

A surface integral computation for a scalar function

PROBLEM. Set up and evaluate the surface integral

$$\int \int_S z \, dS$$

where S is the upper hemisphere of the unit sphere defined by the equation $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$. The “upper” condition corresponds to the inequality $z \geq 0$.

Solution. We shall use the standard spherical coordinate parametrization

$$\mathbf{X}(\theta, \phi) = (\cos \theta \sin \phi, \sin \theta \sin \phi, \cos \phi)$$

where $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ and $0 \leq \phi \leq \frac{1}{2}\pi$. As in a previous file, it follows that $|\mathbf{N}(\theta, \phi)| = \sin \phi$, and therefore (since $z = \cos \phi$) the surface integral is given by the following double/iterated integral:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi/2} \cos \phi \sin \phi \, d\phi \, d\theta$$

The latter reduces to

$$\pi \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin 2\phi \, d\phi = \pi .$$