

Calculus II, Section 6.3, #20
 Volumes by Cylindrical Shells

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.¹

$$x = 2y^2, \quad x = y^2 + 1; \quad \text{about } x = -2$$

In Figure 1, the curves are sketched along with the axis of revolution. We can find the points of intersection by solving

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

So, by the zero product property,

$$y = -1 \quad \text{or} \quad y = 1$$

substitution shows the x -coordinate to be $x = 2$.

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 Δy , so everything in our integral will have to be in terms of y . The functions $x = 2y^2$ and $x = y^2 + 1$ are already in terms of y , so we are ready to proceed. In Figure 2, the value of y for the representative rectangle just happens to be negative. The radius of the shell is $r_{\text{shell}} = (\text{larger } y\text{-value}) - (\text{smaller } y\text{-value})$ or $r_{\text{shell}} = y - (-2)$. If we happened to place the representative rectangle with a positive value of y , the radius of the shell is still $r_{\text{shell}} = (\text{larger } y\text{-value}) - (\text{smaller } y\text{-value})$ or $r_{\text{shell}} = y - (-2)$.

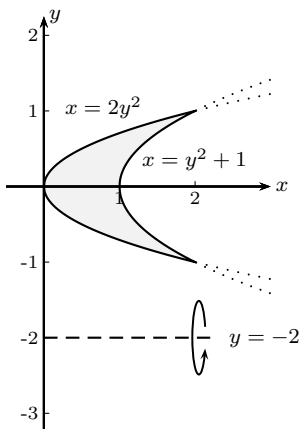


Figure 1: The curves and the region.

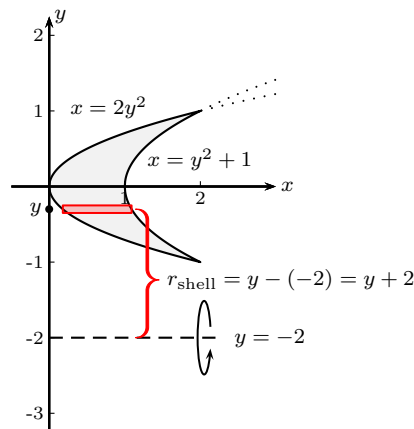


Figure 2: The region with a representative rectangle.

In Figure 3, we've sketched the shell generated by revolving the representative rectangle about $y = -2$. 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

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

¹Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 454, #20.

Calculus II
 Volumes by Cylindrical Shells

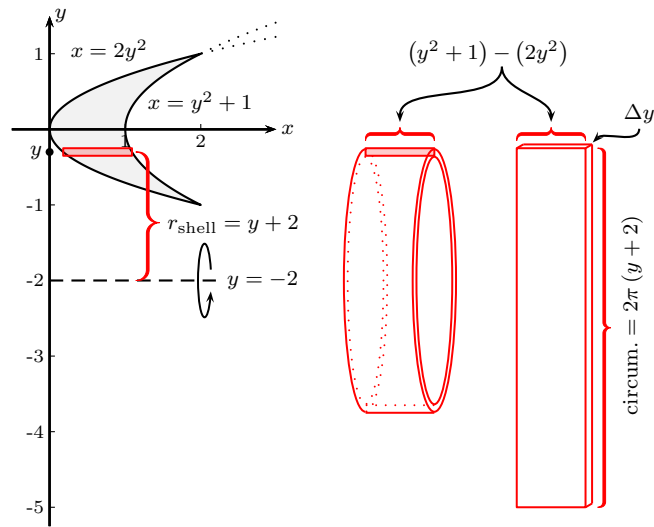


Figure 3: The shell corresponding to the representative rectangle. The length of the flattened shell is not drawn to scale.

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

$$= (2\pi(y + 2))((y^2 + 1) - (2y^2))(\Delta x)$$

We create shells from $y = -1$ to $y = 1$, so the volume, V , of the solid of revolution is given by

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \int_{y=-1}^{y=1} 2\pi(y + 2)((y^2 + 1) - (2y^2)) \, dy \\ &= 2\pi \int_{y=-1}^{y=1} (y + 2)(-y^2 + 1) \, dy \\ &= 2\pi \int_{y=-1}^{y=1} -y^3 + y - 2y^2 + 2 \, dy \\ &= 2\pi \int_{y=-1}^{y=1} -y^3 - 2y^2 + y + 2 \, dy \\ &= 2\pi \left[-\frac{y^4}{4} - 2 \cdot \frac{y^3}{3} - y^2 + 2y \right]_{y=-1}^{y=1} \\ &= 2\pi \left[\left(-\frac{1^4}{4} - \frac{2 \cdot 1^3}{3} - 1^2 + 2 \cdot 1 \right) - \left(-\frac{(-1)^4}{4} - \frac{2 \cdot (-1)^3}{3} - (-1)^2 + 2(-1) \right) \right] \\ &= 2\pi \left[-\frac{1}{4} - \frac{2}{3} - 1 + 2 + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{2}{3} + 1 + 2 \right] \\ &= 2\pi \cdot \frac{8}{3} \\ &= \frac{16}{3}\pi \end{aligned}$$

Thus the volume of the solid obtained by rotating the region bounded by $x = 2y^2$ and $x = y^2 + 1$ about $y = -2$ is $\frac{16}{3}\pi$ units³.