

Math 241 Section 14.2: Double Integrals in Polar
Dr. Justin O. Wyss-Gallifent

1. Intro: Sometimes R can be easier to describe using polar. A region is described in polar as being between two angles $\theta = \alpha$ and $\theta = \beta$ and between two functions $r = N(\theta)$ and $r = F(\theta)$ where N is nearer to the origin and F is further from the origin.
2. Polar functions to remember:
 - Circles: $r = a$, $r = a \cos \theta$, $r = a \sin \theta$
 - Cardioids: $r = a + a \cos \theta$, $r = a + a \sin \theta$
 - Converting rectangular: For example $x = 2$ becomes $r \cos \theta = 2$ or $r = 2 \sec \theta$.
3. If R is described in polar then:

$$\iint_R f(x, y) dA = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \int_{N(\theta)}^{F(\theta)} f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) r dr d\theta$$

Note 1: the $f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$ means convert f into polar.

Note 2: Do not forget the additional r . We'll have a good explanation of this later.

Example: $\int \int_R x dA$ where R is the semicircle $x^2 + y^2 \leq 9$ with $x \geq 0$.

Example: $\int \int_R 1 dA$ where R is the region inside $r = 1 + \cos \theta$ and outside $r = 1$.

4. Note about 14.1 and 14.2: Sometimes an iterated integral has been set up one way (VS, HS, P) and is easier another way. In this case we might rewrite it.

Example: The integral

$$\int_0^1 \int_{x\sqrt{3}}^{\sqrt{4-x^2}} \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} dy dx$$

is particular icky. The region R however is simply the pie-slice in the first quadrant inside $r = 2$ and between $\theta = \pi/3$ and $\theta = \pi/2$. Therefore we can rewrite it as

$$\int_{\pi/3}^{\pi/2} \int_0^2 r^2 dr d\theta$$

which is much more manageable.