

### 15.3 polar coordinate integrals

(5)

Before we move on from double integrals, one useful fact remains which applies to triple integrals as well.

Consider an integrand which factors into a product of the independent variables, with constant limits of integration.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^b \int_c^d \underbrace{f(x,y)}_{= F(x) G(y)} dy dx &= \int_a^b \int_c^d \underbrace{F(x) G(y)}_{\text{ind. of } y!} dy dx \\ &= \int_a^b \underbrace{F(x)}_{\text{constant!}} \int_c^d G(y) dy dx \end{aligned}$$

$$= \left( \int_c^d G(y) dy \right) \left( \int_a^b F(x) dx \right)$$

The integral of a "factorizable integrand" with constant limits of integration factors into the separate integrals of the factor functions.

example

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \int_0^a (r^2 \cos^2 \theta) r dr d\theta = \underbrace{\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos^2 \theta d\theta}_{\text{Maple}} \underbrace{\int_0^a r^3 dr}_{\text{easy}}$$

This often occurs with rotational symmetry or in cylindrical & spherical symmetry in 3 dimensions.