

15.6 Surface Area

We can find SA of a surface with equation $z = f(x, y)$.

Flashback: Area of a surface of revolution.

- If the surface S is obtained by rotating the graph of $y = f(x) \geq 0$, $a \leq x \leq b$ about the x -axis, then its area is:

$$A(S) = \int_a^b 2\pi f(x) \sqrt{1 + f'(x)^2} dx$$

$$= \int_a^b 2\pi y \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx$$

$$= \int_a^b 2\pi y ds, \text{ where } ds = \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx$$

(assuming $f'(x)$ is continuous.)

- Similarly if S is obtained by rotating the graph of $x = g(y)$, $c \leq y \leq d$, still about the x -axis, we have

$$A(S) = \int_c^d 2\pi y \sqrt{1 + g'(y)^2} dy$$

$$= \int_c^d 2\pi y \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^2} dy$$

$$= \int_c^d 2\pi y ds, \text{ where } ds = \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^2} dy$$

- If we rotate about the y -axis we get:

$$A(S) = \int 2\pi x ds, \text{ where } ds = \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx \text{ or } \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^2} dy$$

- AS) where S is $z = f(x, y)$ over a region D :
Let $f(x, y) \geq 0$ on D . Assume f_x & f_y are continuous.
Let S be the graph of f over D :

$$S = \{ (x, y, z) \mid (x, y) \in D, z = f(x, y) \}$$

$A(S)$ is the area of S .

- We can assume $D = R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$
- Partition D into small subrectangles $R_{ij} = [x_{i-1}, x_i] \times [y_{j-1}, y_j]$ with area $\Delta A = \Delta x \Delta y$.
- Let $(x_i^*, y_j^*) = (x_{i-1}, y_{j-1})$ and let $P_{ij} = (x_i^*, y_j^*, f(x_i^*, y_j^*)) \in S$
- The tangent plane to S at P_{ij} is a good approx. to S near P_{ij} . Let ΔT_{ij} = area of parallelogram on this tangent plane that lies above R_{ij} .



- $\Delta T_{ij} \approx \Delta S_{ij}$ = area of part of S that lies over R_{ij} .
- So $\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \Delta T_{ij}$ approximates the total area of S .

So the "formal", unuseful for $A(S)$ is:

$$A(S) = \lim_{m, n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \Delta T_{ij}$$

The Helpful Version

Let \vec{a} , \vec{b} be the vectors starting at P_{ij} and lying on the sides of the above parallelogram w/ the area ΔT_{ij}



$$\text{Area} = |\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|$$

* $f_x(x_i^*, y_j^*)$ and $f_y(x_i^*, y_j^*)$ are slopes to tangent lines in P_{ij} in dir. \parallel to x & y -axes.

Therefore:

$$\vec{a} = \Delta x \hat{i} + f_x(x_i^*, y_j^*) \Delta x \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{b} = \Delta y \hat{j} + f_y(x_i^*, y_j^*) \Delta y \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \Delta x & 0 & \Delta x f_x(x_i^*, y_j^*) \\ 0 & \Delta y & \Delta y f_y(x_i^*, y_j^*) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= -f_x(x_i^*, y_j^*) \Delta x \Delta y \hat{i} - f_y(x_i^*, y_j^*) \Delta x \Delta y \hat{j} + \Delta x \Delta y \hat{k}$$

$$= (-f_x(x_i^*, y_j^*) \hat{i} - f_y(x_i^*, y_j^*) \hat{j} + \hat{k}) \Delta A$$

$$\therefore \Delta T_{ij} = |\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| = \sqrt{(f_x(x_i^*, y_j^*))^2 + (f_y(x_i^*, y_j^*))^2 + 1} \Delta A$$

$$\text{And } A(s) = \iint_D \sqrt{(f_x(x,y))^2 + (f_y(x,y))^2 + 1} dA$$

$$= \iint_D \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial y}\right)^2} dA$$

↑ similar to $L = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx$