

CHANGE OF COORDINATES: I
 BASED ON LECTURE NOTES BY JAMES MCKERNAN

Blackboard 1. A function $f: U \rightarrow V$ between two open subsets of \mathbb{R}^n is called a **diffeomorphism** if:

- (1) f is a bijection,
- (2) f is differentiable, and
- (3) f^{-1} is differentiable.

By definition of the inverse function, $f \circ f^{-1}: V \rightarrow V$ and $f^{-1} \circ f: U \rightarrow U$ are both the identity function, so that

$$(f \circ f^{-1})(\vec{y}) = \vec{y} \quad \text{and} \quad (f^{-1} \circ f)(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}.$$

It follows that

$$Df(\vec{x})Df^{-1}(\vec{y}) = I_n \quad \text{and} \quad Df^{-1}(\vec{y})Df(\vec{x}) = I_n,$$

by the chain rule. It follows that

$$\det(Df) \neq 0.$$

and

$$Df^{-1} = (Df)^{-1}.$$

Example 2. Let $g(r, \theta) = (r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$. Then

$$Dg(r, \theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -r \sin \theta & r \cos \theta \end{pmatrix},$$

so that

$$\det Dg(r, \theta) = r.$$

Theorem 3. Let $g: U \rightarrow V$ be a diffeomorphism between open subsets of \mathbb{R}^2 ,

$$g(u, v) = (x(u, v), y(u, v)).$$

Let $D^* \subset U$ be a region and let $D = f(D^*) \subset V$. Let $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function.

Then

$$\iint_D f(x, y) \, dx \, dy = \iint_{D^*} f(x(u, v), y(u, v)) |\det Dg(u, v)| \, du \, dv.$$

It is convenient to use the following notation:

$$\frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)}(u, v) = \det Dg(u, v).$$

The LHS is called the **Jacobian**. Note that

$$\frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)}(u, v) = \left(\frac{\partial(u, v)}{\partial(x, y)}(x, y) \right)^{-1}.$$

Example 4. Let $g(r, \theta) = (r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$. Then

$$\det Dg(r, \theta) = r,$$

and so

$$\iint_D f(x, y) \, dx \, dy = \iint_{D^*} f(x(u, v), y(u, v)) r \, du \, dv.$$

Example 5. *There is no simple expression for the integral of e^{-x^2} . However it is possible to compute the following integral*

$$I = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx.$$

(In what follows, we will ignore issues relating to the fact that the integrals are improper; in practice all integrals converge). Instead of computing I , we compute I^2 ,

$$\begin{aligned} I^2 &= \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx \right) \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-y^2} dy \right) \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2-y^2} dx \right) dy \\ &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} e^{-x^2-y^2} dx dy \\ &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} r e^{-r^2} dr d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} r e^{-r^2} d\theta \right) dr \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} r e^{-r^2} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \right) dr \\ &= 2\pi \int_0^{\infty} r e^{-r^2} dr \\ &= 2\pi \left[-\frac{e^{-r^2}}{2} \right]_0^{\infty} \\ &= \pi. \end{aligned}$$

So $I = \sqrt{\pi}$.

Example 6. *Find the area of the region D bounded by the four curves*

$$xy = 1, \quad xy = 3, \quad y = x^3, \quad \text{and} \quad y = 2x^3.$$

Define two new variables,

$$u = \frac{x^3}{y} \quad \text{and} \quad v = xy.$$

Then D is a rectangle in uv -coordinates,

$$D^* = [1/2, 1] \times [1, 3]$$

Now for the Jacobian we have

$$\frac{\partial(u, v)}{\partial(x, y)}(x, y) = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{3x^2}{y} & -\frac{x^3}{y^2} \\ y & x \end{vmatrix} = \frac{4x^3}{y} = 4u.$$

It follows that

$$\frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)}(u, v) = \frac{1}{4u}.$$

This is nowhere zero. In fact note that we can solve for x and y explicitly in terms of u and v .

$$uv = x^4 \quad \text{and} \quad y = \frac{x}{v}.$$

So

$$x = (uv)^{1/4} \quad \text{and} \quad y = u^{-1/4}v^{3/4}.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \text{area}(D) &= \iint_D dx \, dy \\ &= \iint_{D^*} \frac{1}{4u} \, du \, dv \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_1^3 \left(\int_{1/2}^1 \frac{1}{u} \, du \right) dv \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_1^3 [\ln u]_{1/2}^1 \, dv \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_1^3 \ln 2 \, dv \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \ln 2. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 7. Let $g: U \rightarrow V$ be a diffeomorphism between open subsets of \mathbb{R}^3 ,

$$g(u, v, w) = (x(u, v, w), y(u, v, w), z(u, v, w)).$$

Let $W^* \subset U$ be a region and let $W = f(W^*) \subset V$. Let $f: W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function.

Then

$$\iiint_W f(x, y, z) \, dx \, dy \, dz = \iiint_{W^*} f(x(u, v, w), y(u, v, w), z(u, v, w)) |\det Dg(u, v, w)| \, du \, dv \, dw.$$

As before, it is convenient to introduce more notation:

$$\frac{\partial(x, y, z)}{\partial(u, v, w)}(u, v, w) = \det Dg(u, v, w).$$