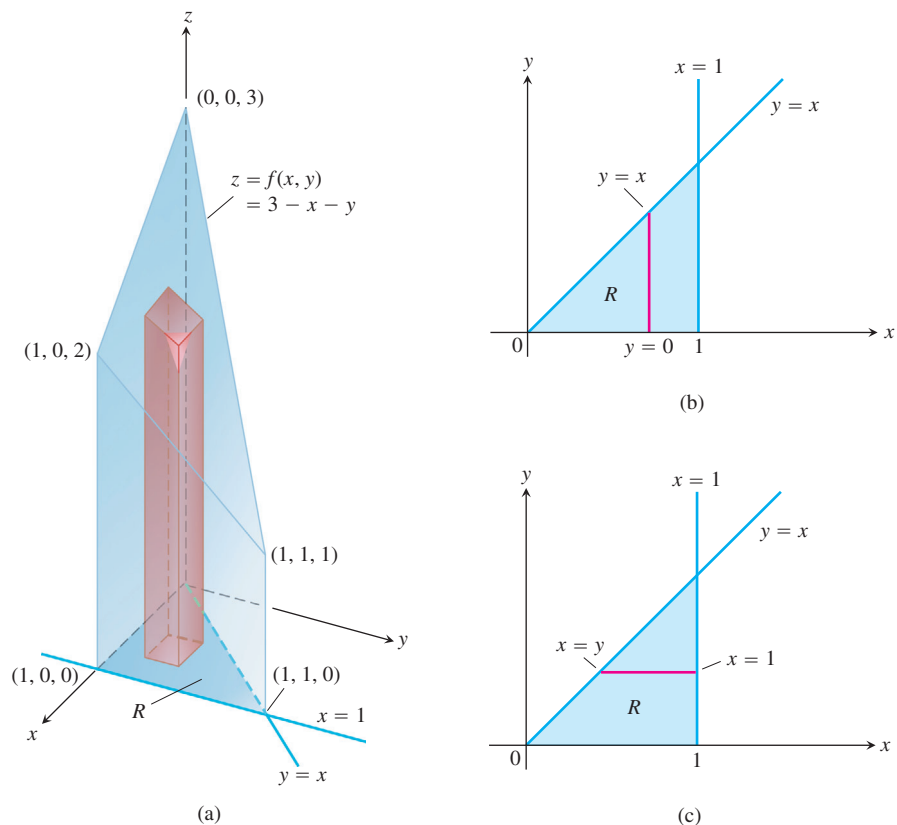$$\int_0^1 \int_y^1 \frac{\sin x}{x} \, dx \, dy,$$

FIGURE 15.11 (a) Prism with a triangular base in the xy-plane. The volume of this prism is defined as a double integral over R. To evaluate it as an iterated integral, we may integrate first with respect to y and then with respect to x, or the other way around (Example 2).
(b) Integration limits of

$$\int_{x=0}^{x=1} \int_{y=0}^{y=x} f(x, y)\, dy\, dx.$$

If we integrate first with respect to y, we integrate along a vertical line through R and then integrate from left to right to include all the vertical lines in R.
(c) Integration limits of

$$\int_{y=0}^{y=1} \int_{x=y}^{x=1} f(x, y)\, dx\, dy.$$

If we integrate first with respect to x, we integrate along a horizontal line through R and then integrate from bottom to top to include all the horizontal lines in R.
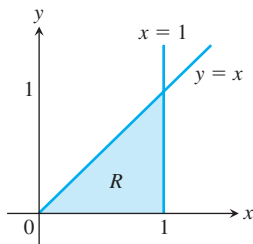

FIGURE 15.12 The region of integration in Example 3.

we run into a problem, because $\int ((\sin x)/x)\, dx$ cannot be expressed in terms of elementary functions (there is no simple antiderivative).

There is no general rule for predicting which order of integration will be the good one in circumstances like these. If the order you first choose doesn't work, try the other. Sometimes neither order will work, and then we need to use numerical approximations. ■
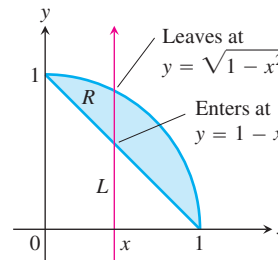
Finding Limits of Integration

We now give a procedure for finding limits of integration that applies for many regions in the plane. Regions that are more complicated, and for which this procedure fails, can often be split up into pieces on which the procedure works.

When faced with evaluating $\iint_R f(x, y)\,dA$, integrating first with respect to y and then with respect to x, do the following:

1. *Sketch.* Sketch the region of integration and label the bounding curves.
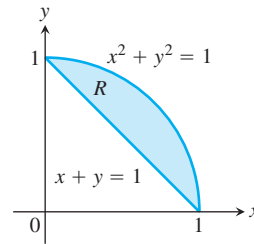
2. *Find the y-limits of integration.* Imagine a vertical line L cutting through R in the direction of increasing y. Mark the y-values where L enters and leaves. These are the y-limits of integration and are usually functions of x (instead of constants).
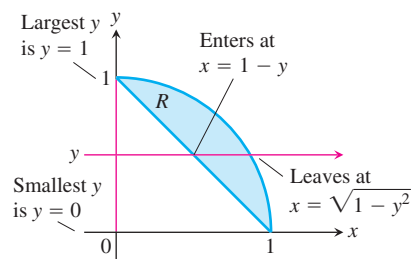

3. *Find the x-limits of integration.* Choose x-limits that include all the vertical lines through R. The integral shown here is

$$\iint\limits_R f(x, y)\, dA =$$

$$\int_{x=0}^{x=1} \int_{y=1-x}^{y=\sqrt{1-x^2}} f(x, y)\, dy\, dx.$$
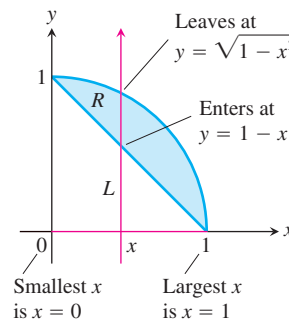
To evaluate the same double integral as an iterated integral with the order of integration reversed, use horizontal lines instead of vertical lines in Steps 2 and 3. The integral is

$$\iint\limits_{R} f(x, y)\, dA = \int_{0}^{1}\int_{1-y}^{\sqrt{1-y^2}} f(x, y)\, dx\, dy.$$

EXAMPLE 4   Reversing the Order of Integration

Sketch the region of integration for the integral

$$\int_{0}^{2}\int_{x^2}^{2x} (4x + 2)\, dy\, dx$$

and write an equivalent integral with the order of integration reversed.

Solution   The region of integration is given by the inequalities $x^2 \le y \le 2x$ and $0 \le x \le 2$. It is therefore the region bounded by the curves $y = x^2$ and $y = 2x$ between $x = 0$ and $x = 2$ (Figure 15.13a).
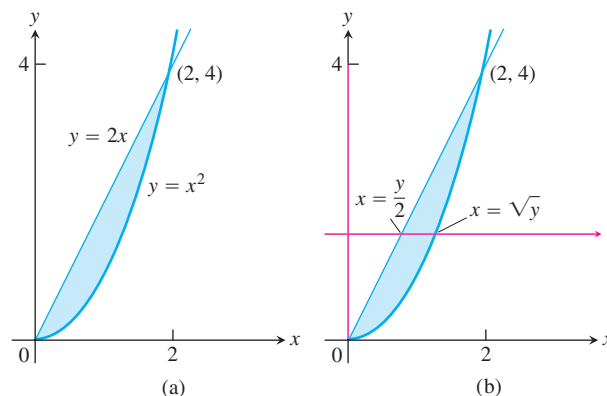
FIGURE 15.13   Region of integration for Example 4.

To find limits for integrating in the reverse order, we imagine a horizontal line passing from left to right through the region. It enters at $x = y/2$ and leaves at $x = \sqrt{y}$. To include all such lines, we let y run from $y = 0$ to $y = 4$ (Figure 15.13b). The integral is

$$\int_{0}^{4}\int_{y/2}^{\sqrt{y}} (4x + 2)\, dx\, dy.$$

The common value of these integrals is 8.   ∎

Properties of Double Integrals

Like single integrals, double integrals of continuous functions have algebraic properties that are useful in computations and applications.

Properties of Double Integrals

If $f(x, y)$ and $g(x, y)$ are continuous, then

1. *Constant Multiple:* $\displaystyle\iint\limits_{R} cf(x, y)\, dA = c\iint\limits_{R} f(x, y)\, dA$ (any number c)

2. *Sum and Difference:*

$$\iint\limits_{R} (f(x, y) \pm g(x, y))\, dA = \iint\limits_{R} f(x, y)\, dA \pm \iint\limits_{R} g(x, y)\, dA$$

3. *Domination:*

    (a) $\displaystyle\iint\limits_{R} f(x, y)\, dA \geq 0$ if $f(x, y) \geq 0$ on R

    (b) $\displaystyle\iint\limits_{R} f(x, y)\, dA \geq \iint\limits_{R} g(x, y)\, dA$ if $f(x, y) \geq g(x, y)$ on R

4. *Additivity:* $\displaystyle\iint\limits_{R} f(x, y)\, dA = \iint\limits_{R_1} f(x, y)\, dA + \iint\limits_{R_2} f(x, y)\, dA$

if R is the union of two nonoverlapping regions R_1 and R_2 (Figure 15.7).

The idea behind these properties is that integrals behave like sums. If the function $f(x, y)$ is replaced by its constant multiple $cf(x, y)$, then a Riemann sum for f

$$S_n = \sum_{k=1}^{n} f(x_k, y_k)\, \Delta A_k$$

is replaced by a Riemann sum for cf

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} cf(x_k, y_k)\, \Delta A_k = c\sum_{k=1}^{n} f(x_k, y_k)\, \Delta A_k = cS_n.$$

Taking limits as $n \to \infty$ shows that $c \lim_{n\to\infty} S_n = c \iint_R f\, dA$ and $\lim_{n\to\infty} cS_n = \iint_R cf\, dA$ are equal. It follows that the constant multiple property carries over from sums to double integrals.

The other properties are also easy to verify for Riemann sums, and carry over to double integrals for the same reason. While this discussion gives the idea, an actual proof that these properties hold requires a more careful analysis of how Riemann sums converge.