

# Math 3500 Assignment #9 Solutions

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1. Let  $f$  be a bounded function on  $[a, b]$ , let  $\mathcal{P}$  denote the set of all partitions of  $[a, b]$ , and let  $P \in \mathcal{P}$  be an arbitrary partition of  $[a, b]$ .

(a) Prove that  $U(f) \geq L(f, P)$ , where  $U(f) = \inf\{U(f, P) | P \in \mathcal{P}\}$ .

We know that for any partition  $P'$ ,  $L(f, P) \leq U(f, P')$ . Thus,  $L(f, P)$  is a lower bound for  $\{U(f, P) : P \in \mathcal{P}\}$ . Since  $U(f)$  is the *greatest* lower bound, we have  $U(f) \geq L(f, P)$ .

(b) Prove that  $U(f) \geq L(f)$ , where  $L(f) = \sup\{L(f, P) | P \in \mathcal{P}\}$ .

Since the partition  $P$  in part (a) was arbitrary, it follows that  $U(f)$  is an upper bound for  $\{L(f, P) : P \in \mathcal{P}\}$ . Since  $L(f)$  is the *least* upper bound, we have  $L(f) \leq U(f)$ .

2. Let  $f$  be a bounded function on  $[a, b]$ .

(a) Prove that  $f$  is integrable on  $[a, b]$  if and only if there exists a sequence of partitions  $(P_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  satisfying

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [U(f, P_n) - L(f, P_n)] = 0.$$

If  $f$  integrable, then for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , taking  $\epsilon = 1/n$  there must exist a partition  $P_n$  such that  $0 \leq U(f, P_n) - L(f, P_n) < 1/n$ . Since  $1/n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , it follows that  $U(f, P_n) - L(f, P_n) \rightarrow 0$  as well.

Conversely, suppose there exists a sequence of partitions  $(P_n)$  such that  $a_n = U(f, P_n) - L(f, P_n) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Then for any  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that if  $n \geq N$ , then  $a_n < \epsilon$ , and thus for any partition  $P_n$  with  $n \geq N$ , we have  $U(f, P_n) - L(f, P_n) < \epsilon$ , so  $f$  must be integrable.

- (b) For each  $n$ , let  $P_n$  denote the uniform partition of  $[0, 1]$  into  $n$  equal subintervals of length  $1/n$ , and let  $f(x) = x$ . Find formulas for  $U(f, P_n)$  and  $L(f, P_n)$  in terms of  $n$ .

Our partition is given by  $P_n = \{0, \frac{1}{n}, \frac{2}{n}, \dots, \frac{n}{n} = 1\}$ . Since  $f$  is increasing on  $[0, 1]$ , on each subinterval  $[(i-1)/n, i/n]$  we have  $m_i = (i-1)/n$  and  $M_i = i/n$ . It follows that

$$L(f, P_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{i-1}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{n} = \frac{1}{n^2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n i - \sum_{i=1}^n 1 \right) = \frac{1}{n^2} \left( \frac{n(n+1)}{2} - n \right) = \frac{n-1}{2n},$$

and

$$U(f, P_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{i}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{n} = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n+1}{2n}.$$

- (c) Use the results from (a) and (b) to prove that  $f(x) = x$  is integrable on  $[0, 1]$ .

For each  $n$  we have that  $U(f, P_n) - L(f, P_n) = \frac{n+1}{2n} - \frac{n-1}{2n} = \frac{1}{n}$ . Thus, for any  $\epsilon > 0$  we can choose  $n$  such that  $1/n < \epsilon$ , and the result follows.

3. Let  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be bounded and increasing. Show that  $f$  is integrable on  $[a, b]$ .

Let  $P_n = \left\{ a, a + \frac{b-a}{n}, a + \frac{2(b-a)}{n}, \dots, a + \frac{n(b-a)}{n} = b \right\}$  denote the uniform partition of  $[a, b]$  into  $n$  subintervals of length  $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n}$ . Since  $f$  is increasing on  $[a, b]$ , for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$  we have  $m_i = f(x_{i-1})$  and  $M_i = f(x_i)$ , where  $x_i = a + \frac{i(b-a)}{n}$ . Given  $\epsilon > 0$ , choose  $n$  sufficiently large that  $(f(b) - f(a)) \frac{(b-a)}{n} < \epsilon$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} U(f, P_n) - L(f, P_n) &= \sum_{i=1}^n (M_i - m_i) \Delta x \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})) \left( \frac{b-a}{n} \right) \\ &= (f(b) - f(a)) \frac{(b-a)}{n} \quad (\text{telescoping sum}) \\ &< \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

4. Define the function  $H(x) = \int_1^x \frac{1}{t} dt$ , where  $x > 0$ .

(a) What is the value of  $H(1)$ ? What is  $H'(x)$  for any  $x > 0$ ?

By definition,  $H(1) = \int_1^1 \frac{1}{t} dt = 0$ . By the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus,  $H'(x) = 1/x$  for all  $x > 0$ .

(b) Show that if  $0 < x < y$ , then  $H(x) < H(y)$ ; that is, that  $H$  is strictly increasing on  $(0, \infty)$ .

Since  $H'(x) = 1/x > 0$  on  $(0, \infty)$ , the result follows from the Mean Value Theorem:  $H(y) - H(x) = \frac{1}{c}(y - x) > 0$  for some  $c \in (x, y)$ .

(c) Show that  $H(cx) = H(c) + H(x)$  for any  $c > 0$ .

Let  $g(x) = H(cx)$ . Then by the Chain Rule we have

$$g'(x) = H'(cx) \cdot c = \frac{1}{cx} \cdot c = \frac{1}{x} = H'(x).$$

Since  $g'(x) = H'(x)$  we must have  $g(x) = H(x) + k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{R}$ , for all  $x > 0$ . Setting  $x = 1$ , we have  $k = g(1) - H(1) = H(c)$ , since  $H(1) = 0$ . Thus,  $H(cx) = H(x) + H(c)$ .

(d) Use a similar argument to show that  $H(x^a) = aH(x)$ .

If we let  $f(x) = H(x^a)$ , then

$$f'(x) = H'(x^a)(ax^{a-1}) = \frac{ax^{a-1}}{x^a} = \frac{a}{x} = aH'(x).$$

Thus, we must have  $f(x) = aH(x) + k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{R}$ , for all  $x > 0$ . Since  $H(1) = 0$ , we find  $k = f(1) - aH(1) = H(1^a) = 0$ , and the result follows.

Note: One often writes the function  $H(x)$  as  $\ln(x)$ , and refers to this function as the natural logarithm. Parts (c) and (d) then tell us that  $\ln(xy) = \ln x + \ln y$  and  $\ln(x^y) = y \ln x$ . Since  $H$  is strictly increasing on  $(0, \infty)$ , it is one-to-one and therefore has a well-defined inverse function, which is usually denoted by  $H^{-1}(x) = e^x$ .

5. (**Bonus**) Define a bounded function  $f$  on  $[0, 1]$  by  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x = 1/n \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ .

Prove that  $f$  is integrable on  $[0, 1]$ .

Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be given and choose  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $1/N < \epsilon/2$ . Since  $f$  has finitely many discontinuities on  $[1/n, 1]$ , it is integrable on  $[1/N, 1]$ , and thus there exists

a partition  $P'$  of  $[1/N, 1]$  with  $U(f, P') - L(f, P') < \epsilon/2$ . On  $[0, 1/N]$  we take the partition  $P'' = \{0, 1/N\}$ . Then  $U(f, P'') = (1) \left( \frac{1}{N} - 0 \right) = \frac{1}{N}$ , and  $L(f, P'') = 0$ , since  $0 \leq f(x) \leq 1$  on  $[0, 1/N]$ . It follows that  $U(f, P'') - L(f, P'') = 1/N < \epsilon/2$ . Therefore, taking the partition  $P = P' \cup P''$  of  $[0, 1]$ , we have  $U(f, P) - L(f, P) < \epsilon/2 + \epsilon/2 = \epsilon$ , so  $f$  is integrable.