

14.5: Surface Area

We can use a double integral to find the upper surface area of a solid defined by $z = f(x, y)$ over a region R .

Definition: If f and its first partial derivatives are continuous on the closed region R in the xy -plane, then the area of the surface S given by $z = f(x, y)$ over R is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Surface Area} &= \iint_R dS \\ &= \iint_R \sqrt{1 + [f_x(x, y)]^2 + [f_y(x, y)]^2} dA\end{aligned}$$

Note:

Length on x -axis: $\int_a^b x dx$

Arc length in xy -plane: $\int_a^b \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2} dx$

Area in xy -plane: $\iint_R dA$

Surface area in $\mathbb{R}^3$: $\iint_R \sqrt{1 + [f_x(x, y)]^2 + [f_y(x, y)]^2} dA$

Example 1: Find the area of the surface $z = 1 + 3x + 2y^2$ that lies above the triangle with vertices $(0, 0)$, $(0, 1)$, and $(2, 1)$.

Example 2: Find the area of the surface $f(x, y) = 12 + 2x - 3y$ that lies above the region R bounded by the graph of $x^2 + y^2 \leq 9$.

Example 3: Find the surface area of the part of the sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 4$ that lies above the plane $z = 1$.

Example 4: Find the surface area of the portion of the paraboloid $z = 16 - x^2 - y^2$ that lies in the first octant.

Example 5: Find the surface area of the portion of the hemisphere $z = \sqrt{25 - x^2 - y^2}$ that lies outside the cylinder $x^2 + y^2 = 4$.