

Honors HW5 (due 4 March)

In HW3 you considered **surface area** of solids of revolution.

From the text, Section 2.4, p. 279, the surface area of a solid of revolution formed by rotating the curve $f(x)$ above $[a, b]$ around the x -axis is given by

$$\text{SurfaceArea} = 2\pi \int_a^b f(x) \sqrt{1 + (f'(x))^2} dx.$$

In this project, you will look at “Gabriel’s horn” which is a surface defined by rotating a curve around the x -axis. This surface is interesting because it has finite volume but infinite surface area (so you can fill up its volume with paint, but you cannot paint it itself).

- 1.) Use the washer method to find the volume of the surface bounded by the curves $\frac{1}{x}$, $y = 0$, and $x = 1$ (note: this will have an infinite domain). You should arrive at a finite volume.
- 2.) Use the surface area formula to **write down the integral** you would compute to find the surface area of Gabriel’s horn.
- 3.) Plot the curves $y = \frac{1}{x}$ and $y = \frac{1}{x} \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^4}}$ in Desmos (or your favorite plotting utility). Which curve is on “top” over the interval $[1, \infty)$?
- 4.) You should have found in 3.) that $\frac{1}{x} \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^4}} > \frac{1}{x}$. Using this fact and the general idea that if $f(x) \geq g(x)$, then $\int f(x) dx \geq \int g(x) dx$ (“more area”), conclude that the integral for surface area is greater than an integral which results in ∞ . This proves the surface area of Gabriel’s horn is infinite.