Subject: Re: Compute area between curves
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Tue, 14 Oct 2008 04:42:50 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

James Kuyper <jameskuyper@verizon.net> writes:
> A more general approach would would work regardless of the shapes of
> the two curves. Just connect the two curves to create a single
> combined curve that starts by listing all the points on one curve in
> clockwise order, then continues by listing all of the points of the
> other curve in counter-clockwise order. As a result, the combined
> curve encloses the area that lies between the two curves. Then use
> POLY_AREA to calculates the area enclosed by the combined curve.
...

James, I had that thought as well, but I believe POLY_AREA will not work as expected. When a polygon's edges self-intersect, then the polygon is no longer "simple." In that case, the POLY_AREA method will compute the *signed* total area. Polygonal segments where the path traverses clockwise will contribute in a positive sense, and counter-clockwise in the negative sense. The result will not be the 'total' area as we commonly expect, but some kind of non-intuitive 'net' area.

I still think the original questioner doesn't really know what he needs yet.

Craig

--
---------- ----------
Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: cbmarkwardt+usenet@gmail.com
---------- ----------