Surface Areas of Revolution

Math 102

A surface of revolution is a surface that is generated by revolving a plane curve about in axis that lies in the same plane as the curve.



Some surface of revolution

Definition. If f is a smooth non-negative function on the interval [a,b], then the Surface area S of revolution that is generated by revolving the portion of the curve y = f(x) between x = a to x = b about x - axis is defined as

$$S_{x-\text{axix}} = 2p \int_{a}^{b} f(x) \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^{2}} dx.$$

Moreover, if g is non-negative and x = g(y) is a smooth curves on the interval [a,b], then the Surface area S of revolution that is generated by revolving the portion of the curve x = g(y) between from y = c to y = d about y – axis is defined as

$$S_{y-axix} = 2p \int_{c}^{d} x \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^{2}} dy$$

Example. Find the area of the surface that is generated by the portion of the curve $y = x^2$ between x = 1 to x = 2 about y - axis.

Solution. If
$$x = \sqrt{y}$$
, then $\frac{dx}{dy} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}}$
$$S_{y-axix} = 2p \int_{1}^{4} x \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}}\right)^{2}} \, dy = p \int_{1}^{4} \sqrt{4y + 1} \, dy = \frac{p}{4} \left|\frac{2}{3} (4y + 1)^{3/2}\right|_{1}^{4} = \frac{p}{6} \left(17\sqrt{17} - 5\sqrt{5}\right).$$

Example. Find the area of the surface that is generated by the portion of the curve $y = \sqrt{1-x^2}$ between x = -1 to x = 1 about x - axis.

Solution. $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ $S_{x-axix} = 2p \int_a^b f(x) \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} \, dx = 2p \int_{-1}^1 \sqrt{1-x^2} \sqrt{1 + \frac{x^2}{1-x^2}} \, dx = 2p \int_{-1}^1 dx = 4p.$

Problems. Find the area of the surface that is generated by the portion of the following curves:

1)	y = 9x + 1	$0 \le x \le 2$	about $x - axis$
2)	$x = y^3$	$0 \le y \le 1$	about $y - axis$
3)	y = x - 1	$0 \le x \le 1$	about $x - axis$
4)	$y = \frac{x^4}{16} + \frac{1}{x^2}$	$-3 \leq x \leq -1$	about $x - axis$
5)	$y = \cosh x$	$0 \le y \le 1$	about $y - axis$
6)	$y = e^{-x}$	$0 \le x \le 1$	about $x - axis$