AP Calculus AB Notes

Daniel Hart

2024 - 2025

Unit 1. Limits

- A Limit is the intended height of a graph, as x gets very close to a value.
- A Removable discontinuity is a hole discontinuity, whilst a Non-removable discontinuity are jumps and infinite discontinuities
- When solving for limits plug in c for x and always write $\frac{0}{0}$ when the limit after you plug x in is $\frac{0}{0}$

To prove
$$\lim_{x\to c} f(x)$$
 by Squeeze theorem:

- 1. Prove that: f(x) is between functions g(x) and h(x) this is written as $g(x) \le f(x) \le h(x)$
- 2. Prove that:

$$\lim_{x \to c} g(x) = \lim_{x \to c} h(x)$$

- 3. Write that:
 - \therefore By Squeeze Theorem $\lim_{x\to c} f(x) =$ the result of the limits got in the second step

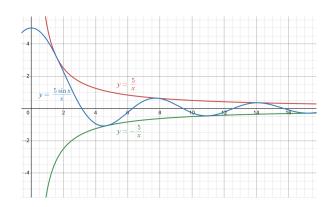


Figure 1: Squeeze Theorem Graph

- When proving a value is in a function by IVT (Intermediate Value Theorem)
 - 1. Prove that: f(x) is continuous over a range such as [a, b]
 - 2. Write each value f(a) = c and f(b) = d
 - 3. Prove that: f(a) < value < f(b)
 - 4. Write that : by IVT $\exists k \text{ s.t. } f(k) = \text{value}$

Unit 2. Derivatives

- Tangent lines are lines that touch a curve at one point
- The definitions of a Derivative are

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$
$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x-h)}{2h}$$
$$f'(a) = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

- A derivative of a function f(x) can be written as f'(x), $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}f(x)$, or $\frac{\mathrm{d}f}{\mathrm{d}x}$
- If written as an equation (y = ...) then the derivative can be written as y' or $\frac{dy}{dx}$
- To find the tangent lines of a function
 - 1. Find f'(x)
 - 2. Write in point slope form: $y y_1 = f'(x_1)(x x_1)$
- To find the normal lines of a function
 - 1. Find f'(x) or a tangent line
 - 2. Write in point slope form: $y y_1 = -\frac{1}{f'(x_1)}(x x_1)$
- To find a horizontal tangent line solve for x when f'(x) = 0
- A function is differentiable when differentiable at every point
- A function is differentiable at a point when the limit exists
- Derivative Rules
 - Derivative of a Constant function: if c is a constant, then $\frac{d}{dx}c = 0$
 - Power Rule: $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}ax^b = abx^{b-1}$
 - Product Rule: $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}uv = uv' + vu'$
 - Quotient Rule: $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\frac{u}{v} = \frac{vu' uv'}{v^2}$
 - Log Rule: $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\log_b x = \frac{1}{x\ln b}$
 - Exponential Rule: $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}a^x = a^x \ln a$
 - Trig Derivatives

$$\frac{d}{dx}\sin x = \cos x \qquad \qquad \frac{d}{dx}\cos x = -\sin x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\sec x = \sec x \tan x \qquad \frac{d}{dx}\csc x = -\csc x \cot x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\tan x = \sec^2 x \qquad \qquad \frac{d}{dx}\cot x = \csc^2 x$$

Unit 3. Composite, Inverse, and Implicit Derivatives

- Chain rule says $(f \circ g)'(x) = f'(g(x))g'(x)$
- To find the derivative using implicit differentiation:
 - 1. Differentiate both sides in Leibniz notation and remember that y is a function of x so you need to apply the chain rule
 - 2. If necessary distribute into separate terms
 - 3. Move all terms with $\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x}$ to one side of the equation and all other terms to the other side
- The derivative of an inverse function is $\frac{1}{f'(f^{-1}(x))}$
- Inverse Trig Derivatives

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\arcsin x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \qquad \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\arccos x = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\arctan x = \frac{1}{1+x^2} \qquad \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\arccos x = \frac{-1}{1+x^2}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\arccos x = \frac{1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}} \qquad \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\arccos x = \frac{-1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}}$$

Unit 4. Analytical Applications of differentiation

- A critical point on a graph is when f'=0 but not including an endpoint
- To find the Absolute max and min plug in for both endpoints, and all critical points
- To find local minimums and maximums either graph f''s sign or find the sign of f''
- To find a slope on a function interval by MVT (Mean Value Theorem):
 - 1. Prove f is continuous [a, b]
 - 2. Prove f is differentiable (a, b)
 - 3. Find the average rate of change of the interval [a, b]:

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$$

4. Write : by MVT $\exists c \in (a,b)$ s.t. f'(c) = the average rate of change

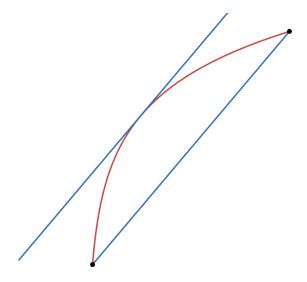


Figure 2: MVT graph

Unit 5. Contextual Applications of Differentiations

- Remember Geometric Equations for volume and surface area for 3D shapes
- And area and perimeter for 2D shapes see Figure 3

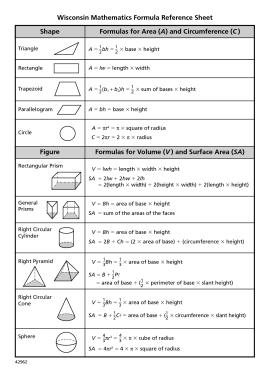


Figure 3: Geometric Equations

- To solve for related rates:
 - 1. Draw or look at a drawing of the shape
 - 2. Write what you know
 - 3. Write an equation relating the variables
 - 4. Differentiate both sides
 - 5. Plug in what you know
 - 6. Solve for wanted rate
- Example: The volume of a cube see Figure 4, is increasing at a rate of 20 cm³/sec. How fast is the surface area of the cube increasing at the instant when each edge of the cube is 5 cm long?

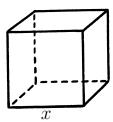


Figure 4: Cube Diagram

1.

2. Know:
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}V}{\mathrm{d}t} = 20 \frac{\mathrm{cm}^3}{\mathrm{sec}}$$

3. Find
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}SA}{\mathrm{d}t}$$
 when $x = 5$

4.
$$V = x^3$$

$$5. \ \frac{\mathrm{d}V}{\mathrm{d}t} = 3x^2 \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t}$$

6.
$$20 = 3(25) \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{4}{15} \frac{cm}{sec}$$

4.
$$SA = 6x^2$$

$$5. \ \frac{\mathrm{d}SA}{\mathrm{d}t} = 12x\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t}$$

6.
$$\frac{dSA}{dt} = 12(5)(\frac{4}{15}) = 16\frac{cm^2}{sec}$$

• Example: In Figure 5, a baseball field is a square of side 90 feet. If a runner on second base (II) starts running toward third base (III) at a rate of 20 ft/sec, how fast is his distance from home plate (H) changing when he is 30 ft from third base (III)?

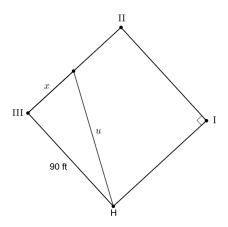


Figure 5: Baseball Square

2. Know
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} = 20 \frac{\mathrm{ft}}{\mathrm{sec}}$$

3. Find
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}t}$$
 when $x = 30$

4.
$$x^2 + 90^2 = u^2$$

4.1.
$$u = \sqrt{30^2 + 90^2} = 30\sqrt{10}$$

5. $2x \frac{dx}{dt} = 2u \frac{du}{dt}$

$$5. \ 2x\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} = 2u\frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}t}$$

6.
$$30(20) = 30\sqrt{10} \frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}t}$$

$$\implies \frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}t} = \boxed{\frac{20}{\sqrt{10}}}$$

• L'Hôpital's Rule:

$$\lim_{x\to c}\frac{f}{g}=\lim_{x\to c}\frac{f'}{g'}$$

Unit 6. Estimation and Basic Integration

- To approximate the area under from a to b the curve using n rectangles
- $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n}$
- $L_n = \Delta x (f(x_1) + f(x_2) + ...)$
- Use the anti-derivative to find exact area under the curve

$$\int f(x) dx = F(x) \implies F'(x) = f(x)$$

• For example:

$$\int x^2 \, dx = \boxed{\frac{x^3}{3} + c}$$

• Another example:

$$\int \frac{1}{x} \, dx = \boxed{\ln|x| + c}$$

- Fundamental Theorem of Calculus Part 1:
- If f is continuous over [a, b], then the function

$$F(x) = \int_{a}^{x} f(t) dt$$

has a derivative at every point x in [a, b], and

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}F}{\mathrm{d}x} = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x} \int_{a}^{x} f(t) \, dt = f(x)$$

• Thus:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x} \int_{a}^{h(x)} f(t) \, dt = f(h(x)) * h'(x)$$

• For example:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x} \int_{2}^{x^2 + 5x} \sin(2t) \, dt$$
$$\sin(2(x^2 + 5x))(2x + 5)$$

- Fundamental Theorem of Calculus Part 2:
- If f is continuous over [a, b] and F is the anti-derivative of f on [a, b], then

$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx = F(b) - F(a)$$

• For example:

$$\int_{-1}^{1} \frac{3}{1+x^2} dx$$

$$3 \arctan x \Big|_{-1}^{1}$$

$$3 \left[\arctan(1) - \arctan(-1)\right]$$

$$3 \left[\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{4}\right]$$

$$\boxed{\frac{3\pi}{2}}$$

- Average Mean Value:
- If they ask for the average they are talking about this rather than the average rate of change

Average =
$$\frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

• For example: Find the average of the function on the given interval:

$$f(x) = 4x - x^{2} \text{ over } [0, 2]$$

$$\frac{1}{2 - 0} \int_{0}^{2} (4x - x^{2}) dx$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[2x^{2} - \frac{x^{3}}{3} \Big|_{0}^{2} \right]$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[2^{3} - \frac{8}{3} \right]$$

$$4 - \frac{4}{3}$$

$$\frac{8}{3}$$

• Definite integrals can be written as the limit of a Riemann sum as the widths of the subintervals approach 0.

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

• For example: Write the following integral as a Riemann Sum:

$$\int_{2}^{5} (\ln x + \sin x) dx$$

$$\Delta x = \frac{5-2}{n} = \frac{3}{n}$$

$$x_{i} = 2 + \frac{3i}{n}$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[\ln \left(2 + \frac{3i}{n} \right) + \sin \left(2 + \frac{3i}{n} \right) \right] \frac{3}{n}$$

• Another example: Write the following Riemann Sum as an integral:

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(3 + \frac{5i}{n} \right)^{2} \frac{5}{n}$$

$$a = 3$$

$$\frac{b-3}{n} = \frac{5}{n} \implies b = 8$$

$$\boxed{\int_{3}^{8} x^{2} dx}$$

Unit 7. Integration and Differential Equations

- $\bullet\,$ u-substitution: make a expression as a function of x to make the integral solvable
- Ways to set u:
 - 1. Inside Function

$$\int (x+5)\sqrt{x^2+10x+24} \, dx$$

$$\det u = x^2 + 10x + 24$$

$$\frac{du}{dx} = 2x + 10$$

$$2du = x + 5 \, dx$$

$$2\int \sqrt{u} \, du = 2\int u^{\frac{1}{2}} \, du$$

$$\frac{4u^{\frac{3}{2}}}{3} + c$$

$$\boxed{\frac{4(x^2+10x+24)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{3} + c}$$

2. Denominator

$$\int \frac{x}{2x^2 - 3} dx$$

$$let u = 2x^2 - 3$$

$$du = 4x dx$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \int \frac{1}{u} du$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \ln|u| + c$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\ln|2x^2 - 3|}{4}}$$

3. Derivative in Integrand

$$\int \tan^2 x \sec^2 x \, dx$$

$$\det u = \tan x$$

$$du = \sec^2 x \, dx$$

$$\int u^2 \, du$$

$$\frac{u^3}{3} + c$$

$$\frac{\tan^3 x}{3} + c$$

4. Recognize Inverse Trig Function

$$\int \frac{3}{x^2 + 9} dx$$

$$\int \frac{3}{9(\frac{x^2}{9} + 1)} dx$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \int \frac{1}{(\frac{x}{3})^2 + 1} dx$$

$$let u = \frac{x}{3}$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \int \frac{1}{u^2 + 1} du$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \arctan u + c$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \arctan \left(\frac{x}{3}\right) + c$$

• Definite Integrals: to find the definite integral using u-substitution you need to change the limits of integration

$$\int_{a}^{b} f \, dx = \int_{u(a)}^{u(b)} f \, du$$

• For Example:

$$\int_{\frac{\pi}{3}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sin x}{(1 - \cos x)^2} dx$$

$$\det u = 1 - \cos x$$

$$du = \sin x dx$$

$$u\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = 1$$

$$u\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{1} \frac{1}{u^2} du$$

$$-\frac{1}{u}\Big|_{\frac{1}{2}}^{1}$$

$$-\ln|u| + c$$

$$-\ln|\cos x| + c$$

- Differential Equations are equations with derivatives in them
- Solvable differential equations take the following form:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} = f(y)g(x)$$

- To solve differential equations in this form:
 - 1. First, separate the variables

$$\frac{1}{f(y)} \, dy = g(x) \, dx$$

2. Next, take the anti-derivative of both sides:

$$\int \frac{1}{f(y)} \, dy = \int g(x) \, dx$$

3. Then, evaluate and put the +c on the right hand side

$$\int \frac{1}{f(y)} \, dy = G(x) + c$$

10

• For Example: find the general solution to the differential equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x^2(1+y^2)$$

$$\frac{1}{1+y^2} dy = x^2 dx$$

$$\int \frac{1}{1+y^2} dy = \int x^2 dx$$

$$\arctan y = \frac{x^3}{3} + c$$

$$y = \tan\left(\frac{x^3}{3} + c\right)$$

• Another Example:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y-1}{x-1}$$

$$\int \left(\frac{1}{y-1}\right) dy = \int \left(\frac{1}{x-1}\right) dx$$

$$\ln|y-1| = \ln|x-1| + c$$

$$|y-1| = e^{\ln|x-1| + c}$$

$$|y-1| = e^{\ln|x-1|} \cdot e^c$$

$$y-1 = \pm c |x-1|$$

$$y = 1 \pm c |x-1|$$

- To find particular solutions of differential equation you will be given an initial condition
- This initial condition will be a point
- Make sure to check the point is differentiable and continuous
- We can check this by checking the domain of both $\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x}$ and y
- With this initial condition we will solve for c before solving for y
- Whenever there are multiple solution spaces choose the one the initial condition is in
- For Example: find the particular solution of the following differential equation

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}W}{\mathrm{d}P} = 2WP \text{ and } W = 3 \text{ when } P = 0$$

$$\int \frac{1}{W} dW = \int 2P dP$$

$$\ln |W| = P^2 + c$$

$$\ln |W| = P^2 + \ln 3$$

$$|W| = 3e^{P^2}$$

$$W = 3e^{P^2}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}W}{\mathrm{d}P} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

$$W \in (0, \infty), P \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

• Another Example: find the particular solution

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = (3 - y)\cos x, \ y(0) = 1$$

$$\int \frac{1}{3 - y} \, dy = \int \cos x \, dx$$

$$\det u = 3 - y$$

$$du = -dy$$

$$-\int \frac{1}{u} \, du = \int \cos x \, dx$$

$$-\ln|u| = \sin x + c$$

$$-\ln|3 - y| = \sin x + c$$

$$-\ln 2 = \sin 0 + c$$

$$c = -\ln 2$$

$$-\ln|3 - y| = \sin x - \ln 2$$

$$\ln|3 - y| = \ln 2 - \sin x$$

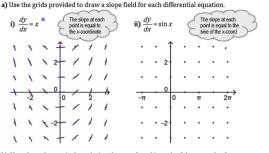
$$|3 - y| = 2e^{-\sin x}$$

$$3 - y = \pm 2e^{-\sin x}$$

$$y = 3 \pm 2e^{-\sin x}$$

$$y = 3 - 2e^{-\sin x}$$

• We can show the general solution to a differential equation via a slope field, see Figure 6



b) Now draw the particular solution that you found in each of the examples from the previous page on the corresponding slope field drawing here. Explain why

Figure 6: Slope Fields

- Horizontal lines are drawn when $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$
- Vertical lines are drawn when $\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} = \frac{a}{0}$, $a \neq 0$
- $\frac{0}{0}$ is an indeterminate form and should not be drawn
- Another U-Sub Example:

$$\int \frac{e^{2x} - e^{-2x}}{e^{2x} + e^{-2x}} dx$$
let $u = e^{2x} + e^{-2x}$

$$du = 2e^{2x} - 2e^{-2x} dx$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{u} du$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \ln|u| + c$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \ln \left(e^{2x} + e^{-2x}\right) + c$$

Unit 8. Area and Volume

- A definite integral gives the net area and considers area under the x-axis to be negative
- If they ask for the 'Area' they mean total area rather than net area
- However, to get total area, we must consider all areas to be positive

$$A = \int_{a}^{b} |f(x)| \, dx$$

- If we can use a calculator then this works we can just plug this in as written
- However, if we can't then we must use the definition of the absolute value function
- To do this find where f(x) is positive and negative, then negate the negative half
- This can be thought of finding the area between two curves: f(x) and x=0
- For Example find the total area of the region between the curve and the x-axis

$$y = 3x^{2} - 3 - 2 \le x \le 2$$

$$3x^{2} - 3 = 0$$

$$3(x^{2} - 1) = 0$$

$$x^{2} = 1$$

$$x = \pm 1$$

$$x \in (-2, -1)(1, 2) \implies y > 0 \quad x \in (-1, 1) \implies y < 0$$

$$\int_{-2}^{-1} (3x^{2} - 3) dx + \int_{-1}^{1} (3 - 3x^{2}) dx + \int_{1}^{2} (3x^{2} - 3) dx$$

$$\left(x^{3} - 3x\Big|_{-2}^{-1}\right) + \left(3x - x^{3}\Big|_{-1}^{1}\right) + \left(x^{3} - 3x\Big|_{1}^{2}\right)$$

$$[(-1 + 3) - (-8 + 6)] + [(3 - 1) - (-3 + 1)] + [(8 - 6) - (1 - 3)]$$

$$(2 + 2) + (2 + 2) + (2 + 2)$$

- $\bullet\,$ Volumes using Cross Sections is not to be confused with regular area
- The general formula for volume is as follows:

$$V = \int A \, dx$$

• For Example Let R be the region bounded by $x = y^2$ and x = 9. Find the volume of the solid that had R as its base if every cross section by the plane perpendicular to the x-axis has a square with a base in the xy plane

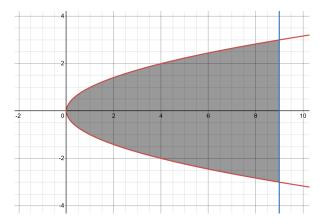


Figure 7: Cross Section

$$y = \pm \sqrt{x}$$

$$A = (2\sqrt{x})^{2} = 4x$$

$$V = \int_{0}^{9} 4x \, dx$$

$$V = 2x^{2} \Big|_{0}^{9}$$

$$V = 2(81) = \boxed{162}$$

• Another example instead of a square, an equilateral triangle

$$A = \frac{1}{2} (2\sqrt{x}) (\sqrt{3x}) = x\sqrt{3}$$

$$V = \int_0^9 x\sqrt{3} dx$$

$$V = \frac{x^2\sqrt{3}}{2} \Big|_0^9$$

$$V = \boxed{\frac{81\sqrt{3}}{2}}$$

• Another example instead of a square, a rectangle with a height of 2

$$A = 4\sqrt{x}$$

$$V = \int_0^9 4\sqrt{x} \, dx$$

$$V = \frac{2}{\sqrt{x}} \Big|_0^9$$

$$V = \frac{2}{\sqrt{9}} = \boxed{\frac{2}{3}}$$

• Volume by rotating around an axis is calculated differently

• The formula for volume of a solid formed by rotation is:

$$A = \pi r^2$$

$$V = \pi \int r^2 \, dx$$

• If we need to find the area between two curves the volume of the solid formed is as follows:

$$A = \pi \left(R^2 - r^2 \right)$$

$$V = \pi \int \left(R^2 - r^2 \right) \, dx$$

• For example: The first quadrant region bounded by $f(x) = -x^2 + 9$, g(x) = 2x + 1, and the y-axis. Rotate this area around the x-axis. (Calculator Ok)

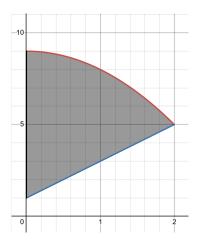


Figure 8: Washer Cross Section

$$R = -x^{2} + 9$$

$$r = 2x + 1$$

$$A = \pi (R^{2} - r^{2})$$

$$A = \pi \left[(-x^{2} + 9)^{2} - (2x + 1)^{2} \right]$$

$$V = \pi \int_{0}^{2} \left[(-x^{2} + 9)^{2} - (2x + 1)^{2} \right] dx$$

$$V = 313.321$$

- When rotating an area around a line other than the x and y-axes simply subtract it to the curve
- For example: Find the volume if the region enclosed by $y = x^3$, x = 0, and y = 8 is rotated about the line y = 8

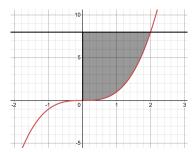


Figure 9: Cubic Cross Section

$$y = 8 \implies x = 2$$

$$R = 8 - x^{3}$$

$$A = \pi (8 - x^{3})^{2}$$

$$V = \pi \int_{0}^{2} (8 - x^{3})^{2} dx$$

$$V = 258.508$$

• Another example: Find the volume of the region enclosed by $y=x^2$ and y=2x ($x\geq 0$) is rotated about the line x=2

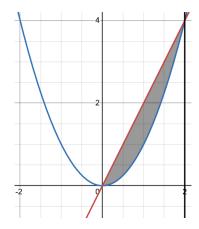


Figure 10: Quadratic Cross Section

$$x = \frac{y}{2}$$

$$x = \sqrt{y}$$

$$R = 2 - \frac{y}{2}$$

$$r = 2 - \sqrt{y}$$

$$x = 2 \implies y = 4$$

$$V = \pi \int_0^4 \left[\left(2 - \frac{y}{2} \right)^2 - \left(2 - \sqrt{y} \right)^2 \right] dy$$

$$V = 8.378$$