

(a) The volume of a growing spherical cell is $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$, where the radius r is measured in micrometers ($1 \mu\text{m} = 10^{-6} \text{m}$). Find the average rate of change (AROC) of V with respect to r when r changes from¹

(i) 5 to $8 \mu\text{m}$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{AROC}_{5 \rightarrow 8} &= \frac{V(8) - V(5)}{8 - 5} \\ &= \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi(8)^3 - \frac{4}{3}\pi(5)^3}{8 - 5} \\ &= \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi(512 - 125)}{3} \\ &= \frac{4}{9} \cdot \pi \cdot 387 \\ &= 172\pi \\ &\approx 540.35 \mu\text{m}^3/\mu\text{m}\end{aligned}$$

(ii) 5 to $6 \mu\text{m}$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{AROC}_{5 \rightarrow 6} &= \frac{V(6) - V(5)}{6 - 5} \\ &= \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi(6)^3 - \frac{4}{3}\pi(5)^3}{6 - 5} \\ &= \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi(216 - 125)}{1} \\ &= \frac{4}{3} \cdot \pi \cdot 91 \\ &= \frac{364}{3}\pi \\ &\approx 381.18 \mu\text{m}^3/\mu\text{m}\end{aligned}$$

(ii) 5 to $5.1 \mu\text{m}$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{AROC}_{5 \rightarrow 5.1} &= \frac{V(5.1) - V(5)}{5.1 - 5} \\ &= \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi(5.1)^3 - \frac{4}{3}\pi(5)^3}{5.1 - 5} \\ &= \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi(132.651 - 125)}{0.1} \\ &= \frac{4}{3} \cdot \pi \cdot 76.51 \\ &\approx 320.48 \mu\text{m}^3/\mu\text{m}\end{aligned}$$

(b) Find the instantaneous rate of change of V with respect to r when $r = 5 \mu\text{m}^3/\mu\text{m}$.

$$V'(r) = \frac{4}{3}\pi \cdot 3r^2 = 4\pi r^2, \text{ so } V'(5) = 100\pi \approx 314.16 \mu\text{m}^3/\mu\text{m}.$$

¹Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 234, #16.

Calculus I
Rates of Change in the Natural and Social Sciences

- (c) Show that the rate of change of the volume of a sphere with respect to its radius is equal to its surface area. Explain geometrically why this result is true.

$V'(r) = \frac{4}{3}\pi \cdot 3r^2 = 4\pi r^2$, which is the formula for the surface area of a sphere. As we increase the radius by a tiny bit Δr , the increase in the volume will be about the surface area times the thickness of the increase. Thus

$$\Delta V \approx 4\pi r^2 \cdot \Delta r \text{ so } \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta r} \approx 4\pi r^2$$