

other consequence of this result is that we can now define the area under a continuous curve. Here we do need the function to be non-negative.

**DEFINITION 1.** Let  $f$  be a non-negative, continuous function on the closed interval  $[a, b]$ . The area bounded above by the graph of  $f$ , below by the  $x$ -axis, on the left by the line  $x = a$ , and on the right by  $x = b$  is given by

$$\text{Area} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n f(c_k) \Delta x$$

where  $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n}$  and  $c_k$  is any point in the  $k^{\text{th}}$  subinterval of the regular partition of  $[a, b]$  into  $n$  subintervals.

1. Use Definition 1 to determine the area under the curve  $y = f(x) = -x^2 + 4x - 3$  on the interval  $[1, 3]$ .

Notice that because the  $f(x)$  is both increasing and decreasing on the interval, if we computed  $Upper(n)$ , the max values of  $f$  would sometimes occur at the right-hand endpoints and sometimes at the left. This makes it hard to compute  $Upper(n)$  (or  $Lower(n)$ ). However, by Theorem 2, we can use any convenient set of evaluation points for our Riemann sum. As noted earlier, right-hand endpoints  $x_k$  are convenient because the general formula is fairly simple.

The general form of the **right Riemann sum** is:

$$\text{Right}(n) = \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_k) \Delta x$$

2. (a) Notation Practice: Fill in the following table for the Riemann sums using regular partitions and right endpoints. Do not try to evaluate the sums.

| $f(x)$     | $[a, b]$   | $\Delta x$      | $x_k = a + k\Delta x$ | $f(x_k)$                           | $\text{Right}(n) = \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_k) \Delta x$               |
|------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| $x^2 - 1$  | $[0, 2]$   | $\frac{2}{n}$   | $\frac{2k}{n}$        | $\frac{4k^2}{n^2} - 1$             | $\frac{2}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \left( \frac{4k^2}{n^2} - 1 \right)$ |
| $2(x-1)^2$ | $[1, 4]$   | $\frac{3}{n}$   | $1 + \frac{3k}{n}$    | $\frac{18k^2}{n^2}$                | $\frac{3}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{18k^2}{n^2}$                   |
| $\sin(x)$  | $[0, \pi]$ | $\frac{\pi}{n}$ | $\frac{\pi k}{n}$     | $\sin\left(\frac{\pi k}{n}\right)$ | $\frac{\pi}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \sin\left(\frac{\pi k}{n}\right)$  |

- (b) For  $f(x) = 2(x-1)^2$  on  $[1, 4]$ , use algebra to simplify  $\text{Right}(n) = \sum_{k=1}^n f(c_k) \Delta x$ . Then calculate the area under  $f(x) = 2(x-1)^2$  on  $[1, 4]$ .

**Left Riemann Sum.** We have been working with right-hand Riemann sums. But we could use left endpoint sums instead. The  $k^{\text{th}}$  subinterval is  $(x_{k-1}, x_k)$ , so its left-hand endpoint is  $x_{k-1} = a + (k-1)\Delta x$ . The form of a general left Riemann sum is

$$\text{Left}(n) = \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_{k-1}) \Delta x$$