

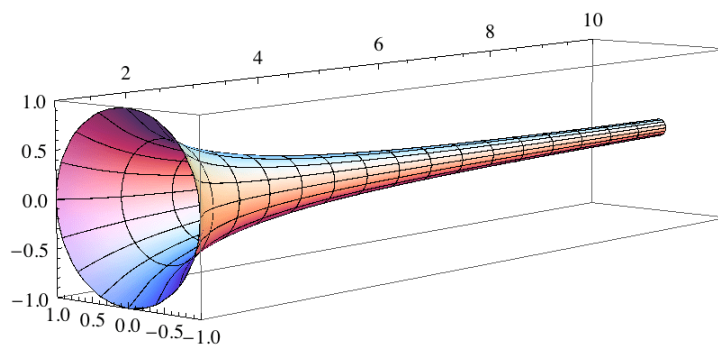
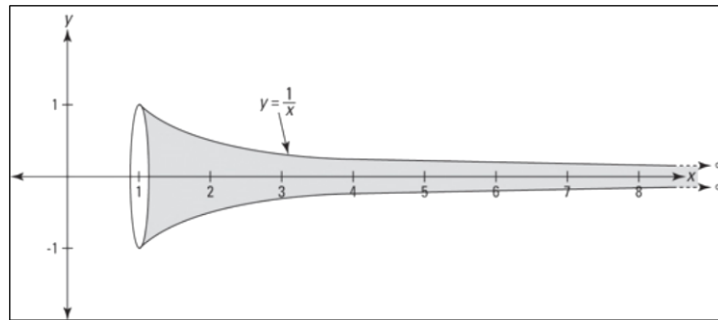
The archangel Gabriel plays a horn:



which mathematicians like to represent by:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$

(for x from 1 to a where a is the length of the horn minus 1), rotated around the x -axis:



It surrounds a volume of:

$$V(a) = \int_1^a \frac{\pi}{x^2} dx = \left[\frac{-\pi}{x} \right]_1^a = \frac{-\pi}{a} - \frac{-\pi}{1} = \pi \left(1 - \frac{1}{a} \right)$$

and it has a surface area equal to:

$$A(a) = 2\pi \int_1^a \frac{1}{x} \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^4}} dx > 2\pi \int_1^a \frac{1}{x} dx = 2\pi \ln a$$

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel%27s_Horn, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solid_of_revolution, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surface_of_revolution)

The longer the horn gets, it approaches: $V = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} V(a) = \pi$

and: $A = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} A(a) = \infty$

so Gabriel's mathematical horn of infinite length has an infinite surface area, but a finite volume!

This is also called the painter's paradox. Because $V = \pi$ I would rather call it the π nter's π radox... A finite amount of π nt would fully π nt the infinite surface area, whilst the same amount of π nt would still remain, not touching the horn's surface.

But mathematically, the thickness of the layer of πr would be nought and then the total volume of the layer would be $0 \times \infty$, which like $\frac{0}{0}$ can have any value, so it may well be diddly squat.

Physically, the thickness of the πr layer would be at least 1 atom, and as the horn gets longer, its diameter will become smaller, so the πr ing will just stop at a given length. Moreover, the cosmos does not contain enough matter for an infinitely long horn. Physical infinity is a myth.

I presume you find it not strange at all that the surface area under a curve can be finite whilst the length of the curve is infinite, like for example:

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-x} dx = 1 \text{ and the Gaussian integral: } \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{\pi}$$

It is just a shape with a finite surface and an infinite circumference, and in the same way the horn's volume can be finite whilst both its length and surface area are infinite.

Exact surface area:

on <https://www.integral-calculator.com/> we find (after clicking the "Simplify" button):

$$\frac{A(a)}{2\pi} = \int_1^a \frac{1}{x} \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^4}} dx = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{\sqrt{a^4+1+a^2}}{a^2}\right) - \ln\left(\frac{\sqrt{a^4+1-a^2}}{a^2}\right) - \ln(\sqrt{2}+1) + \ln(\sqrt{2}-1)}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{a^4+1}}{2a^2} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Let's simplify this even further (please note: simplification is not necessarily a simple process...).

It equals:
$$\frac{A(a)}{2\pi} = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2} - \frac{1}{4}\ln\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}+1}{\sqrt{2}-1}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{a^4}} + \frac{1}{4}\ln\left(\frac{\sqrt{a^4+1+a^2}}{\sqrt{a^4+1-a^2}}\right)$$

Now:
$$\frac{\sqrt{a^4+1+a^2}}{\sqrt{a^4+1-a^2}} = \frac{\sqrt{a^4+1+a^2}}{\sqrt{a^4+1-a^2}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{a^4+1+a^2}}{\sqrt{a^4+1+a^2}} = \frac{(\sqrt{a^4+1+a^2})^2}{\sqrt{a^4+1}^2 - (a^2)^2} = \frac{(\sqrt{a^4+1+a^2})^2}{a^4+1-a^4} = (\sqrt{a^4+1} + a^2)^2$$

and:
$$\frac{\sqrt{2}+1}{\sqrt{2}-1} = \frac{\sqrt{2}+1}{\sqrt{2}-1} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}+1}{\sqrt{2}+1} = \frac{\sqrt{2}^2+2\sqrt{2}+1}{\sqrt{2}^2-1^2} = 3 + 2\sqrt{2}$$

hence:
$$\frac{A(a)}{2\pi} = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2} - \frac{1}{4}\ln(3 + 2\sqrt{2}) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{a^4}} + \frac{1}{4}\ln(\sqrt{a^4+1} + a^2)^2$$

which equals:
$$\frac{A(a)}{2\pi} = \ln e^{\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2}} - \ln \sqrt[4]{3 + 2\sqrt{2}} - \ln e^{\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{a^4}}} + \ln \sqrt{a^2 + \sqrt{a^4+1}}$$

therefore:
$$A(a) = 2\pi \ln \frac{e^{\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{1+\frac{1}{a^4}})} \cdot \sqrt{a^2 + \sqrt{a^4+1}}}{\sqrt[4]{3+2\sqrt{2}}} \quad \text{😡}$$

For large values of a this can be approximated

as:
$$A(a \rightarrow \infty) \approx 2\pi \ln \frac{e^{\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{1})} \cdot \sqrt{2a^2}}{\sqrt[4]{3+2\sqrt{2}}} = 2\pi \ln \frac{e^{\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{2}-1)} \cdot \sqrt{2} \cdot a}{\sqrt[4]{3+2\sqrt{2}}} \approx 2\pi \ln(1.1196 \cdot a)$$

which is indeed greater than the aforementioned $2\pi \ln a$.

