

Question

Evaluate the triple integral

$$\iiint \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} d(x, y, z)$$

where S is the solid sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \leq 1$.

Answer

Transform the spherical polar coordinates (r, θ, ϕ) where $x = r \sin \theta \cos \phi$, $y = r \sin \theta \sin \phi$, $z = r \cos \theta$ and the sphere is described by the inequalities:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 0 \leq r \leq 1 \\ 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi \\ 0 \leq \phi \leq 2\pi \end{array} \right\} \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = \sqrt{r^2 \sin^2 \theta (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \phi)} = r \sin \theta$$

and $d(x, y, z) = r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi$.

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int_{\phi=0}^{\phi=2\pi} \int_{\theta=0}^{\theta=\pi} \int_{r=0}^{r=1} (r \sin \theta)(r^2 \sin \theta) dr d\theta d\phi \\ &\text{and since the limits are independent of } r, \theta \text{ and } \phi : \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^1 r^3 dr \int_0^\pi \sin^2 \theta d\theta \\ &= [\phi]_0^{2\pi} \left[\frac{r^4}{4} \right]_0^1 \int_0^\pi \frac{1}{2} (1 - \cos 2\theta) d\theta \quad [\text{using } 2 \sin^2 \theta = 1 - \cos 2\theta] \\ &= \frac{\pi}{4} \left[\theta - \frac{1}{2} \sin 2\theta \right]_0^\pi = \frac{\pi}{4} (\pi - 0) = \frac{\pi^2}{4}. \end{aligned}$$