

§4.3: THE DEFINITE INTEGRAL

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PREVIEW ACTIVITY DISCUSSION

MOTIVATION AND DEFINITION

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Definition

The **definite integral** of a continuous function f on the interval $[a, b]$, denoted $\int_a^b f(x) dx$, is the real number given by

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i^*) \Delta x \text{ where } \Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n}, x_i = a + i\Delta x \text{ (for } i = 0, 1, \dots, n), \text{ and } x_i^* \text{ satisfies } x_{i-1} \leq x_i^* \leq x_i \text{ (for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n).$$

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Answer: the integral $\int_a^b f(x) dx$ gives net signed area under the curve $y = f(x)$ between $x = a$ and $x = b$.

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Let's compute $\int_1^3 (x + 2) dx$.

ACTIVITY 4.3.2

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- (Constant Multiple Rule) $\int_a^b k \cdot f(x) dx = k \int_a^b f(x) dx$
- (Sum Rule) $\int_a^b [f(x) + g(x)] dx = \int_a^b f(x) dx + \int_a^b g(x) dx$

ACTIVITY 4.3.3

AVERAGE VALUE

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Theorem (Average Value of a Function)

If f is a continuous function on $[a, b]$, then its average value on $[a, b]$ is given by the formula

$$f_{\text{AVG}[a,b]} = \frac{1}{b-a} \cdot \int_a^b f(x) \, dx$$

ACTIVITY 4.3.4