

Section 5.2 The definite integral

**Definition of a definite integral.**

If  $f$  is a function defined on a closed interval  $[a, b]$ , let  $P$  be a partition of  $[a, b]$  with partition points  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n$ , where

$$a = x_0 < x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_n = b$$

Choose points  $x_i^* \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]$  and let  $\Delta x_i = x_i - x_{i-1}$  and  $\|P\| = \max\{\Delta x_i\}$ . Then the **definite integral of  $f$  from  $a$  to  $b$**  is

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \lim_{\|P\| \rightarrow 0} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i^*) \Delta x_i$$

if this limit exists. If the limit does exist, then  $f$  is called **integrable** on the interval  $[a, b]$ .

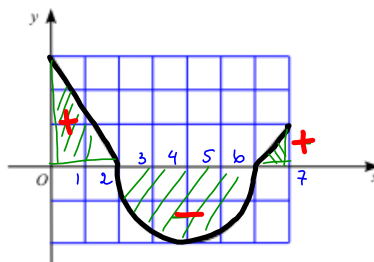
In the notation  $\int_a^b f(x) dx$ ,  $f(x)$  is called the **integrand** and  $a$  and  $b$  are called the limits of integration;  $a$  is the **lower limit** and  $b$  is the **upper limit**. The procedure of calculating an integral is called **integration**.

For the special case where  $f(x) \geq 0$ ,  $\int_a^b f(x) dx = \text{area under the graph of } f \text{ from } a \text{ to } b$ .

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = - \int_b^a f(x) dx$$

$$\int_a^a f(x) dx = 0$$

**Example 1.** Evaluate  $\int_0^7 f(x) dx$  if the graph of the function  $f(x)$  is



$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^7 f(x) dx &= 3 \cdot 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\pi(2^2)}{2} + \frac{1}{2}(1)(1) \\ &= \boxed{3 - 2\pi + \frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 1.** If  $f$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$ , then  $f$  is integrable on  $[a, b]$ .

If  $f$  has a finite number of discontinuities and these are all jump discontinuities, then  $f$  is called **piecewise continuous function**.

**Theorem 2.** If  $f$  is piecewise continuous on  $[a, b]$ , then  $f$  is integrable on  $[a, b]$ .

$f$  is integrable on  $[a, b]$ , then  $f$  must be **bounded function** on  $[a, b]$ : that is, there exist a number  $M$  such that  $|f(x)| \leq M$  for all  $x \in [a, b]$ .

Let  $P$  be a regular partition of  $[a, b]$ : that is  $\Delta x = \Delta x_1 = \Delta x_2 = \dots = \Delta x_n = \frac{b-a}{n}$  and  $x_0 = a$ ,  $x_1 = a + \Delta x$ ,  $x_2 = a + 2\Delta x, \dots, x_n = b$

If we choose  $x_i^*$  to be the **right endpoint** of the  $i$ th interval, then  $x_i^* = x_i = a + i\Delta x = a + i\frac{b-a}{n}$ , so

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{b-a}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f\left(a + i\frac{b-a}{n}\right)$$

If  $x_i^*$  is the **midpoint** of the interval  $i$ th interval, then  $x_i^* = \bar{x}_i = (x_{i-1} + x_i)/2$ , so

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{b-a}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(\bar{x}_i)$$

**Example 2.** Evaluate the integral  $\int_1^4 (x^2 - 2)dx$

### Properties of the definite integral

1.  $\int_a^b c dx = c(b - a)$ , where  $c$  is a constant.

2.  $\int_a^b cf(x) dx = c \int_a^b f(x) dx$ , where  $c$  is a constant.

3.  $\int_a^b [f(x) + g(x)] dx = \int_a^b f(x) dx + \int_a^b g(x) dx$ .

4.  $\int_a^b [f(x) - g(x)] dx = \int_a^b f(x) dx - \int_a^b g(x) dx$ .

5.  $\int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^c f(x) dx + \int_c^b f(x) dx$ , where  $a < c < b$ .

6.  $\int_a^b f(x) dx = - \int_b^a f(x) dx$ .

7. If  $f(x) \geq 0$  for  $a < x < b$ , then  $\int_a^b f(x) dx \geq 0$ .

8. If  $f(x) \geq g(x)$  for  $a < x < b$ , then  $\int_a^b f(x) dx \geq \int_a^b g(x) dx$ .

9. If  $m \leq f(x) \leq M$  for  $a < x < b$ , then  $m(b - a) \leq \int_a^b f(x) dx \leq M(b - a)$ .

10.  $\left| \int_a^b f(x) dx \right| \leq \int_a^b |f(x)| dx$

**Example 3.** Express the limit as a definite integral  $\int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_0^1 x^4 dx$

(a)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{i^4}{n^5} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\frac{1}{n}}_{\Delta x} \underbrace{\frac{i^4}{n^4}}_{f(x_i^*)} = \int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_0^1 x^4 dx$

$f(x_i^*) = \left(\frac{i}{n}\right)^4 \Rightarrow f(x) = x^4$   
 $x_i^* = \frac{i}{n}$       $x_0 = \frac{0}{n} = a$  ,      $b = x_n = \frac{n}{n}$

(b)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ 3 \left(1 + \frac{2i}{n}\right)^5 - 6 \right] \frac{2}{n} = \int_1^3 (3x^5 - 6) dx$

$f(x_i^*)$       $\Delta x$

$f(x_i^*) = 3 \left(1 + \frac{2i}{n}\right)^5 - 6$   
 $\quad \quad \quad \parallel$   
 $\quad \quad \quad x_i^*$

$x_i^* = 1 + \frac{2i}{n}$  ,      $f(x_i^*) = 3(x_i^*)^5 - 6$   
 $f(x) = 3x^5 - 6$

$a = x_0 = 1 + \frac{2 \cdot 0}{n} = 1$

$b = x_n = 1 + \frac{2 \cdot n}{n} = 3$

**Example 4.** Write the given sum or difference as a single integral

$$(a.) \int_1^3 f(x) dx + \int_3^6 f(x) dx + \int_6^1 2f(x) dx$$

$$\int_1^6 f(x) dx - \int_1^6 2f(x) dx = - \int_1^6 f(x) dx$$

$$(b.) \int_2^{10} f(x) dx - \int_2^7 f(x) dx = \int_2^7 f(x) dx + \int_7^{10} f(x) dx - \int_2^7 f(x) dx = \int_7^{10} f(x) dx$$