

# Area As A Limit & Sigma Notation

---

## SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIAL:

As you work through the problems listed below, you should reference Chapter 5.4 of the recommended textbook (or the equivalent chapter in your alternative textbook/online resource) and your lecture notes.

## EXPECTED SKILLS:

- Understand and know how to evaluate the summation (sigma) notation.
- Be able to use the summation operation's basic properties and formulas. (You do not need to memorize the "Useful Formulas" listed below; if they are needed, they will be provided to you).
- Know how to denote the approximate area under a curve and over an interval as a sum, and be able to find the exact area using a limit of the approximation.
- Be able to find the net signed area between the graph of a function and the  $x$ -axis on an interval using a limit.

## USEFUL FORMULAS

$$\sum_{k=1}^n k = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \qquad \sum_{k=1}^n k^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} \qquad \sum_{k=1}^n k^3 = \left( \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \right)^2$$

## PRACTICE PROBLEMS:

**For problems 1-5, evaluate.**

1.  $\sum_{k=1}^4 k^3$

100

2.  $\sum_{j=2}^6 (j^3 - 1)$

435

3.  $\sum_{i=-1}^3 2i$

10

$$4. \sum_{k=0}^5 (-1)^k$$

$$5. \sum_{k=1}^5 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}k\right)$$

For problems 6-8, use the summation formulas at the top of page 1 to evaluate the given sum.

$$6. \sum_{k=1}^{100} (3k - 5)$$

$$7. \sum_{k=1}^{25} [k(k-1)(k+1)]$$

$$8. \sum_{k=3}^{120} (k + 7)$$

(CAUTION: In problem 8, the lower index is not 1; so, the summation formulas at the top of page 1 do not immediately apply!)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cq08CHq0wIY"/>

For problems 9-12, write the given expression in sigma notation. Do not evaluate the sum. (For each, there are many different ways to write the expression in sigma notation; the answer key illustrates one such way for each.)

$$9. 4(1) + 4(2) + 4(3) + 4(4) + \cdots + 4(20)$$

$$10. 3 - 6 + 9 - 12 + \cdots - 36$$

11.  $1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + \cdots + 21$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{10} (2k+1)$$

12.  $2 + 4 + 8 + 16 + \cdots + 256$

$$\sum_{k=1}^8 2^k$$

For problems 13-15, express the given summation in closed form.

13.  $\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{j}{n}$

$$\frac{n+1}{2}$$

14.  $\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{3k^3}{n}$

$$\frac{3n(n-1)^2}{4}$$

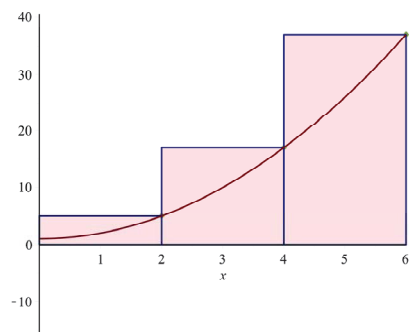
15.  $\sum_{k=0}^n \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{k^2}{n} \right)$

(CAUTION: In problem 15, the lower limit is not 1; so the summation formulas at the top of page 1 do not immediately apply!)

$$1 - \frac{(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} + \frac{1}{n}$$

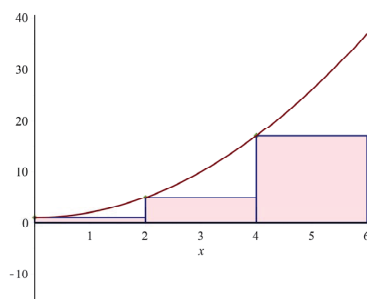
16. Consider  $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ .

- (a) Estimate the area under the graph of  $f(x)$  on the interval  $[0, 6]$  using 3 rectangles of equal width and right endpoints, as in the diagram below. Is your estimate an overestimate or an underestimate?



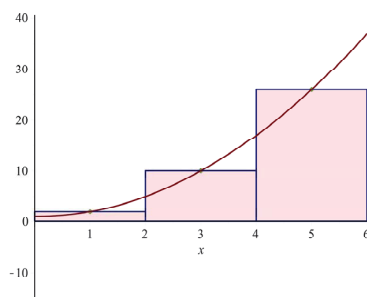
$A \approx 118$ ; It is an overestimate.

- (b) Estimate the area under the graph of  $f(x)$  on the interval  $[0, 6]$  using 3 rectangles of equal width and left endpoints, as in the diagram below. Is your estimate an overestimate or an underestimate?



$A \approx 46$ ; It is an underestimate.

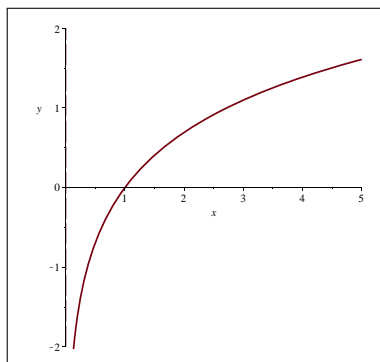
- (c) Estimate the area under the graph of  $f(x)$  on the interval  $[0, 6]$  using 3 rectangles of equal width and midpoints, as in the diagram below. Is your estimate an overestimate or an underestimate?



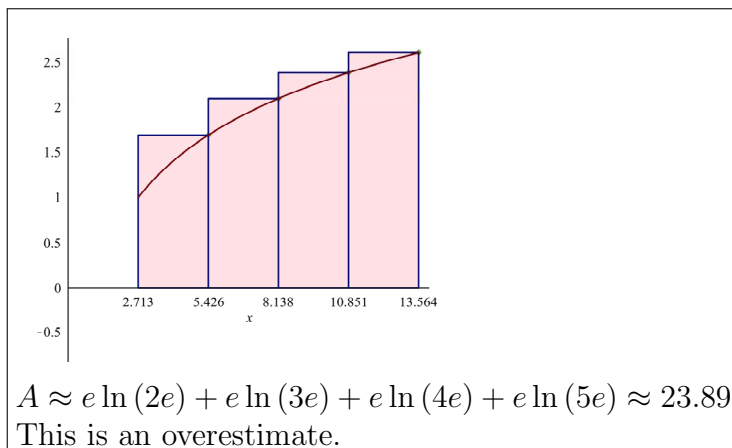
$A \approx 76$ ; By inspection, it is hard to judge whether this is an overestimate or an underestimate. In fact, in a future section, you will be able to show that the exact area is 78.

17. Let  $f(x) = \ln x$ .

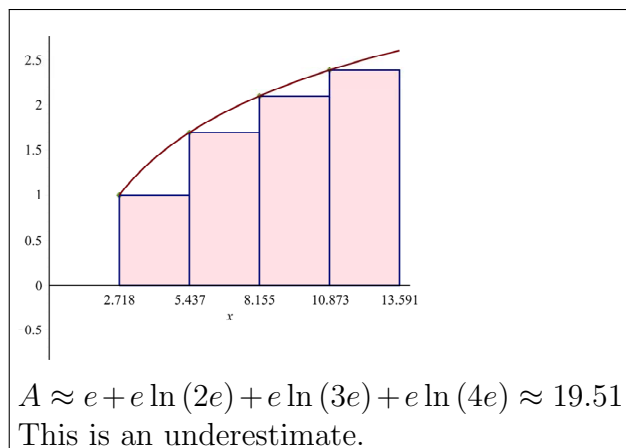
- (a) Sketch the graph of  $f(x)$ . Label all asymptotes and intercepts with the coordinate axes.



- (b) Sketch the graph of  $f(x)$  on the interval  $[e, 5e]$ . Divide the interval into 4 subintervals of equal width. On each subinterval, sketch a rectangle using the function value at the **right endpoint** as the height of the rectangle on that subinterval. Estimate the area between the graph of  $f(x)$  and the  $x$ -axis on the interval  $[e, 5e]$  using the 4 rectangles that you sketched. Is your estimate an overestimate or an underestimate?



- (c) Sketch the graph of  $f(x)$  on the interval  $[e, 5e]$ . Divide the interval into 4 subintervals of equal width. On each subinterval, sketch a rectangle using the function value at the **left endpoint** as the height of the rectangle on that subinterval. Estimate the area between the graph of  $f(x)$  and the  $x$ -axis on the interval  $[e, 5e]$  using the 4 rectangles that you sketched. Is your estimate an overestimate or an underestimate?



18. Let  $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ . By the end of this problem, you will have computed the exact area under the graph of  $f(x)$  on the interval  $[1, 6]$ .

(a) Find the  $\Delta x$  which is necessary to divide  $[1, 6]$  into  $n$  subintervals of equal width.

$$\Delta x = \frac{5}{n}$$

(b) In each of the  $n$  subintervals of equal width, pick  $x_k^*$  to be the right endpoint. Fill in the following table:

| Subinterval Number | Right Endpoint Number | Right Endpoint of Subinterval |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| $k = 1$            | $x_1^*$               | $1 + \frac{5}{n}$             |
| $k = 2$            | $x_2^*$               | $1 + \frac{5}{n}(2)$          |
| $k = 3$            | $x_3^*$               | $1 + \frac{5}{n}(3)$          |
| $\vdots$           | $\vdots$              | $\vdots$                      |
| $k = n - 1$        | $x_{n-1}^*$           | $1 + \frac{5}{n}(n - 1)$      |
| $k = n$            | $x_n^*$               | $1 + \frac{5}{n}(n) = 6$      |

(c) **Fill in the blank:** A closed formula for the right endpoints found in the table

above is  $x_k^* = \boxed{1 + \frac{5}{n}(k)}$ , for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1, n$ .

- (d) Determine  $f(x_k^*)$ , the height of the  $k^{th}$  rectangle.

$$\left(1 + \frac{5}{n}k\right)^2 + 1$$

- (e) The right endpoint approximation of the area under the graph of  $f(x)$  on the interval  $[1, 6]$  using  $n$  rectangles of equal width is:

$$A \approx f(x_1^*)\Delta x + f(x_2^*)\Delta x + \dots + f(x_{n-1}^*)\Delta x + f(x_n^*)\Delta x = \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_k^*)\Delta x$$

Using the appropriate formulas from the top of page 1, express the right endpoint approximation in closed form.

$$\sum_{k=1}^n f(x_k^*)\Delta x = \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \left(1 + \frac{5}{n}k\right)^2 + 1 \right] \frac{5}{n} = 10 + \frac{25(n+1)}{n} + \frac{125(n+1)(2n+1)}{6n^2}$$

- (f) Repeating over finer and finer partitions is equivalent to the number of subintervals,  $n$ , approaching infinity. Using this information, compute the exact area under the graph of  $f(x) = x^2 + 1$  on the interval  $[1, 6]$ .

$$\frac{230}{3}$$

19. For each of the following, use sigma notation and the appropriate summation formulas to evaluate the net signed area between the graph of  $f(x)$  and the  $x$ -axis on the given interval. Let  $x_k^*$  be the **right endpoint** of the  $k^{th}$  subinterval (where all subintervals have equal width).

- (a)  $f(x) = x - 3$  on  $[1, 5]$

0; Detailed Solution: [Here](#)

- (b)  $f(x) = \frac{x^2}{3}$  on  $[2, 5]$

13; Detailed Solution: [Here](#)

- (c)  $f(x) = x^3 - 1$  on  $[0, 2]$

$$2$$

20. For each of the following, use sigma notation and the appropriate summation formulas to evaluate the net signed area between the graph of  $f(x)$  and the  $x$ -axis on the given interval. Let  $x_k^*$  be the **left endpoint** of the  $k^{th}$  subinterval (where all subintervals have equal width).

- (a)  $f(x) = x - 3$  on  $[1, 5]$

$$0$$

(b)  $f(x) = \frac{x^2}{3}$  on  $[2, 5]$

13

(c)  $f(x) = x^3 - 1$  on  $[0, 2]$

2

21. For each of the following, use sigma notation and the appropriate summation formulas to evaluate the net signed area between the graph of  $f(x)$  and the  $x$ -axis on the given interval. Let  $x_k^*$  be the **midpoint** of the  $k^{th}$  subinterval (where all subintervals have equal width).

(a)  $f(x) = x - 3$  on  $[1, 5]$

0

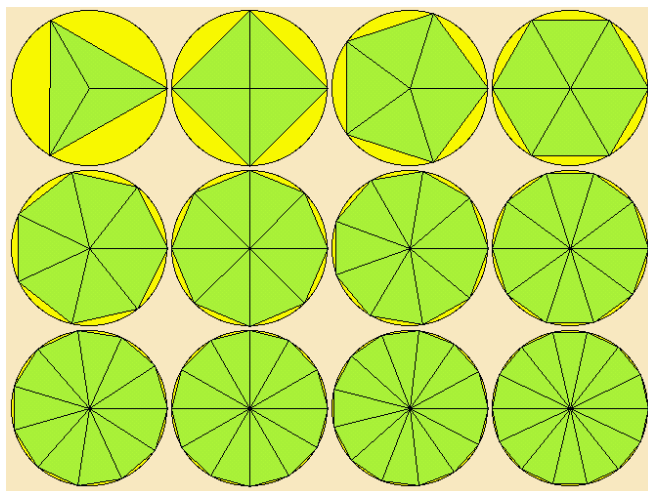
(b)  $f(x) = \frac{x^2}{3}$  on  $[2, 5]$

13

22. Use sigma notation and the appropriate summation formulas to formulate an expression which represents the net signed area between the graph of  $f(x) = \cos x$  and the  $x$ -axis on the interval  $[-\pi, \pi]$ . Let  $x_k^*$  be the **right endpoint** of the  $k^{th}$  subinterval (where all subintervals have equal width). DO NOT EVALUATE YOUR EXPRESSION.

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \cos \left( -\pi + \frac{2\pi}{n}k \right) \frac{2\pi}{n}$$

23. A Regular Polygon is a polygon that is equiangular (all angles are equal in measure) and equilateral (all sides have the same length). The diagram below shows several regular polygons inscribed within a circle of radius  $r$ .





- (a) Let  $A_n$  be the area of a regular  $n$ -sided polygon inscribed within a circle of radius  $r$ . Divide the polygon into  $n$  congruent triangles each with a central angle of  $\frac{2\pi}{n}$  radians, as shown in the diagram above for several different values of  $n$ . Show that  $A_n = \frac{1}{2}r^2 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right)n$ .

We begin by examining one of the  $n$  triangles, pictured below.



The base of the triangle has a length of  $r$ . And, the height of the triangle is  $r \sin \theta$ , where  $\theta$  is the central angle,  $\frac{2\pi}{n}$ . Thus, the area of one triangle is:

$$A = \frac{1}{2}(r) \left( r \sin \left( \frac{2\pi}{n} \right) \right) = \frac{1}{2}r^2 \sin \left( \frac{2\pi}{n} \right)$$

But, the polygon is composed of  $n$  such triangles. So, the area of a regular  $n$ -sided polygon inscribed in the circle of radius  $r$  is:

$$A_n = \frac{1}{2}r^2 \sin \left( \frac{2\pi}{n} \right)n$$

- (b) What can you conclude about the area of the  $n$ -sided polygon as the number of sides of the polygon,  $n$ , approaches infinity? In other words, compute  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n$ .

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n = \pi r^2$$