

8.9.3 MASS

We were able to use single integrals to compute moments and the center of mass of a thin plate or lamina with constant density. But now, equipped with the double integral, we can consider a lamina with variable density. Suppose the lamina occupies a region R and its density (in units of mass per unit area) at a point (x, y) in R given by $\rho(x, y)$ where ρ s a continuous function on R.

Let P is a partition of R

$$P = \{B_1, B_2, \cdots, B_n\}$$

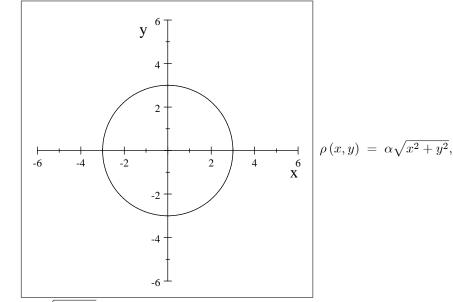
and ΔA_k is the area of B_k for $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$. If we choose a point $(x_k, y_k) \in B_k$, then the mass of the part of the lamina that occupies B_k is approximately $\rho(x_k, y_k) \Delta A_k$. If we add all such masses, we get an approximation to the total mass:

$$M \cong \sum_{k=1}^{n} \rho\left(x_k, y_k\right) \Delta A_k$$

If we now increase the number of subrectangles, we obtain the total mass M of the lamina as the limiting value of the approximations:

$$M = \lim_{\|P\| \to 0} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \rho(x_k, y_k) \, \Delta A_k = \iint_R \rho(x, y) \, dA$$

Example 202 Let R is an unit circle with a radius r = 3. Suppose that the density of this plate at eachpoint changes proportionally with the distance from the center point of the circle. If the density of boundary of circle is 6 then evaluate the mass of this plate.



$$\begin{split} |OP| &= \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \\ \text{For } \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = 9 \ \rho \left(x, y \right) = 6 \text{ then } 6 = \alpha 3 \Rightarrow \alpha = 2 \text{ and so} \\ \rho \left(x, y \right) &= 2\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}. \end{split}$$

$$M = \iint_{R} \rho\left(x, y\right) dxdy = \int_{x^2 + y^2 \le 9} \int_{x^2 + y^2 \le 9} 2\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} dxdy$$

For $x = r \cos \theta$, $y = r \sin \theta$ and |J| = r, $R = \{(r, \theta) : 0 \le r \le 3, 0 \le \theta \le 2\pi\}$

$$M = \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{3} 2\sqrt{r^2} r dr \theta = \int_{0}^{2\pi} \frac{2r^3}{3} \Big|_{r=0}^{r=3} d\theta = 18\theta \Big|_{\theta=0}^{\theta=2\pi} = 36\pi \ units^2$$

8.9.4 CENTER OF MASS

The center of mass or centroid of a region is the point in which the region will be perfectly balanced horizontally if suspended from that point. Let suppose a plate in a region R and this plate has density $\rho(x, y)$ at the point (x, y). Let Pis apartition of R and ΔR_k is an area of R_k $(k = 1, 2, \dots, n)$. If the partition for P is thin enough then it can be considered that the mass accumulateson the point (x_k, y_k) . These points are called mass point and the coordinates of the center of mass can be given,

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\iint\limits_{R} x\rho(x,y) \, dxdy}{\iint\limits_{R} \rho(x,y) \, dxdy}, \ \bar{y} = \frac{\iint\limits_{R} y\rho(x,y) \, dxdy}{\iint\limits_{R} \rho(x,y) \, dxdy}$$

or

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{M} \iint_{R} x \rho(x, y) \, dx dy$$

$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{M} \iint_{R} y \rho(x, y) \, dx dy$$

If the density of this plate is constant, since $M = \rho A$, then

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{A} \iint_{R} x dx dy$$
$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{A} \iint_{R} y dx dy$$

Example 203 Let suppose that R is a region bounded by the curve $\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y} = 1$ and the coordinate axis and suppose a plate in R. Then find the coordinates of the center of mass of this plate (The plate is homogeneous, the density is constant on each point).

Solution 204 First we will find the area of R.

$$A = \iint_{R} dx dy = \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{\left(1 - \sqrt{x}\right)^{2}} dy dx = \frac{1}{6}$$
$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{6}} \iint_{R} x dx dy = 6 \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{\left(1 - \sqrt{x}\right)^{2}} x dy dx = \frac{1}{5}$$
$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{6}} \iint_{R} y dx dy = 6 \int_{0}^{1} \int_{0}^{\left(1 - \sqrt{x}\right)^{2}} y dy dx = \frac{1}{5}$$

The coordinates of the center of mass is $\left(\frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{5}\right)$

Example 205 Find the center of mass of a thin, uniform plate whose shape is the region between $y = \cos x$ and the x-axis between $x = -\pi/2$ and $x = \pi/2$. Since the density is constant, we may take $\rho(x, y) = 1$.

Solution 206 It is clear that $\bar{x} = 0$, but for practice let's compute it anyway. First we compute the mass:

$$M == A = \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \int_{0}^{\cos x} 1 \, dy \, dx = \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \cos x \, dx = \sin x \mid_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} = 2$$
$$M_y = \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \int_{0}^{\cos x} y \, dy \, dx = \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \frac{1}{2} \cos^2 x \, dx = \frac{\pi}{4}$$
$$M_x = \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \int_{0}^{\cos x} x \, dy \, dx = \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} x \cos x \, dx = 0$$
$$\bar{x} = 0 \text{ and } \bar{y} = \frac{M_y}{M} = \frac{\pi}{2} = \frac{\pi}{8}$$

Exercise 207 Find the center of mass of a two-dimensional plate that occupies the square $[0,1] \times [0,1]$ and has density function xy.

Exercise 208 Find the center of mass of a two-dimensional plate that occupies the triangle $0 \le x \le 1, 0 \le y \le x$, and has density function xy.

Exercise 209 Find the center of mass of a two-dimensional plate that occupies the triangle formed by x = 0, y = x, and 2x + y = 6 and has density function x^2 .