

7.4 Area of a surface

We learn:

- The formula that will give the area of a surface, given a parametrization of the surface.
- Why it works.

Review. When we did integrals along curves there were two kinds:

- an integral giving the length of the curve, or giving the mass of a wire from its line density
- an integral giving the work done by a vector field in moving along the path.

We assume we have a parametrization $\Phi : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ satisfying conditions: Φ is 1 - 1, differentiable with continuous partial derivatives, and regular.

The formula:

$$\text{Area} = \iint_D \|T_u \times T_v\| \, du \, dv .$$

Example: the unit sphere:

$$\text{Phi}(u,v) = (\sin v \cos u, \sin v \sin u, \cos v)$$

$$T_u = (-\sin v \sin u, \sin v \cos u, 0)$$

$$T_v = (\cos v \cos u, \cos v \sin u, -\sin v)$$

$$T_u \times T_v = (-\sin^2 v \cos u, -\sin^2 v \sin u, -\sin v \cos v)$$

$$\|T_u \times T_v\| = \sqrt{\sin^4 v + \sin^2 v \cos^2 v} = |\sin v|$$

$$\text{Area} = \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \sin v \, du \, dv = 4\pi$$

Note $\sin v = |\sin v|$ when $0 \leq v \leq \pi$.

Why it works:

