

SOLUTIONS 1. 18.10.2012

Q1. (i) In spherical polar coordinates (r, θ, ϕ) (r : distance from centre, range 0 to ∞ ; θ : colatitude ($= \frac{1}{2}\pi$ - latitude), range 0 to π ; ϕ longitude, range 0 to 2π): increase r to $r + dr$, etc. The element of volume dV is a (to first order) cuboid, of sides dr ("up"), $r d\theta$ ("South"), $r \sin \theta d\phi$ ("East") (draw a diagram – or consult a textbook if you need one!) So

$$dV = dr \cdot r d\theta \cdot r \sin \theta d\phi = r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi.$$

So

$$V = \int_0^r r^2 dr \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^\pi \sin \theta d\theta = \frac{1}{3} r^3 \cdot 2\pi [-\cos \theta]_0^\pi = \frac{2\pi}{3} r^3 [-(-1) - (-1)] = 4\pi r^3 / 3.$$

(ii) Holding r fixed,

$$dS = r^2 \sin \theta \cdot d\theta d\phi.$$

So

$$A = r^2 \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^\pi \sin \theta d\theta = r^2 \cdot 2\pi \cdot 2 = 4\pi r^2,$$

by above.

(iii) To first order,

$$dV = S dr : \quad S = dV/dr, \quad V = \int_0^r S dr$$

('flattening out' the spherical shell: volume = area \times thickness: the curvature effects are second-order). So (i), (ii) are equivalent: ((ii) follows from (i) by differentiating, and (i) from (ii) by integrating.

Q2. This follows by the same method as the area of an ellipse $A = \pi ab$: wlog $a \geq b \geq c$. Compress [squash] the x - and y -axes in the ratios a/c , b/c , to get a sphere of radius c . This has volume $4\pi c^3/3$. Now dilate [unsquash] the x - and y -axes in the ratios a/c , b/c , to get volume

$$V = \frac{4\pi c^3}{3} \cdot \frac{a}{c} \cdot \frac{b}{c} = \frac{4\pi abc}{3}.$$

Q3. (i) Choose the vertex V as origin, and the z -axis vertical – the perpendicular from V to the horizontal base (with z going downwards, if we draw the tetrahedron the usual way). Slice the volume into thin horizontal slices. The area of the slice between z and $z + dz$ is $A(z/h)^2$, by similarity. So

$$V = \int_0^h A(z/h)^2 dz = Ah^{-2} \int_0^h z^2 dz = Ah^{-2} \cdot h^3/3 :$$

$$V = Ah/3.$$

(ii) Similarly in the general case: the above does not use that the base is triangular.

Q4. (i) The range between x and $x + dx$ generates volume $dV = \pi y^2 dx = \pi f(x)^2 dx$. Integrate this from a to b .

(ii) The semicircle on base $[-r, r]$ is $y = f(x) = \sqrt{r^2 - x^2}$. This generates the sphere on revolution, giving

$$V = \int_{-r}^r \pi(r^2 - x^2) dx = \pi[r^2x - \frac{1}{3}x^3]_{-r}^r = \pi r^3[1 - \frac{1}{3} - (-1) + (-\frac{1}{3})] = \pi r^3(2 - \frac{2}{3}) = 4\pi r^3/3.$$

Q5 (Georges BOULIGAND, 1935). For the region S_1 with area A_1 with base the hypotenuse, side 1: use cartesian coordinates to approximate its area, arbitrarily closely, by decomposing it into small squares of area $dA_1 = dx dy$.

For each such small square on side 1, construct similar small squares on sides 2 and 3, of areas dA_2, dA_3 .

By Pythagoras' theorem, $dA_1 = dA_2 + dA_3$.

Summing, we get $A_1 = A_2 + A_3$ arbitrarily closely, and so exactly.

NHB