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# VOLUMES OF SOLIDS BY SLICING

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Question 1

A solid's base is bounded by the circle with equation

$$x^2 + y^2 = 9.$$

Determine the volume of the solid, given that every vertical cross-section of the solid, which is perpendicular to the  $x$  axis, is a square.

, 144

LOOKING AT THE FIGURE ABOVE

- $x^2 + y^2 = 9$
- $y^2 = 9 - x^2$
- $y = \pm \sqrt{9 - x^2}$
- THE LENGTH OF THE SQUARE IS  $2y = 2\sqrt{9 - x^2}$
- THE HEIGHT OF THE SQUARE IS  $y^2 = 9 - x^2$
- THE LENGTH OF THE "INFINITESIMAL SLICE" OF THICKNESS  $dx$  FROM  $x = -3$  TO  $x = 3$  IS  $4(9 - x^2) dx$

SUMMING ALL "INFINITESIMAL SLICES" OF THICKNESS  $dx$  FROM  $x = -3$  TO  $x = 3$  & TAKE LIMITS

$\rightarrow V = \int_{-3}^3 4(9 - x^2) dx$  (EVEN INTEGRAND)

$\rightarrow V = 4 \int_{-3}^3 (9 - x^2) dx$

$\rightarrow V = 4 \left[ 9x - \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_{-3}^3$

$\rightarrow V = 4 \left[ (27 - 9) - 0 \right]$

$\rightarrow V = 144$

**Question 2**

A solid's base is bounded by the circle with equation

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1.$$

Every vertical cross-section of the solid, perpendicular to the  $x$  axis, is a right angled isosceles triangle, with one of its non hypotenuse sides on the base of the solid.

Determine the volume of the solid.

,  $\frac{8}{3}$

USING THE FORMULA ABOVE

- $x^2 + y^2 = 1$
- $y = \pm \sqrt{1-x^2}$
- BOTH THE BASE & HEIGHT OF THE INFINITESIMAL TRIANGLE ARE  $2\sqrt{1-x^2}$
- THE VALUE OF THE INFINITESIMAL TRIANGULAR PRISM IS  $\frac{1}{2}(2\sqrt{1-x^2})^2 dx$ .

SUMMING ALL THE INFINITESIMAL TRIANGULAR PRISMS FROM  $x=-1$  TO  $x=1$

$$\rightarrow V = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2}(2\sqrt{1-x^2})^2 dx = \int_{-1}^1 2(1-x^2) dx$$

... OR INDEPENDENT ...

$$= \int_{-1}^1 2(1-x^2) dx = \int_{-1}^1 (2 - 2x^2) dx$$

$$= \left[ 2x - \frac{2}{3}x^3 \right]_{-1}^1 = \left( 2 - \frac{2}{3} \right) - \left( -2 + \frac{2}{3} \right)$$

$$= \frac{8}{3}$$

**Question 3**

A solid's base is bounded by the right angled triangle in the  $x$ - $y$  plane whose vertices have coordinates  $(0,0)$ ,  $(1,0)$  and  $(0,4)$ .

Every vertical cross-section of the solid, perpendicular to the  $y$  axis, is a semicircle with its diameter lying on the base of the solid.

Use calculus to determine the volume of the above described solid.

,  $\frac{\pi}{6}$

- SIMILAR TO DRAWING SKETCH TO "SEE" THE INFINITESIMAL VOLUME
- REARRANGE THE EQUATION OF THE LINE FOR  $x$ 

$$y = 4 - 4x$$

$$4x = 4 - y$$

$$x = 1 - \frac{y}{4}$$
- HENCE THE RADIUS OF AN INFINITESIMAL ARBITRARY SEMICIRCLE WILL BE
 
$$r = \frac{1}{2}x = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{y}{4} \right)$$
- THE VOLUME OF THE INFINITESIMAL SLICE WILL BE
 
$$\delta V = \frac{1}{2} \pi \left( \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{y}{4} \right) \right)^2 \delta y$$
- SUMMING AND TAKING LIMITS
 
$$\Rightarrow V = \sum \delta V = \sum \left[ \frac{1}{2} \pi \left( \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{y}{4} \right) \right)^2 \delta y \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow V = \int_{y=0}^{y=4} \frac{1}{2} \pi \left( \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{y}{4} \right) \right)^2 dy$$

$$\Rightarrow V = \int_{y=0}^{y=4} \frac{1}{8} \pi \left( \frac{1}{4} \right)^2 (4-y)^2 dy$$

$$\Rightarrow V = \int_{y=0}^{y=4} \frac{\pi}{128} (4-y)^2 dy$$

$$\Rightarrow V = \frac{\pi}{128} \left[ -\frac{1}{3} (4-y)^3 \right]_0^4$$

$$\Rightarrow V = \frac{\pi}{128} \times \frac{1}{3} [ (4-0)^3 ]$$

$$\Rightarrow V = \frac{\pi}{96}$$

CONFIRMING THE ABOVE RESULT BY THE SIMILAR RESULT FOR A CONE

$$V = \frac{1}{3} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \pi r^2 \right] = \frac{1}{2} \pi \times 0.5^2 \times 4$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \pi \times \frac{1}{4} \times 4$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{2}$$

**Question 4**

The finite region  $R$  is bounded by the curve with equation

$$y = x^2 - 1,$$

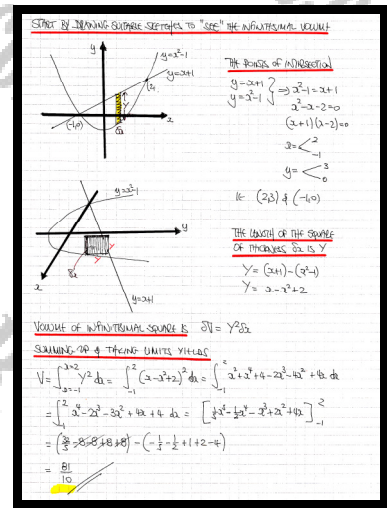
and the straight line with equation

$$y = x + 1$$

A solid's base is bounded by  $R$  and every vertical cross-section of the solid, perpendicular to the  $x$  axis, is a square with one of sides on the base of the solid.

Determine the volume of the solid.

$\frac{81}{10}$



**Question 5**

A solid's base is bounded by the ellipse with equation

$$\frac{1}{4}x^2 + 4y^2 = 1.$$

Every vertical cross-section of the solid, perpendicular to the  $x$  axis, is an equilateral triangle, with one of its sides on the base of the solid.

Determine the volume of the solid.

$$\frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3}$$

The image shows a handwritten solution for Question 5. It includes two diagrams: the first shows the ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{4} + y^2 = 1$  in the  $xy$ -plane, and the second shows a vertical cross-section perpendicular to the  $x$ -axis, which is an equilateral triangle with its base on the ellipse. The solution steps are as follows:

- $4y^2 = 1 - \frac{x^2}{4}$   
 $4y = \frac{1}{2}(4 - x^2)$
- AREA OF EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE IS  $\frac{1}{2}(2y)(2y) \sin 60 = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}(4 - x^2)$   
 $= \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}(4 - x^2)$   
 $= \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(4 - x^2)$
- LENGTH OF INFINITESIMAL SLICE OF THICKNESS  $\delta x$  IS  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(4 - x^2) \delta x$
- SUMMING UP & TAKING LIMITS  
 $V = \int_{-2}^2 \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(4 - x^2) dx = \int_{-2}^2 \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(4 - x^2) dx = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \left[ 4x - \frac{1}{3}x^3 \right]_{-2}^2$   
 $= \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \left[ 8 - \frac{8}{3} \right] = \sqrt{3} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{3} \right] = \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3}$

**Question 6**

An ellipse  $E$  has equation

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1,$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are positive constants.

Use integral calculus to show that the volume of a right elliptical cone with base  $E$  and height  $h$ , is given by

$$\frac{1}{3} \pi abh.$$

You may assume the standard result for the area of an ellipse without proof.

,  proof

• LOOKING AT THE DIAGONAL CROSS-SECTION  
 • THE INFINITESIMAL ELLIPTICAL DISC OF THICKNESS  $dz$  HAS VOLUME  
 $dV = \pi x y dz$   
 • BY SIMILAR TRIANGLES WE HAVE  
 $\Rightarrow \frac{x}{a} = \frac{h-z}{h} \quad \& \quad \frac{y}{b} = \frac{h-z}{h}$   
 $\Rightarrow x = \frac{a}{h}(h-z) \quad \& \quad y = \frac{b}{h}(h-z)$   
 • SO THE VOLUME IS GIVEN BY  
 $dV = \pi \left[ \frac{a}{h}(h-z) \right] \left[ \frac{b}{h}(h-z) \right] dz = \frac{\pi ab}{h^2} (h-z)^2 dz$   
 $V = \int_{z=0}^{z=h} \pi \left[ \frac{a}{h}(h-z) \right] \left[ \frac{b}{h}(h-z) \right] dz$   
 $= \frac{\pi ab}{h^2} \int_0^h (h-z)^2 dz$   
 $= \frac{\pi ab}{h^2} \left[ -\frac{1}{3}(h-z)^3 \right]_0^h$   
 $= \frac{\pi ab}{3h^2} \left[ (h-0)^3 - (h-h)^3 \right]$   
 $= \frac{\pi ab}{3h^2} [h^3 - 0]$   
 $= \frac{1}{3} \pi abh$