

Lesson 11: Area Between Two Curves

Bonus Material: Though most of your homework problems can be done by integrating with respect to x , in the future this may not be the case.

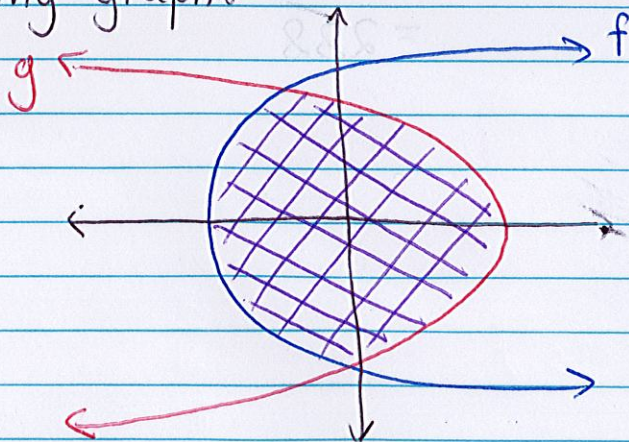
i.e. Some problems will be easier to do by integrating with respect to y .

How does this change the problem at hand?

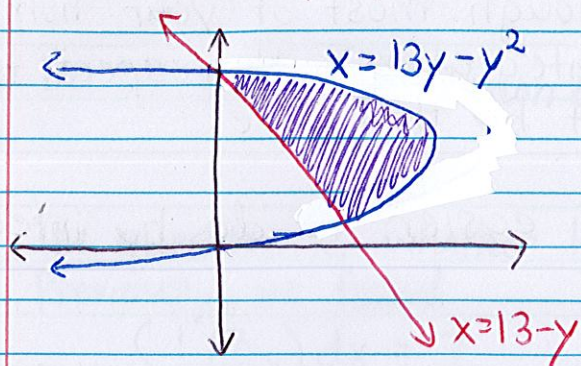
- The roles of x and y switch.
- Given two curves f and g which are functions of y , we want to integrate the one with larger x -values minus the one with the smaller x -values.
- We amend "Top minus Bottom" to "Bigger minus Smaller."

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Area} &= \int_c^d \text{Right } dy - \int_c^d \text{Left } dy \\ &= \int_c^d (F(y) - G(y)) dy\end{aligned}$$

An example where this technique may be useful is for the following graph:



Bonus Example: Find the area bounded by the curves
 $x = 13y - y^2$ and $x + y = 13$



From the graph,
Bigger $\Rightarrow x = 13y - y^2$
Smaller $\Rightarrow x = 13 - y$

$$\text{So } \int_c^d (13y - y^2) - (13 - y) dy$$

Let's find the intersection points.

$$\begin{aligned} 13y - y^2 &= 13 - y \\ 0 &= y^2 - 14y + 13 \\ 0 &= (y - 13)(y - 1) \\ y &= 13, y = 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hence } \int_1^{13} (13y - y^2 - 13 + y) dy &= \int_1^{13} (14y - y^2 - 13) dy \\ &= \left(\frac{14y^2}{2} - \frac{y^3}{3} - 13y \right) \Big|_1^{13} \\ &= \left(7y^2 - \frac{y^3}{3} - 13y \right) \Big|_1^{13} \\ &= 7(13)^2 - \frac{13^3}{3} - 13(13) - \left(7 - \frac{1}{3} - 13 \right) \\ &= 288 \end{aligned}$$