

# Section 15.6

## Change of Variables

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Example, Simplifying the Domain

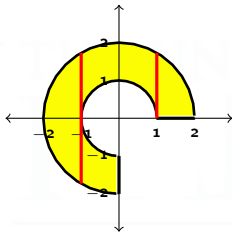
### Change of Variables for Triple Integrals

# 1 Transformations and Jacobians

by Joseph Phillip Brennan  
Jila Niknejad

# Motivating Example

**Motivating Example:** Calculate  $\iint_D dA$ , where  $D$  is the region shown below. [▶ Motivating Video](#)



- Approach 1: Break  $D$  into simple regions or use two concentric regions. This will involve Square root functions. (Yuck.)
- Approach 2: Use polar coordinates.
  - Observe that  $D = \{(r, \theta) \mid 1 \leq r \leq 2, 0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{3\pi}{2}\}$ .
  - Goal: Write  $\iint_D dA$  as  $\int_1^2 \int_0^{3\pi/2} [\text{something}] d\theta dr$

# Change of Variables

In general, we want to be able to evaluate integrals  $\iint_D f(x, y) dA$ , where  $D$  has a complicated shape, by replacing  $D$  with a simpler region  $E$ . The relationship between the regions is given by a transformation  $G : E \rightarrow D$ .

The punchline will be that

$$\iint_D f(x, y) dA = \iint_E f(G(u, v)) |\text{Jac}(G)| du dv$$

where  $\text{Jac}(G)$ , the **Jacobian** of  $G$ , records how  $G$  rescales area.

**Things we need to figure out:**

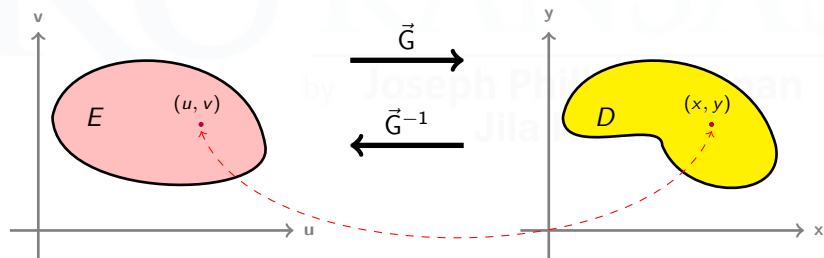
- 1 What is a “transformation”?
- 2 How do we measure how a transformation rescales area?

# Transformations in $\mathbb{R}^2$

Suppose that we have planar regions  $D$  (with coordinates  $x, y$ ) and  $E$  (with coordinates  $u, v$ ).

A **transformation** from  $E$  to  $D$  is a function  $\vec{G}(u, v) = (x, y)$  such that

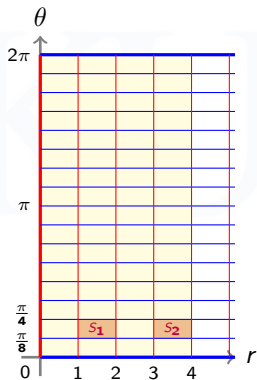
- 1  $\vec{G}$  is one-to-one on the interior of  $E$ .
- 2  $\vec{G}$  has continuous first-order partial derivatives.



Typically, transformations change the area of regions in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

# Transformations in $\mathbb{R}^2$

**Motivating Example:** Conversion of rectangular coordinates to polar coordinates is a transformation  $[0, \infty) \times [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ .

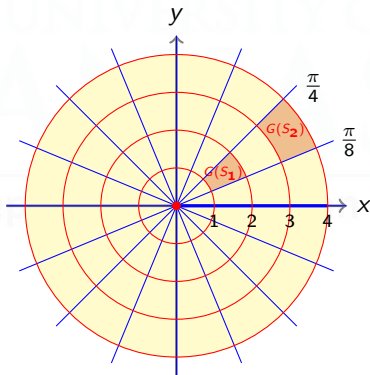


$$x = r \cos(\theta)$$

$$y = r \sin(\theta)$$



$G$



▶ [Link](#)

# Transformations in $\mathbb{R}^2$

To see that  $\vec{G}(r, \theta) = (x, y) = (r \cos(\theta), r \sin(\theta))$  is a transformation:

1.  $\vec{G}$  is **one-to-one** on  $(0, \infty) \times (0, 2\pi)$ .

(It is not invertible on the boundary — for example,  $\vec{G}(r, 0) = \vec{G}(r, 2\pi)$  for all  $r$ , and  $\vec{G}(0, \theta) = (0, 0)$  for all  $\theta$  — but that is okay.)

2.  $\vec{G}$  is **continuously differentiable**:

$$x_r(r, \theta) = \cos(\theta)$$

$$y_r(r, \theta) = \sin(\theta)$$

$$x_\theta(r, \theta) = -r \sin(\theta)$$

$$y_\theta(r, \theta) = r \cos(\theta)$$

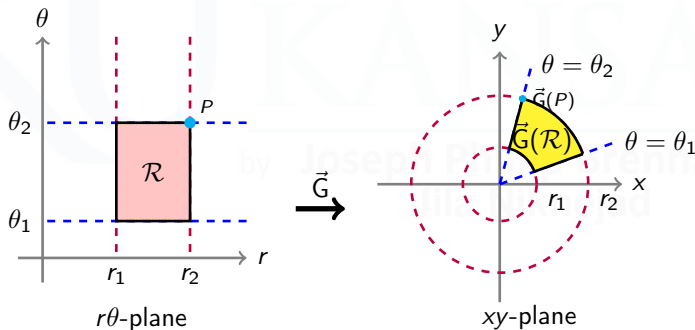
$$\vec{G}_r(r, \theta) = \underbrace{(\cos(\theta), \sin(\theta))}_{\substack{x_r \quad y_r}}$$

$$\vec{G}_\theta(r, \theta) = \underbrace{(-r \sin(\theta), r \cos(\theta))}_{\substack{x_\theta \quad y_\theta}}$$

# Transformations in $\mathbb{R}^2$

A transformation  $\vec{G} : E \rightarrow D$  doesn't just map points to points; it maps subsets  $A$  of the domain  $E$  to subsets of the range  $D$ .

For instance, if  $\vec{G}(r, \theta) = (x, y) = (r \cos(\theta), r \sin(\theta))$  and  $\mathcal{R}$  is the rectangle  $[r_1, r_2] \times [\theta_1, \theta_2]$ , then  $\vec{G}(\mathcal{R})$  is a circular sector:



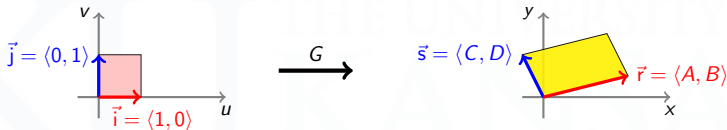
**Note:** The area of  $\vec{G}(\mathcal{R})$  does **not** depend just on the area of  $\mathcal{R}$ !



# Linear Transformations

The simplest transformations are **linear transformations**. (MATH 290!)

$$\vec{G}(u, v) = (Au + Cv, Bu + Dv) \quad (\text{where } A, B, C, D \text{ are constants})$$



Let  $\vec{r} = \langle A, B \rangle$  and  $\vec{s} = \langle C, D \rangle$ . Then:

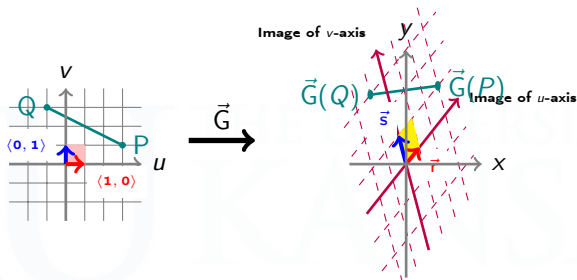
- $\vec{r} = \vec{G}(\vec{i})$  and  $\vec{s} = \vec{G}(\vec{j})$ .
- $G$  transforms the unit square  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$  to a parallelogram with sides  $\vec{r}$  and  $\vec{s}$ .
- The unit square has area  $\|\vec{i} \times \vec{j}\| = 1$ , and the parallelogram has area  $\|\vec{r} \times \vec{s}\| = |AD - BC|$ . (This is the rescaling factor for all rectangular regions.)

In Math 290, the above linear transformation is denoted as

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A & C \\ B & D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

# Linear Transformations

$G$  maps translations of  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$  to translations of the parallelogram.



**Linear transformations scale area uniformly.** The scaling factor is the absolute value of the determinant

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{vmatrix} = AD - BC.$$

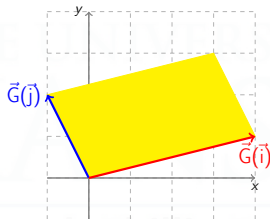
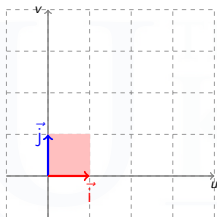
That is, for all regions  $E$  in the  $u, v$ -plane,

$$\text{Area}(\vec{G}(E)) = |AD - BC| \text{Area}(E).$$

# Linear Transformations

**Example 1:**

$$\vec{G}(u, v) = (\underbrace{4u - v}_x, \underbrace{u + 2v}_y).$$



The scaling factor for area is  $\begin{vmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 9$ .

The inverse of  $\vec{G}$  is  $\vec{G}^{-1}(x, y) = \left( \frac{y + 2x}{9}, \frac{4y - x}{9} \right)$ .

(Note: If  $\vec{G} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is a linear transformation and the area scaling factor is nonzero, then  $\vec{G}$  is invertible.)

## 2 Integration and Change of Variables

by Joseph Phillip Brennan  
Jila Niknejad

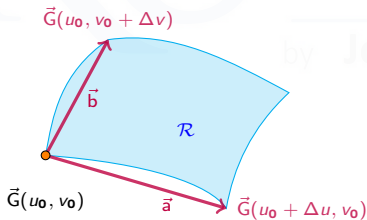
# Rescaling Area for General Transformations

What is the scaling factor for a general (non-linear) transformation?

Take a **very small** rectangle  $E$  in the  $uv$ -plane with a vertex at  $(u_0, v_0)$  and side lengths  $\Delta u$  and  $\Delta v$ .

Suppose that  $E$  is mapped to  $R$  in the  $xy$ -plane by a transformation  $G$ .

The region  $R$  is not necessarily a rectangle, but it does have four vertices and four edges.



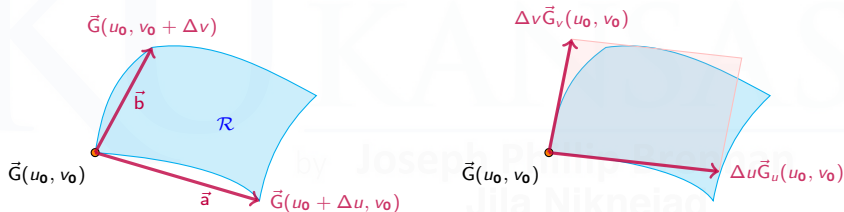
Since the rectangle  $E$  was very small, the edges connected to  $G(u_0, v_0)$  can be approximated by the vectors

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{a} &\approx \Delta u \left\langle \frac{\partial x}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \right\rangle & \vec{b} &\approx \Delta v \left\langle \frac{\partial x}{\partial v}, \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \right\rangle \\ &= \Delta u \vec{G}_u & &= \Delta v \vec{G}_v\end{aligned}$$

# Rescaling Area for General Transformations

Since the rectangle  $E$  was *very small*, its image  $R = \vec{G}(E)$  is close to a parallelogram, so

$$\text{area}(R) \approx \left\| \left( \vec{G}_u \Delta u \right) \times \left( \vec{G}_v \Delta v \right) \right\| = \left\| \vec{G}_u \times \vec{G}_v \right\| \Delta u \Delta v$$



**Conclusion:** The transformation  $G$  scales area by a factor of

$$\left\| \vec{G}_u \times \vec{G}_v \right\|.$$

# Jacobians and the Change-Of-Variable Formula

The **Jacobian** of the transformation  $\vec{G}(u, v) = (x(u, v), y(u, v))$  is defined as

$$|\text{Jac}(\vec{G})| = \left| \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} \right| = \|\vec{G}_u \times \vec{G}_v\| = \left\| \begin{array}{cc} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \end{array} \right\| = \left| \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \right|$$

The absolute value of Jacobian is the area scaling factor for  $\vec{G}$ . That is, the scaling factor is  $\|\vec{G}_u \times \vec{G}_v\|$ .

## Double Integration with Change of Variables

Let  $\vec{G}(u, v) = (x(u, v), y(u, v))$  be a transformation, and let  $\vec{G}(S) = R$ . Then

$$\iint_R f(x, y) dA_{xy} = \iint_S f(x(u, v), y(u, v)) \left| \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} \right| dA_{uv}$$

Using this formula does not typically evaluate the integral immediately, but it enables you to convert it into an integral over a geometrically simpler region or simpler integrand.

# Interlude: Change of Variables vs. $u$ -Substitution

The change-of-variables formula

$$\iint_R f(x, y) dA_{xy} = \iint_S f(x(u, v), y(u, v)) \left| \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} \right| dA_{uv}$$

is analogous to  $u$ -substitution from Calculus I:

$$\int_a^b F(g(x))g'(x) dx = \int_{g(a)}^{g(b)} F(u) du$$

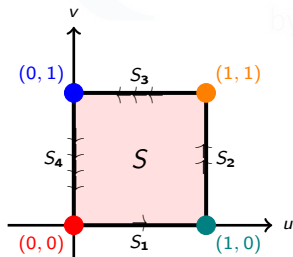
- In Calculus I, we used a transformation  $u = g(x)$  to replace an integral over  $x$  with an integral over  $u$ , in order to simplify the **integrand**.
- Now, we are using a transformation  $(x, y) = G(u, v)$  to replace an integral over  $x, y$  with an integral over  $u, v$ , either to simplify the integrand or the **region of integration**.



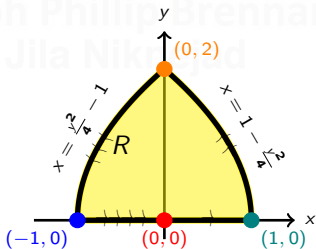
**Example 2:** Let  $\vec{G}$  be the transformation given by  $x = u^2 - v^2$  and  $y = 2uv$  and let  $S = \{(u, v) \mid 0 \leq u \leq 1, 0 \leq v \leq 1\}$ . Find the image  $R = \vec{G}(S)$ , the Jacobian of  $G$ , and the area of  $R$ .

Solution: Walk around the boundary of  $S$  and plot the corresponding points on the boundary of  $\vec{G}(S)$ . In this case, the **change of variable** simplifies the **region**.

$S$	$G(S)$	$R$
$(u, 0), 0 \leq u \leq 1$	$(u^2, 0)$	$y = 0 \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1$
$(1, v), 0 \leq v \leq 1$	$(1 - v^2, 2v)$	$x = 1 - y^2/4 \quad 0 \leq y \leq 2$
$(u, 1), 1 \geq u \geq 0$	$(u^2 - 1, 2u)$	$x = y^2/4 - 1 \quad 2 \geq y \geq 0$
$(0, v), 1 \geq v \geq 0$	$(-v^2, 0)$	$y = 0 \quad -1 \leq x \leq 0$



$\vec{G}$



**Example 2 (cont'd):**

$$\vec{G}(u, v) = (x, y) = (\underbrace{u^2 - v^2}_x, \underbrace{2uv}_y)$$

$$S = \{(u, v) \mid 0 \leq u \leq 1, 0 \leq v \leq 1\}$$

The Jacobian is  $\text{Jac}(\vec{G}) = \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} = \begin{vmatrix} 2u & -2v \\ 2v & 2u \end{vmatrix} = 4(u^2 + v^2)$ .

We can calculate the area of  $R = \vec{G}(S)$  in two ways.

Using the change-of-variables formula:

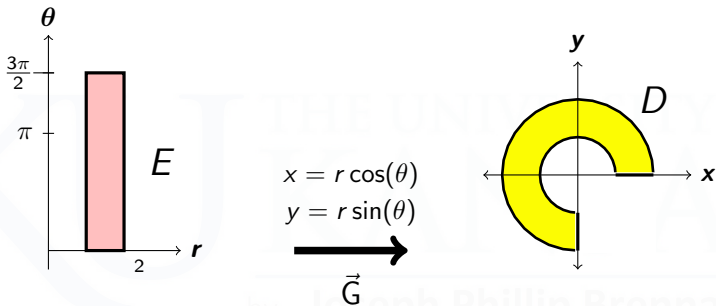
$$\iint_R 1 \, dA = \iint_S 4(u^2 + v^2) \, dA = 4 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 (u^2 + v^2) \, du \, dv = \frac{8}{3}$$

Using single-variable calculus:

$$2 \int_0^2 1 - \frac{y^2}{4} \, dy = 2 \left( y - \frac{y^3}{12} \Big|_0^2 \right) = \frac{8}{3}$$

**Motivating Example Revisited (for handout only):** Calculate

$\iint_D x^2 y \, dA$ , where  $D$  is the region shown below.



Here we can use change of variables to simplify the domain of integration by replacing  $D$  with  $E$ .

By the change-of-variables formula:

$$\iint_D x^2 y \, dA_{xy} = \iint_E (r \cos \theta)^2 (r \sin \theta) \begin{vmatrix} x_r & x_\theta \\ y_r & y_\theta \end{vmatrix} dA_{r\theta}$$

### Motivating Example Revisited (cont'd):

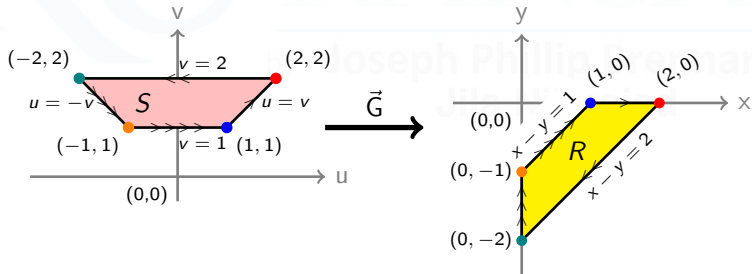
$$\begin{aligned}\iint_D x^2 y \, dA_{xy} &= \iint_E (r \cos \theta)^2 (r \sin \theta) \begin{vmatrix} x_r & x_\theta \\ y_r & y_\theta \end{vmatrix} dA_{r\theta} \\ &= \int_1^2 \int_0^{3\pi/2} (r \cos(\theta))^2 (r \sin(\theta)) \begin{vmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -r \sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & r \cos(\theta) \end{vmatrix} d\theta \, dr \\ &= \int_1^2 \int_0^{3\pi/2} r^3 \cos^2(\theta) \sin(\theta) (r \cos^2(\theta) + r \sin^2(\theta)) \, d\theta \, dr \\ &= \int_1^2 \int_0^{3\pi/2} r^4 \cos^2(\theta) \sin(\theta) \, d\theta \, dr \\ &= \left( \int_1^2 r^4 \, dr \right) \left( \int_0^{3\pi/2} \cos^2(\theta) \sin(\theta) \, d\theta \right) \\ &= \left( \frac{31}{5} \right) \left( -\frac{1}{3} \right) = -\frac{31}{15}.\end{aligned}$$

**Example 3:** Let  $R$  be the trapezoidal region with vertices  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(2, 0)$ ,  $(0, -2)$ , and  $(0, -1)$ . Evaluate the integral

$$\iint_{\mathcal{R}} e^{(x+y)/(x-y)} dA.$$

Solution: Here we can **use change of variables** to **simplify the integrand**.

- The integrand suggests defining  $(u, v) = \vec{G}^{-1}(x, y) = (x + y, x - y)$ .
- Solve for  $x, y$  to get  $(x, y) = \vec{G}(u, v) = \left(\frac{u + v}{2}, \frac{u - v}{2}\right)$ .



Note that  $S$  is horizontally simple:  $1 \leq v \leq 2$ ,  $-v \leq u \leq v$ .

### Example 3 (cont'd):

$$\begin{aligned}\iint_R e^{(x+y)/(x-y)} dA &= \iint_S e^{u/v} \left| \frac{\partial(x,y)}{\partial(u,v)} \right| dA \\ &= \int_1^2 \int_{-v}^v e^{u/v} \begin{vmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & -1/2 \end{vmatrix} du dv \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_1^2 \int_{-v}^v e^{u/v} du dv \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_1^2 \left[ v e^{u/v} \Big|_{u=-v}^{u=v} \right] dv \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_1^2 v(e - e^{-1}) dv \\ &= \frac{3}{4} (e - e^{-1})\end{aligned}$$

## A Useful Fact About Jacobians

If  $F$  is the inverse transformation of  $G$ , that is,

$$\vec{F}(x, y) = (u, v) \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{G}(u, v) = (x, y),$$

then

$$\text{Jac}(\vec{F}) = \text{Jac}(\vec{G})^{-1}.$$

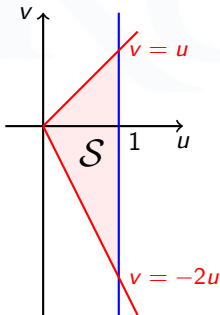
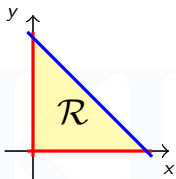
This fact is suggested by the notation:

$$\text{Jac}(\vec{F}) = \frac{\partial(u, v)}{\partial(x, y)}, \quad \text{Jac}(\vec{G}) = \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)}$$

(Try it yourself for a linear transformation — or see exercises 49-51 in §15.6.)

**Example 4:** Evaluate  $\int_0^1 \int_0^{1-x} \sqrt{x+y} (y-2x)^2 dy dx$

Solution:



The domain is simple, so we use the transformation

$$\vec{G}^{-1}(x, y) = (x + y, y - 2x)$$

to **simplify the integrand** and hope that the **new domain is still simple!**

$$\frac{\partial(u, v)}{\partial(x, y)} = 3 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{\mathcal{R}} \sqrt{x+y} (y-2x)^2 dA &= \int_0^1 \int_{-2u}^u \frac{\sqrt{uv^2}}{3} dv du \\ &= \int_0^1 u^{7/2} du = \frac{2}{9} \end{aligned}$$



## Change of Variables, Simplifying the Domain

**Example 5:** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be the region in the first quadrant bounded by  $xy = 1$ ,  $xy = 4$ ,  $y = x$ , and  $y = 2x$ . Evaluate the integral

$$\iint_{\mathcal{R}} xy^3 dA.$$

Solution: The domain of integration is

$$\mathcal{R} = \{(x, y) \mid 1 \leq xy \leq 4, 1 \leq y/x \leq 2\}.$$

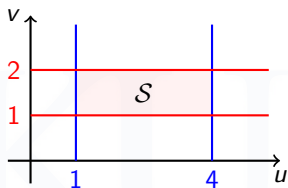
Wouldn't it be nice if  $xy$  and  $y/x$  were variables so that  $\mathcal{R}$  was a rectangle?

**Use a transformation!** Define

$$\vec{G}^{-1}(x, y) = (u, v) = (xy, y/x)$$

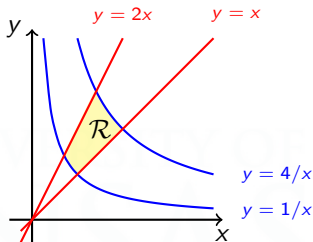
so that

$$\vec{G}(u, v) = (x, y) = (u^{1/2}v^{-1/2}, u^{1/2}v^{1/2}).$$



$$\xrightarrow{G}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= u^{1/2}v^{-1/2} \\ y &= u^{1/2}v^{1/2} \end{aligned}$$



Jacobian:  $\frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{1}{2}u^{-1/2}v^{-1/2} & -\frac{1}{2}u^{1/2}v^{-3/2} \\ \frac{1}{2}u^{-1/2}v^{1/2} & \frac{1}{2}u^{1/2}v^{-1/2} \end{vmatrix} = \frac{1}{2v}$

In general:  $\iint_{\mathcal{R}} f(x, y) dA = \int_1^4 \int_1^2 f\left(u^{1/2}v^{-1/2}, u^{1/2}v^{1/2}\right) \frac{1}{2v} dv du$

In particular:  $\iint_{\mathcal{R}} xy^3 dA = \int_1^4 \int_1^2 \frac{u^2}{2} dv du = \frac{21}{2}$ .

# 3 Change of Variables for Triple Integrals

by Joseph Phillip Brennan  
Jila Niknejad

# Change of Variables for Triple Integrals

Let  $R$  be a region in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with coordinates  $x, y, z$ .

Let  $S$  be a region in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with coordinates  $u, v, w$ .

Let  $\vec{G}$  be a transformation that maps  $S$  to  $R$ :

$$\vec{G}(u, v, w) = (x(u, v, w), y(u, v, w), z(u, v, w)).$$

Then

$$\iiint_R f(x, y, z) dV_{xyz} = \iiint_S f(G(u, v, w)) \left| \frac{\partial(x, y, z)}{\partial(u, v, w)} \right| dV_{uvw}$$

where

$$\frac{\partial(x, y, z)}{\partial(u, v, w)} = \text{Jac}(\vec{G}) = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial z}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial w} \end{vmatrix}.$$

## Change of Variables for Triple Integrals Example

**Example 6:** Let  $R$  be the parallelepiped in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  defined by the inequalities

$$\begin{aligned}1 &\leq x - 2y + z \leq 3, \\2 &\leq 2x + y - 3z \leq 4, \\5 &\leq x + y + z \leq 8.\end{aligned}$$

To change variables in an integral of the form  $\iiint_R f(x, y, z) dV$ :

- Let  $(u, v, w) = \vec{G}^{-1}(x, y, z) = (x - 2y + z, 2x + y - 3z, x + y + z)$ .

In Math 290, this is also known as  $\vec{G}(x, y, z) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$ .

- The inverse is  $(x, y, z) = \vec{G}(u, v, w) = \left( \frac{4u+3v+5w}{15}, \frac{-5u+5w}{15}, \frac{u-3v+5w}{15} \right)$ .

In Math 290, this is known as  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ w \end{bmatrix}$

- Compute  $\text{Jac}(\vec{G}) = \text{Jac}(\vec{F})^{-1} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{15}$ .

# Change of Variables for Triple Integrals Example

**Example 6 (cont'd):** The upshot is that

$$\iiint_R f(x, y, z) dV_{xyz} =$$

$$\int_1^3 \int_2^4 \int_5^8 f\left(\frac{4u + 3v + 5w}{15}, \frac{-5u + 5w}{15}, \frac{u - 3v + 5w}{15}\right) \frac{1}{15} dw dv du.$$

We wanted to present a general example of linear change of variables for triple integral so you connect math 127 and Math 290 transformations. You will see a simple example of linear change of variables for triple integral in lab which doesn't require any knowledge of Math 290.

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The most common applications of the change-of-variables formulas are to convert **double integrals** to **polar coordinates**, and to convert **triple integrals** to **cylindrical or spherical coordinates**.