

CHAPTER 1

Definite Integrals

Integrals are a fundamental concept in calculus, which are used to calculate areas, volumes, and many other things. A definite integral calculates the net area between the function and the x-axis over a given interval.

1.1 Definition

The definite integral of a function f(x) over an interval [a,b] is defined as the limit of a Riemann sum:

$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx = \lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} f(x_{i}^{*}) \Delta x$$
 (1.1)

where x_i^* is a sample point in the i^{th} subinterval of a partition of [a,b], $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n}$ is the width of each subinterval, and the limit is taken as the number of subintervals n approaches infinity.



APPENDIX A

Answers to Exercises