

Calculus II, Section 6.3, #18  
 Volumes by Cylindrical Shells

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Use the method of cylindrical shells to find the volume of the solid generated by rotating the region bounded by the given curves about the specified axis.<sup>1</sup>

$$y = \sqrt{x}, \quad x = 2y; \quad \text{about } x = 5$$

In Figure 1, the curves are sketched along with the axis of revolution. Some simple algebra<sup>2</sup> confirms that the the curves intersect at  $(0,0)$  and  $(2,4)$ . Since we are going to use cylindrical shells, the representative rectangle is parallel to the axis of revolution; this is sketched in Figure 2. The width of the representative rectangle is  $\Delta x$ , so everything in our integral will have to be in terms of  $x$ . The function  $y = \sqrt{x}$  is already in terms of  $x$ , and some algebra transforms  $x = 2y$  into  $y = \frac{1}{2}x$ .

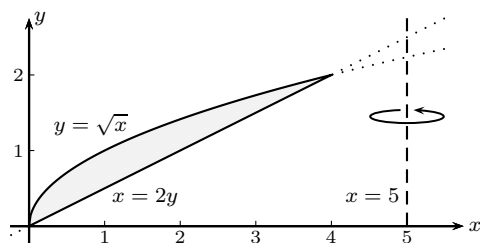


Figure 1: The curves and the region.

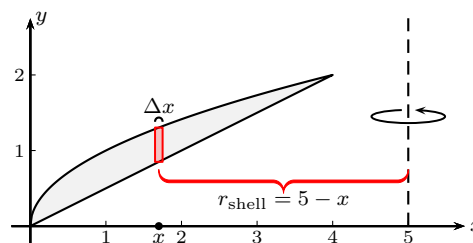


Figure 2: The region with a representative rectangle.

In Figure 3, we've sketched the shell generated by revolving the representative rectangle about  $x = 5$ . The shell, after it has been cut and flattened into a (very skinny) box, is sketched above. The volume of the shell is given by

$$V_{\text{shell}} = (\text{length of box}) (\text{width of box}) (\text{thickness of box})$$

and since the length of the box is the circumference of the shell

$$= (2\pi(5-x)) \left( \sqrt{x} - \frac{1}{2}x \right) (\Delta x)$$

We create shells from  $x = 0$  to  $x = 4$ , so the volume,  $V$ , of the solid of revolution is given by

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \int_{x=0}^{x=4} 2\pi(5-x) \left( \sqrt{x} - \frac{1}{2}x \right) dx \\ &= 2\pi \int_{x=0}^{x=4} (5-x) \left( x^{1/2} - \frac{1}{2}x \right) dx \\ &= 2\pi \int_{x=0}^{x=4} 5x^{1/2} - \frac{5}{2}x - x^{3/2} + \frac{1}{2}x^2 dx \end{aligned}$$

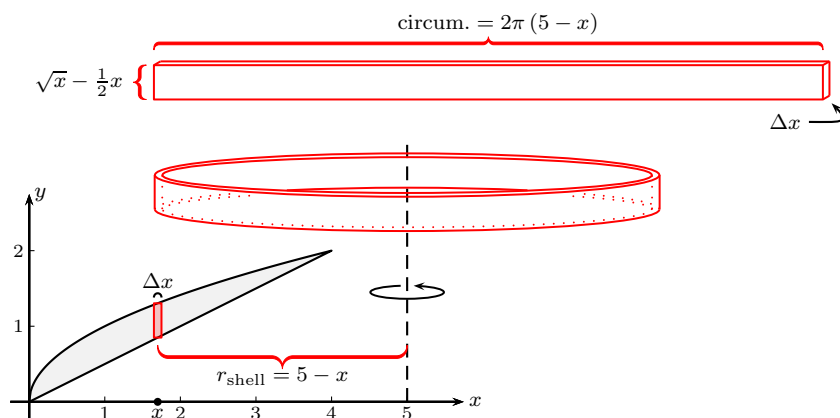
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<sup>1</sup>Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 454, #18.

<sup>2</sup> $y = \sqrt{x}$  and  $x = 2y$ , so  $x = 2\sqrt{x}$  and  $x^2 = 4x$ . So  $0 = 4x - x^2$  or  $0 = x(4-x)$  and thus  $x = 0$  and  $x = 4$ .

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**Figure 3:** The shell corresponding to the representative rectangle. The length of the flattened shell is not drawn to scale.

$$\begin{aligned}
 V &= 2\pi \int_{x=0}^{x=4} 5x^{1/2} - \frac{5}{2}x - x^{3/2} + \frac{1}{2}x^2 \, dx \\
 &= 2\pi \left[ 5 \cdot \frac{x^{3/2}}{3/2} - \frac{5}{2} \cdot \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^{5/2}}{5/2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_{x=0}^{x=4} \\
 &= 2\pi \left[ \frac{10x^{3/2}}{3} - \frac{5x^2}{4} - \frac{2x^{5/2}}{5} + \frac{x^3}{6} \right]_{x=0}^{x=4} \\
 &= 2\pi \left[ \left( \frac{10 \cdot 4^{3/2}}{3} - \frac{5 \cdot 4^2}{4} - \frac{2 \cdot 4^{5/2}}{5} + \frac{4^3}{6} \right) - \left( \frac{10 \cdot 0^{3/2}}{3} - \frac{5 \cdot 0^2}{4} - \frac{2 \cdot 0^{5/2}}{5} + \frac{0^3}{6} \right) \right] \\
 &= 2\pi \left[ \frac{80}{3} - 20 - \frac{64}{5} + \frac{64}{6} - 0 + 0 + 0 - 0 \right] \\
 &= 2\pi \cdot \frac{68}{15} \\
 &= \frac{136}{15}\pi
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus the volume of the solid obtained by rotating the region bounded by  $y = \sqrt{x}$  and  $x = 2y$  about  $x = 5$  is  $\frac{136}{15}\pi$  units<sup>3</sup>.