

Reiman Sums and the Definite Integral

Useful Formulae: (pg. 383)

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

$$1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3 = \sum_{i=1}^n i^3 = \left[\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \right]^2$$

$$\underbrace{1+1+1+\dots+1}_n = \sum_{i=1}^n 1 = n(1) = n$$

Example: Evaluate the Riemann sum for $f(x) = 4x$, $0 \leq x \leq 2$ with four

subintervals, taking the sample points to be

- (a) left endpoints
- (b) right endpoints

Solution:

“graph”

(a) The width of each subinterval is $\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$

$$L_4 = \frac{1}{2} f(0) + \frac{1}{2} f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2} f(1) + \frac{1}{2} f\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)$$

$$L_4 = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 4 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 6$$

$$L_4 = 0 + 1 + 2 + 3 = 6$$

(b) The width of each subinterval is $\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$

$$L_4 = \frac{1}{2}f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2}f(1) + \frac{1}{2}f\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2}f(2)$$

$$L_4 = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 4 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 6 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 8$$

$$L_4 = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10$$

In Calculus 1500 you used the definition of a derivative,

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$
 to find derivatives of various functions. Some of

these were fairly time consuming. Similarly, we use the definition of a definite integral to find definite integrals. This process is also time consuming!

Definition:

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i^*) \Delta x$$

Example: Use the definition of a definite integral to find $\int_0^2 4x dx$

Solution: (Using left endpoints) “sketch”

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_0^2 4x dx &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i^*) \Delta x && \text{Interval} && \text{L.E.} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n 4 \left(0 + \frac{2(i-1)}{n} \right) \frac{2}{n} && 1 && 0 \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{16}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (i-1) && 2 && \frac{2}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{16}{n^2} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n i - \sum_{i=1}^n 1 \right] && 3 && \frac{4}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{16}{n^2} \left[\frac{n(n+1)}{2} - n \right] && i && \frac{2(i-1)}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{16}{n^2} \left[\frac{n^2 - n}{2} \right] && \therefore \Delta x = \frac{2}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{8n^2 - 8n}{n^2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(8 - \frac{8}{n} \right) = 8 && \text{and } x_i^* = 0 + \frac{2(i-1)}{n}
 \end{aligned}$$

If we had used the right endpoints we would obtain the same results as illustrated below.

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^2 4x \, dx &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i^*) \Delta x && \text{Interval} && \text{R.E.} \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n 4 \left(0 + \frac{2i}{n} \right) \frac{2}{n} && 1 && \frac{2}{n} \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{16}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (i) && 2 && \frac{4}{n} \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{16}{n^2} \left[\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \right] && 3 && \frac{6}{n} \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{8}{n^2} \cdot (n^2 + n) && i && \frac{2i}{n} \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{8n^2 + 8n}{n^2} && \therefore \Delta x = \frac{2}{n} \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(8 + \frac{8}{n} \right) = 8 && \text{and } x_i^* = 0 + \frac{2i}{n}
\end{aligned}$$

Let's change the starting point.

Example: Use the definition of a definite integral to find $\int_1^2 4x dx$

Solution: (Using right endpoints.)

“sketch”

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_1^2 4x dx &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i^*) \Delta x && \text{Interval} && \text{R.E.} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n 4\left(1 + \frac{i}{n}\right) \frac{1}{n} && 1 && 1 + \frac{1}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(1 + \frac{i}{n}\right) && 2 && 1 + \frac{2}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4}{n} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n 1 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n i \right] && 3 && 1 + \frac{3}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4}{n} \cdot \left(n + \left(\frac{1}{n} \right) \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \right) && i && 1 + \frac{i}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[4 + \frac{4n+4}{2n} \right] && \therefore \Delta x = \frac{1}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (4 + 2) = 6 && \text{and } x_i^* = 1 + \frac{i}{n}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let's change the function.

Example: Use the definition of a definite integral to find $\int_0^5 (25 - x^2) dx$

Solution: (Using right endpoints.)

“sketch”

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_0^5 (25 - x^2) dx &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i^*) \Delta x && \text{Interval} && \text{R.E.} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(25 - \left(\frac{5i}{n} \right)^2 \right) \frac{5}{n} && 1 && \frac{5}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n 25 - \frac{25}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n i^2 \right) && 2 && \frac{10}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{n} \left[25n - \frac{25}{n^2} \cdot \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} \right] && 3 && \frac{15}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[125 - \frac{125}{6} \cdot \frac{2n^3 + 3n^2 + 1n}{n^3} \right] && i && \frac{5i}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[125 - \frac{250}{6} - \frac{375}{6n} - \frac{125}{6n^2} \right] && && \therefore \Delta x = \frac{5}{n} \\
 &= 125 - \frac{250}{6} = \frac{250}{3} && \text{and } x_i^* = 0 + \frac{5i}{n} &&
 \end{aligned}$$

One last change.

Example: Use the definition of a definite integral to find $\int_2^5 (25 - x^2) dx$

Solution: (Using right endpoints.)
“sketch”

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_2^5 (25 - x^2) dx &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i^*) \Delta x & \therefore \Delta x = \frac{3}{n} \text{ and } x_i^* = 2 + \frac{3i}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(25 - \left(2 + \frac{3i}{n} \right)^2 \right) \frac{3}{n} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n 25 - \sum_{i=1}^n \left(4 + \frac{12i}{n} + \frac{9i^2}{n^2} \right) \right) \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{n} \left[25n - 4n - \frac{12}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n i - \frac{9}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n i^2 \right] \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{n} \left[21n - \frac{12}{n} \cdot \frac{n(n+1)}{2} - \frac{9}{n^2} \cdot \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} \right] \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[63 - \frac{18n+18}{n} - \frac{9}{2} \cdot \frac{2n^2+3n+1}{n^2} \right] \\
 &= 63 - 18 - 9 = 36
 \end{aligned}$$

Some questions that are used to test your knowledge of the definition of a definite integral, but not so time consuming, follow.

Example: Use the definition of a definite integral to state $\int_1^5 (x^3 - \ln x) dx$ as a limit of a Riemann sum.

Solution: One solution is:

The length of each subinterval is $\frac{5-1}{n} = \frac{4}{n}$

Using right endpoints, the i^{th} argument is: $1 + \frac{4i}{n}$

$$\therefore \int_1^5 (x^3 - \ln x) dx = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\left(1 + \frac{4i}{n} \right)^3 - \ln \left(1 + \frac{4i}{n} \right) \right] \frac{4}{n}$$

Example: Write $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{\pi}{n} + e^{\frac{2\pi}{n}} \right) \frac{\pi}{n}$ as a definite integral. Evaluate this definite integral.

Solution:

$$\Delta x = \frac{\pi}{n} \text{ and the right endpoint of } i^{\text{th}} \text{ subinterval is } 0 + \frac{\pi}{n}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{\pi}{n} + e^{\frac{2\pi}{n}} \right) \frac{\pi}{n} &= \int_0^\pi (x + e^{2x}) dx \\ &= \left. \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{e^{2x}}{2} \right|_0^\pi = \frac{\pi^2}{2} + \frac{e^{2\pi}}{2} - \left(0 + \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ &= \frac{e^{2\pi} + \pi^2 - 1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Example: (Variation of #68 pg. 393) Express $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{1 + \left(3 + \frac{2i}{n} \right)^2}$ as a definite integral.

Solution: One solution is:

$$\Delta x = \frac{2}{n} \text{ and the right endpoint of the } i^{\text{th}} \text{ subinterval is } 3 + \frac{2i}{n}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{1 + \left(3 + \frac{2i}{n} \right)^2} = \int_3^5 \frac{1}{1 + x^2} dx$$