How do we calculate the area of some irregular shape?

For example, how do we calculate the area under the graph of f on [a,b]?



Approach:

We approximate the area using rectangles.



Left-hand estimate:

Let the height of each rectangle be given by the value of the function at the left endpoint of the interval.



Left-hand estimate:

<u>Right-hand estimate:</u>

Let the height of each rectangle be given by the value of the function at the right endpoint of the interval.



<u>Right-hand estimate:</u>

$$Area \approx f(x_1)\Delta x + f(x_2)\Delta x + f(x_3)\Delta x + f(x_4)\Delta x$$
$$\approx (f(x_1) + f(x_2) + f(x_3) + f(x_4))\Delta x$$
$$\approx \sum_{i=1}^{4} f(x_i)\Delta x$$
Riemann Sum

Midpoint estimate:

Let the height of each rectangle be given by the value of the function at the midpoint of the interval.



Midpoint estimate:

$$Area \approx f(x_1^*)\Delta x + f(x_2^*)\Delta x + f(x_3^*)\Delta x + f(x_4^*)\Delta x$$
$$\approx (f(x_1^*) + f(x_2^*) + f(x_3^*) + f(x_4^*))\Delta x$$
$$\approx \sum_{i=1}^4 f(x_i^*)\Delta x$$
Riemann Sum

How can we improve our estimation? Increase the number of rectangles!!!



How do we make it exact?

Riemann Sums and the Definite Integral

Definition:

The **definite** integral of a function f on the interval from **a** to **b** is defined as a limit of the Riemann sum

$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx = \lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} f(x_{i}^{*})\Delta x$$

where x_i^* is some sample point in the interval $[x_{i-1}, x_i]$ and $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n}$.

Interpretation:

If $f \ge 0$, then the definite integral is the area under the curve y = f(x) from a to b.



Example:

Estimate the value of $\int_0^1 e^{-x^2} dx$ using two rectangles and left-endpoints.



Example:

Estimate the value of $\int_0^1 e^{-x^2} dx$ using two rectangles and right-endpoints.



Example:

Estimate the value of $\int_0^1 e^{-x^2} dx$ using two rectangles and midpoints.



Interpretation:

If *f* is both positive and negative, then the definite integral represents the NET or SIGNED area, i.e. the area above the x-axis and below the graph of f minus the area below the x-axis and above f



Definite Integrals and Area

Example:

Evaluate the following integrals by interpreting each in terms of area.

(a)
$$\int_{0}^{1} \sqrt{1-x^2} dx$$
 (b) $\int_{0}^{3} (x-1) dx$

(c)
$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin x \, dx$$

Assume that f(x) and g(x) are continuous functions and a, b, and c are real numbers such that a<b.

(1)
$$\int_{a}^{a} f(x) dx = 0$$

(2) $\int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx = -\int_{b}^{a} f(x) dx$
(3) $\int_{a}^{b} c f(x) dx = c \int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx$

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Assume that f(x) and g(x) are continuous functions and a, b, and c are real numbers such that a<b.

$$(4) \int_{a}^{b} (f(x) \pm g(x)) dx = \int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx \pm \int_{a}^{b} g(x) dx$$

(5) $\int_{a}^{b} c dx = c(b-a)$

(6) Suppose f(x) is continuous on the interval from a to b and that $a \le c \le b$.



(7) Suppose f(x) is continuous on the interval from a to b and that $m \le f(x) \le M$.

