

Section 15.5 - Applications of Double Integrals

MVC

Physical Applications: Computing Mass, electric charge, Center of mass, inertia

Already seen: Average value of a function $f_{\text{ave}} = \frac{1}{\text{Area}(R)} \iint_R f(x,y) dA$

Consider a thin plate (called a lamina) with variable density occupying a region D in the xy -plane:

• Goals: Given a density function $\rho(x,y)$ for a lamina find:

①

②

③

④

• Total mass of lamina: sum masses over ΔA

In general density = but for thin plate density =

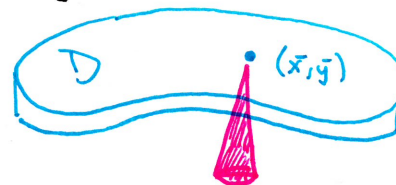
• Moments of lamina: product of mass and its directed distance from an axis.
(measures the tendency for the plate to rotate about the axis)

About x -axis:

About y -axis:

• Center of mass: point where plate balances horizontally

★ Point may not be on plate



★ See moments demo on website / Paper plate demo

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• Moments of Inertia:

mass determines force needed for an acceleration

So Inertia determines torque needed for an angular acceleration

About x-axis:

About y-axis:

About origin:

Example

The Density at any point on a semicircular lamina is proportional to the distance from the center of the circle. Find the center of mass.

Example

Find the moment of inertia I_0 of a homogeneous D with density ρ center $(0,0)$ and radius a . Use I_0 to determine I_x, I_y .

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• Extra Examples

11. A lamina occupies the first quadrant of $x^2 + y^2 \leq 1$. Find its center of mass if the density at any point is proportional to its distance from the x -axis.

12. Lamina from # 11 but the density at any point is proportional to the square of its distance from the origin.

18. Find I_0, I_x, I_y for the lamina in # 12.