

Introduction

Many interesting and useful functions can be defined as the area under some other function. There is a very nice relationship between the original function and the area function. We will explore that relationship in this worksheet.

Area Functions

1a Define $A(x)$ to be the area bounded by the x -axis and the function $f(x) = 3$ between the y -axis and the vertical line at x . (See the diagram.)

$$A(1) = 1 \cdot 3 = 3$$

$$A(2) = 2 \cdot 3 = 6$$

$$A(3) = 3 \cdot 3 = 9$$

$$A(4) = 4 \cdot 3 = 12$$

and, in general,

$$A(x) = 3x \quad \text{(a formula)}$$

Shade the region whose area is $A(3) - A(1)$.

1b Define $B(x)$ to be the area bounded by the x -axis and the function $g(x) = 1 + x$ between the y -axis and the vertical line at x . (See the diagram.)

$$B(1) = 1 \cdot \frac{1+2}{2} = \frac{3}{2} \quad \text{Trap} \quad \Delta + \square \quad \frac{1}{2} + 1 = \frac{3}{2} \quad B(2) = 2 \cdot \frac{1+3}{2} = 4 \quad \frac{2 \cdot 2}{2} + 2 = 4$$

$$B(3) = 3 \cdot \frac{1+4}{2} = \frac{15}{2} = 7.5 \quad \frac{3 \cdot 3}{2} + 3 \quad B(4) = 4 \cdot \frac{1+5}{2} = 12 \quad \frac{4 \cdot 4}{2} + 4$$

and, in general,

$$B(x) = \frac{x^2}{2} + x \quad \text{or} \quad x \left(\frac{1+x}{2} \right) \quad \text{(a formula)}$$

(Hint: think triangle + rectangle) or trapezoid

Shade the region whose area is $B(3) - B(1)$.

1c Define $C(x)$ to be the area bounded by the x -axis and the function $h(x) = 6 - x$ between the y -axis and the vertical line at x . (See the diagram.)

$$C(1) = 1 \cdot \frac{5+6}{2} = \frac{11}{2} \quad \text{Trap} \quad \Delta + \square \quad \frac{2 \cdot 2}{2} + 8$$

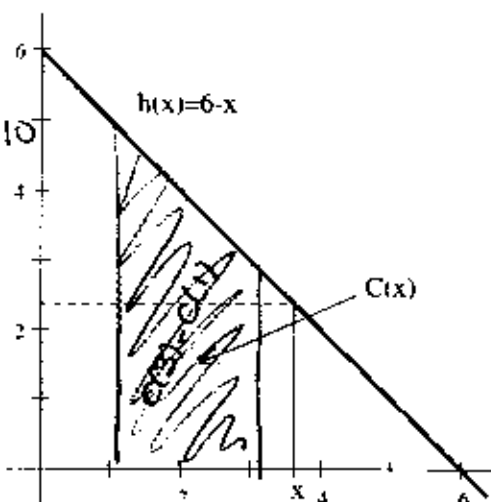
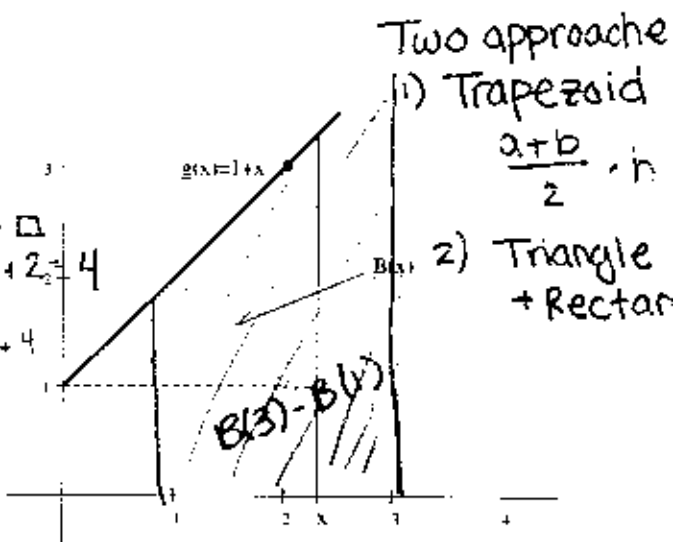
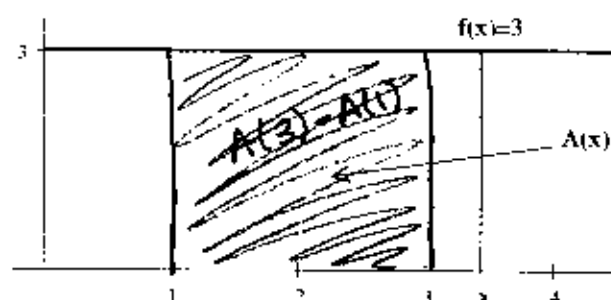
$$C(3) = 3 \cdot \frac{6+3}{2} = \frac{27}{2} \quad \frac{3 \cdot 3}{2} + 9 = \frac{27}{2} \quad C(4) = 4 \cdot \frac{6+2}{2} = 16 \quad \frac{4 \cdot 4}{2} + 8$$

and, in general,

$$C(x) = \frac{x^2}{2} + (6-x)x = 6x - \frac{x^2}{2} \quad \text{(a formula)}$$

or $x \left(\frac{6+6-x}{2} \right)$

Shade the region whose area is $C(3) - C(1)$.



functions even though $f(x)$ is constant, $g(x)$ is increasing and $h(x)$ is decreasing. (There is a difficulty with $C(x)$ when x gets larger than 6. We'll deal with that later.)

1d Now calculate the derivatives of the area functions from problems 1, 2 and 3 above:

$$A'(x) = \underline{3} \quad B'(x) = \underline{1+x} \quad C'(x) = \underline{6-x}$$

How is $A'(x)$ related to $f(x)$ in problem 1?

How is $B'(x)$ related to $g(x)$ in problem 2?

How is $C'(x)$ related to $h(x)$ in problem 3?

} all the same

The Natural Logarithm

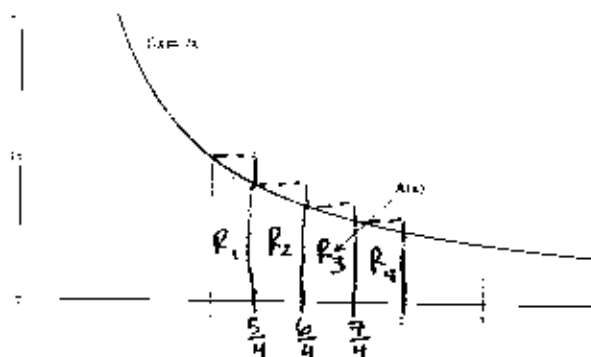
2a Define $A(x)$ to be the area bounded by the x -axis and the function $f(x) = 1/x$ between the line $x = 1$ and the vertical line at x . (See the diagram.)

Based on your work in problem 1,

$$A'(x) = \underline{\frac{1}{x}}$$

$$\text{Compute } A(1) = \underline{0}$$

$$\text{Compute } A(x) = \underline{\ln(x)}$$



2b So the area under $f(x) = 1/x$ between $x = 1$ and $x = 2$ is equal to $\ln(2)$. Outline this area on the graph. We'll use estimates of this area to compute approximations of $\ln(2)$.

2c Slice the area up into 4 pieces by drawing 3 evenly spaced vertical lines from the x -axis up to the curve.

2d Using the left side of each slice as the height, sketch in 4 rectangles on your graph. What are the x -coordinates of the sides of the rectangles? Plug these x -coordinates into $f(x) = 1/x$ to compute the heights of the rectangles. Find the areas of the 4 rectangles and add them up. This is your first approximation of the area under the curve, and $\ln(2)$. Is it an over-estimate or an under-estimate?

Overestimate as rectangles above the curve

$$\ln(2) \approx 1 \cdot \frac{1}{4} + \frac{4}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{4} + \frac{4}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{4} + \frac{4}{7} \cdot \frac{1}{4} = \frac{319}{420} \approx 0.7595$$

area of these rectangles and add them up. This is your second approximation of the area under the curve, and $\ln(2)$. Is it an over-estimate or an under-estimate?

Right hand approx - underestimate

$$\begin{aligned}\ln(2) &\approx \frac{4}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{4} + \frac{4}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{4} + \frac{4}{7} \cdot \frac{1}{4} + \frac{4}{8} \cdot \frac{1}{4} \\ &= \frac{533}{840} \approx 0.6345\end{aligned}$$

2f Take the average of your two estimates to get a new estimate of $\ln(2)$. How does it compare with the value given by your calculator?

$$\frac{\frac{319}{420} + \frac{533}{840}}{2} = \frac{1171}{1680} \approx 0.697$$

2g Use the midpoint of each slice to determine the height and sketch in the resulting 4 rectangles. Use them to approximate $\ln(2)$. Can you tell if you are getting an over-estimate or an under-estimate? Which of your four estimates gives you the closest answer to the value given by your calculator?

overestimate

$$\ln(2) \approx \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{8}{9} + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{8}{11} + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{8}{13} + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{8}{15} = \frac{4448}{6435} \approx 0.69121$$

The midpt is closest since $\ln(2) \approx 0.693147$