

# Change of Variables in Multiple Integrals

William M. Faucette

University of West Georgia

Fall 2025

# Outline

- 1 Substitutions in Multiple Integrals
- 2 The Jacobian
- 3 Example
- 4 Substitutions in Double Integrals
- 5 Examples
- 6 Substitutions in Triple Integrals
- 7 Example

# Substitutions in Multiple Integrals

# Substitutions in Multiple Integrals

Let  $G$  be a region in the  $uv$ -plane and let there be change of coordinates given by

$$x = x(u, v), \quad y = y(u, v)$$

The image of  $G$  under this change of coordinates is a region  $R$  in the  $xy$ -plane.

If we're going to change coordinates, we need to compute how the change of coordinates changes the area element.

# The Jacobian

# The Jacobian

## Definition

The **Jacobian determinant** or **Jacobian** of the coordinate transformation  $x = x(u, v)$ ,  $y = y(u, v)$  is

$$J(u, v) = \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \frac{\partial x}{\partial v}.$$

The Jacobian determinant can also be denoted by

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

## Example

# Example 1

## Example

Solve the system

$$u = x + 2y, \quad v = x - y$$

for  $x$  and  $y$  in terms of  $u$  and  $v$ . Then find the value of the Jacobian  $\partial(x, y)/\partial(u, v)$ .

# Example 1

## Solution

First, we solve the system for  $x$  and  $y$  using a bit of algebra:

$$x = \frac{1}{3}(u + 2v)$$
$$y = \frac{1}{3}(u - v).$$

Then we compute the Jacobian:

$$\frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} = \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix} = -\frac{1}{3}.$$

# Substitutions in Double Integrals

# Substitutions in Double Integrals

## Theorem (Substitutions in Double Integrals)

Suppose that  $f(x, y)$  is continuous over the region  $R$ . Let  $G$  be the preimage of  $R$  under the transformation  $x = x(u, v)$ ,  $y = y(u, v)$ , which is assumed to be one-to-one on the interior of  $G$ .

If the functions  $x$  and  $y$  have continuous first partial derivatives within the interior of  $G$ , then

$$\iint_R f(x, y) \, dx \, dy = \iint_G f(x(u, v), y(u, v)) \left| \frac{\partial(x, y)}{\partial(u, v)} \right| \, du \, dv.$$

# Substitutions in Double Integrals

Your book says the derivation of this formula properly belongs in a course in advanced calculus. Horse hockey!

A change of  $\langle \Delta u, 0 \rangle$  has as image the tangent vector  $\left\langle \frac{\partial x}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \right\rangle \Delta u$ .

A change of  $\langle 0, \Delta v \rangle$  has as image the tangent vector  $\left\langle \frac{\partial x}{\partial v}, \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \right\rangle \Delta v$ .

# Substitutions in Double Integrals

The area of the parallelogram spanned by the vectors

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial x}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \right\rangle \Delta u \quad \text{and} \quad \left\langle \frac{\partial x}{\partial v}, \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \right\rangle \Delta v$$

is the absolute value of the length of the cross product of these two vectors (after you put them into 3-space).

This is exactly  $|J(u, v)| \Delta u \Delta v$ .

# Substitutions in Double Integrals

Let's do the computation:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta \mathbf{r}_u \times \Delta \mathbf{r}_v &= \det \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \Delta u & \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \Delta u & 0 \\ \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \Delta v & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \Delta v & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \right) \Delta u \Delta v \mathbf{k} \\ &= \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \end{pmatrix} \Delta u \Delta v \mathbf{k} \\ &= J(u, v) \Delta u \Delta v \mathbf{k}.\end{aligned}$$

# Substitutions in Double Integrals

Then we have

$$\|\Delta \mathbf{r}_u \times \Delta \mathbf{r}_v\| = |J(u, v)| \Delta u \Delta v.$$

So, we see the adjusted area element in  $uv$ -space is

$$|J(u, v)| \, du \, dv.$$

## Examples

## Example 2

### Example

Evaluate the integral

$$\int_0^4 \int_{x=y/2}^{x=(y/2)+1} \frac{2x-y}{2} dx dy.$$

## Example 2

### Solution

The transformation is given by  $u = \frac{2x-y}{2}$ ,  $v = \frac{y}{2}$ .

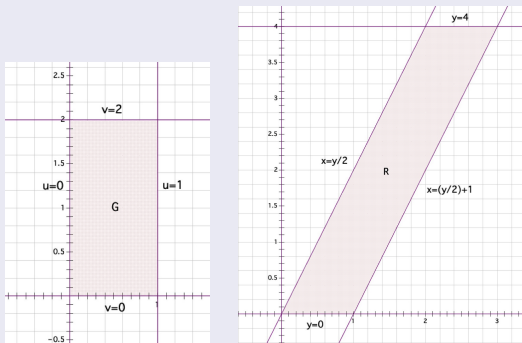
Let's start by sketching the region  $R$  in the  $xy$ -plane and the region  $G$  in the  $uv$ -plane.

- The curve  $y = 0$  becomes  $v = 0$ .
- The curve  $y = 4$  becomes  $v = 2$ .
- The line  $x = y/2$  becomes  $u = 0$ .
- The line  $x = (y/2) + 1$  becomes  $u = 1$ .

# Example 2

## Solution (cont.)

Figure: Sketches of  $G$  and  $R$



## Example 2

### Solution (cont.)

Now we change variables in the integrand. Note that  $x = u + v$  and  $y = 2v$ .

$$\frac{2x - y}{2} = \frac{2(u + v) - 2v}{2} = u.$$

Yes, we already knew this.

## Example 2

### Solution (cont.)

Now, we compute the Jacobian:

$$J(u, v) = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \end{vmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = 2.$$

## Example 2

### Solution (cont.)

Now, we apply the change of variables formula.

$$\begin{aligned}\iint_R \frac{2x - y}{2} dx dy &= \iint_G u \cdot 2 du dv \\ &= \int_0^2 \int_0^1 2u du dv \\ &= \int_0^2 u^2 \Big|_0^1 dv = \int_0^2 1 dv \\ &= v \Big|_0^2 = 2.\end{aligned}$$

## Example 3

### Example

Let  $R$  be the region in the first quadrant of the  $xy$ -plane bounded by the hyperbolas  $xy = 1$ ,  $xy = 9$ , and the lines  $y = x$ ,  $y = 4x$ . Use the transformation  $x = u/v$ ,  $y = uv$  with  $u > 0$  and  $v > 0$  to rewrite

$$\iint_R \left( \sqrt{\frac{y}{x}} + \sqrt{xy} \right) dx dy$$

## Example 3

### Solution

The transformation is given by  $x = u/v$ ,  $y = uv$ .

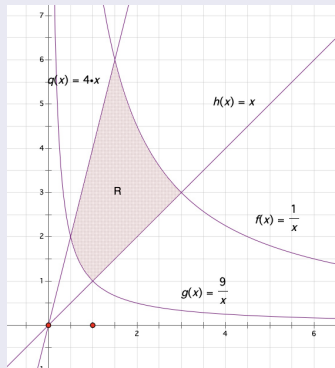
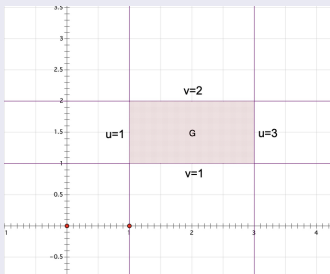
Let's start by sketching the region  $R$  in the  $xy$ -plane and the region  $G$  in the  $uv$ -plane.

- The curve  $xy = 1$  becomes  $u^2 = 1$ , or  $u = 1$ .
- The curve  $xy = 9$  becomes  $u^2 = 9$ , or  $u = 3$ .
- The line  $y = x$  becomes  $v^2 = 1$ , or  $v = 1$ .
- The line  $y = 4x$  becomes  $v^2 = 4$ , or  $v = 2$ .

# Example 3

## Solution (cont.)

Figure: Sketches of  $G$  and  $R$



## Example 3

### Solution (cont.)

Now we change variables in the integrand.

$$\sqrt{\frac{y}{x}} + \sqrt{xy} = \sqrt{\frac{uv}{u/v}} + \sqrt{\frac{u}{v}uv} = v + u.$$

## Example 3

### Solution (cont.)

Now, we compute the Jacobian:

$$\begin{aligned} J(u, v) &= \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{1}{v} & -\frac{u}{v^2} \\ v & u \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \frac{u}{v} - \left(-\frac{u}{v}\right) = \frac{2u}{v}. \end{aligned}$$

## Example 3

### Solution (cont.)

Now, we apply the change of variables formula.

$$\begin{aligned}\iint_R \left( \sqrt{\frac{y}{x}} + \sqrt{xy} \right) dx dy &= \iint_G (u + v) \cdot \left| \frac{2u}{v} \right| du dv \\ &= \int_1^2 \int_1^3 \left( \frac{2u^2}{v} + 2u \right) du dv \\ &= \int_1^2 \left( \frac{2u^3}{3v} + u^2 \right) \Big|_1^3 dv \\ &= \int_1^2 \left( \frac{52}{3v} + 8 \right) dv\end{aligned}$$

## Example 3

### Solution (cont.)

Continuing,

$$\begin{aligned}\iint_R \left( \sqrt{\frac{y}{x}} + \sqrt{xy} \right) dx dy &= \int_1^2 \left( \frac{52}{3v} + 8 \right) dv \\ &= \frac{52}{3} \ln v + 8v \Big|_1^2 \\ &= 8 + \frac{52 \ln(2)}{3}.\end{aligned}$$

# Substitutions in Triple Integrals

# Substitutions in Triple Integrals

## Definition

The **Jacobian determinant** or **Jacobian** of the coordinate transformation  $x = x(u, v, w)$ ,  $y = y(u, v, w)$ ,  $z = z(u, v, w)$  is

$$J(u, v, w) = \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial z}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial w} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The Jacobian determinant can also be denoted by

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

# Substitutions in Triple Integrals

## Theorem (Substitutions in Triple Integrals)

Suppose that  $f(x, y, z)$  is continuous over the region  $R$ . Let  $G$  be the preimage of  $R$  under the transformation  $x = x(u, v, w)$ ,  $y = y(u, v, w)$ ,  $z = z(u, v, w)$  which is assumed to be one-to-one on the interior of  $G$ . If the functions  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  have continuous first partial derivatives within the interior of  $G$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} & \iiint_R f(x, y, z) \, dx \, dy \, dz \\ &= \iiint_G f(x(u, v, w), y(u, v, w), z(u, v, w)) \left| \frac{\partial(x, y, z)}{\partial(u, v, w)} \right| \, du \, dv \, dw. \end{aligned}$$

# Substitutions in Triple Integrals

The Jacobian is simply the scalar triple product of the images of the tangent vectors  $\langle \Delta u, 0, 0 \rangle$ ,  $\langle 0, \Delta v, 0 \rangle$ ,  $\langle 0, 0, \Delta w \rangle$ , which is the signed volume of the parallelepiped spanned by the image vectors. The absolute value of this gives the distortion in the volume by the map taking  $uvw$ -space to  $xyz$ -space.

## Example

## Example 4

### Example

Find the volume of the ellipsoid

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1.$$

(*Hint:* Let  $x = au$ ,  $y = bv$ , and  $z = cw$ . Then find the volume of the appropriate region in  $uvw$ -space.)

## Example 4

### Solution

The transformation is given in the problem.

The region  $R$  we are integrating over is the interior of the ellipsoid

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1.$$

Substituting the equations of the transformation, we find the region  $G$  is the interior of the sphere

$$u^2 + v^2 + w^2 = 1$$

in  $uvw$ -space. We really don't need to sketch a unit sphere.

## Example 4

### Solution (cont.)

Now, we compute the Jacobian:

$$\begin{aligned} J(u, v, w) &= \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial w} \\ \frac{\partial z}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial w} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \det \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & c \end{pmatrix} = abc. \end{aligned}$$

## Example 4

### Solution (cont.)

Now, we apply the change of variables formula.

$$\begin{aligned}\iiint_R dV &= \iiint_G abc \, dV \\ &= abc \times (\text{volume of unit sphere}) \\ &= \frac{4}{3}\pi abc.\end{aligned}$$