MATH 1510 Chapter 6

6.1 Indefinite integral

Integration is nothing but the reverse of differentiation.



To be more precise,

Definition 6.1. We call F(x) an **antiderivative** of f(x) if:

$$\frac{d}{dx}F(x) = f(x).$$

The collection of all antiderivatives of f(x) is denoted by:

$$\int f(x) \, dx,$$

also called the **indefinite integral** of f(x).

(For now, "dx " would just be part of the notation.)

Example 6.2. Since:

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{2}x^2\right) = x,$$

the function $F(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2$ is an antiderivative of f(x) = x.

Notice that we also have:

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{2}x^2\right) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{2}x^2 + 1\right) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{2}x^2 - \pi\right) = x.$$

Hence, the expressions:

$$\frac{1}{2}x^2$$
, $\frac{1}{2}x^2 + 1$, $\frac{1}{2}x^2 - \pi$

all give antiderivatives of f(x) = x.

In fact, a function is an antiderivative of f(x) = x if and only if it is equal to $\frac{1}{2}x^2 + C$ for some constant $C \in \mathbb{R}$.

Hence, we may represent the collection of all antiderivatives of f(x) = x as follows:

$$\int x \, dx = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + C,$$

where C is an arbitrary constant.

Proposition 6.3. For any constants $a, b, k \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\int (af(x) + bg(x)) dx = a \int f(x) dx + b \int g(x) dx;$$

$$\int x^k dx = \frac{1}{k+1} x^{k+1} + C \quad \text{if } k \neq -1;$$

$$\int x^{-1} dx = \ln |x| + C;$$

$$\int \sin x \, dx = -\cos x + C;$$

$$\int \cos x \, dx = \sin x + C;$$

$$\int e^x \, dx = e^x + C;$$

$$\int a^x \, dx = \frac{1}{\ln a} a^x + C;$$

$$\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \, dx = \arcsin x + C;$$

$$\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \, dx = \arctan x + C.$$

Proof of Proposition 6.3. When x > 0, we have

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln|x|) = \frac{d}{dx}(\ln x) = \frac{1}{x}.$$

On the other hand, if x < 0, we have

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln|x|) = \frac{d}{dx}(\ln(-x)) = \frac{-1}{-x} = \frac{1}{x}$$

as desired. The other identities are just direct consequences of differentiation. □ Example 6.4. •

$$\int \left(\cos x + \frac{2}{x} - 3^x\right) \, dx;$$

$$\int \frac{x^4}{1+x^2} \, dx.$$

6.2 Integration by Substitution

Sometimes, integration can be handled by "change of variable":

Theorem 6.5 (Integration by Substitution). Assuming differentiability and integrability, suppose

$$y = g(x)$$
 and $f(x) = h(y)\frac{dy}{dx}$.

Then,

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$$\int f(x) \, dx = \int h(y) \, dy$$

Proof of Integration by Substitution. Let H(y) be the antiderivative of h(y). Then,

$$\frac{d}{dx}H(g(x)) = H'(g(x))g'(x) = h(g(x))g'(x) = h(y)\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)$$

Hence,

$$\int f(x) \, dx = H(g(x)) + C = H(y) + C = \int h(y) \, dy$$

The formula is easier to remember if we use notations like $\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right) dx = dy$, in which the part "dx" becomes crucial.

Example 6.6. To evaluate

$$\int e^x \sin(e^x) \, dx,$$

we let $u = e^x$. By the fact that

$$\frac{du}{dx} = e^x \implies du = e^x \, dx$$

we have

$$\int e^x \sin(e^x) \, dx = \int \sin(e^x) (e^x \, dx)$$
$$= \int \sin u \, du$$
$$= -\cos u + C$$
$$= -\cos(e^x) + C.$$

Remember to change everything into u.

Example 6.7. • Evaluate

$$\int \frac{e^{\sqrt{x}}\cos(e^{\sqrt{x}})}{\sqrt{x}} \, dx$$

by the substition $u = e^{\sqrt{x}}$.

• Evaluate

$$\int x \sin(x^2) \, dx.$$

Example 6.8. Sometimes, if it's not too complicated, it might be preferable to do the substitution without introducing a new variable:

$$\int \frac{1}{x-2} dx = \int \frac{1}{x-2} d(x-2) \quad \text{(because } \frac{d(x-2)}{dx} = 1\text{)}$$
$$= \ln|x-2| + C.$$
$$\int \frac{x}{x^2+1} dx = \int \frac{1}{x^2+1} d\left(\frac{1}{2}x^2\right) \quad \text{(because } \frac{d(\frac{1}{2}x^2)}{dx} = x\text{)}$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{x^2+1} d(x^2+1)$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \ln|x^2+1| + C.$$

6.3 Integrating $\sin^m x \cos^n x$

To evaluate:

:

$$\int \sin^m x \cos^n x \, dx,$$

where m, n are non-negative integers, we consider three different cases.

Case 1: m is odd (m = 2p + 1) In this case, we use the substitution $u = \cos x$

$$\int \sin^m x \cos^n x \, dx = \int \sin^{2p+1} x \cos^n x \, dx$$
$$= -\int \sin^{2p} x \cos^n x \, d(\cos x)$$
$$= -\int (1 - \cos^2 x)^p \cos^n x \, d(\cos x)$$
$$= -\int (1 - u^2)^p u^n \, du$$

Case 2: n is odd (n = 2q + 1) In this case, we use the substitution $u = \sin x$:

$$\int \sin^m x \cos^n x \, dx = \int \sin^m x \cos^{2q+1} x \, dx$$
$$= \int \sin^m x \cos^{2q} x \, d(\sin x)$$
$$= \int \sin^m x (1 - \sin^2 x)^q \, d(\sin x)$$
$$= \int u^m (1 - u^2)^q \, du$$

Case 3: m, n are both even (m = 2p, n = 2q) In this case, we use half-angle formulas to reduce the powers:

$$\int \sin^m x \cos^n x \, dx = \int \sin^{2p} x \cos^{2q} x \, dx$$

= $\int (\sin^2 x)^p (\cos^2 x)^q \, dx$
= $\int \left(\frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos 2x)\right)^p \left(\frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos 2x)\right)^q \, dx$
= $\frac{1}{2^{p+q}} \int (1 - \cos 2x)^p (1 + \cos 2x)^q \, dx.$

(Notice that the integrand is a polynomial of $\cos 2x$ with degree $p+q = \frac{1}{2}(m+n)$.) Example 6.9.

$$\int \sin^2 x \, dx$$
$$\int \cos^3 x \, dx$$
$$\int \sin^5 x \, dx$$

6.4 Integration by Trigonometric Substitution

The idea is as follows:

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- Use the substitution $x = a \sin t$ when " $a^2 x^2$ " occurs (because $1 \sin^2 t = \cos^2 t$).
- Use the substitution $x = a \tan t$ when " $a^2 + x^2$ " occurs (because $1 + \tan^2 t = \sec^2 t$).
- Use the substitution $x = a \sec t$ when " $x^2 a^2$ " occurs (because $\sec^2 t 1 = \tan^2 t$).

Example 6.10.

$$\int \sqrt{2 - x^2} \, dx = \int \sqrt{2 - (\sqrt{2} \sin t)^2} \, d(\sqrt{2} \sin t) \quad \text{(by letting } x = \sqrt{2} \sin t)$$
$$= \int \sqrt{2} \cos t (\sqrt{2} \cos t \, dt)$$
$$= \int 2 \cos^2 t \, dt$$
$$= \int (\cos 2t + 1) \, dt$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \sin 2t + t + C$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \sin \left(2 \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}\right)\right) + \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + C$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} x \sqrt{2 - x^2} + \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + C.$$

(In this course, when handling indefinite integrals, we usually assume t lies in an appropriate region so that $\sqrt{\cos^2 t} = \cos t$, etc., for simplicity.)

Example 6.11.

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

6.5 Integration by Partial Fraction

How to evaluate:

$$\int \frac{1}{x^2 - 1} \, dx?$$

By partial fraction decomposition, we have:

$$\frac{1}{x^2 - 1} = \frac{1}{(x - 1)(x + 1)} = \frac{A}{x - 1} + \frac{B}{x + 1}$$

for some constants A, B. By some simple computations, we know that $A = \frac{1}{2}, B = -\frac{1}{2}$. Hence,

$$\int \frac{1}{x^2 - 1} dx = \int \left(\frac{\frac{1}{2}}{x - 1} + \frac{-\frac{1}{2}}{x + 1}\right) dx$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \ln|x - 1| - \frac{1}{2} \ln|x + 1| + C.$$

In general, if deg $P(x) < \deg Q(x)$, by factorizing Q(x) into linear or quadratic terms (with real coefficients), we have:

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{P(x)}{a(x-b_1)^{n_1}(x-b_2)^{n_2}\cdots(x^2+c_1x+d_1)^{m_1}(x^2+c_2x+d_2)^{m_2}\cdots}$$

Then, by partial fraction decomposition, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} & P(x) \\ \hline a(x-b_1)^{n_1}(x-b_2)^{n_2}\cdots(x^2+c_1x+d_1)^{m_1}(x^2+c_2x+d_2)^{m_2}\cdots \\ &= \frac{*}{(x-b_1)^{n_1}} + \frac{*}{(x-b_1)^{n_1-1}} + \cdots + \frac{*}{(x-b_1)^1} \\ &+ \frac{*}{(x-b_2)^{n_2}} + \frac{*}{(x-b_2)^{n_2-1}} + \cdots + \frac{*}{(x-b_2)^1} \\ &+ \cdots \text{ (similarly for the other linear terms)} \\ &+ \frac{*x+*}{(x^2+c_1x+d_1)^{m_1}} + \frac{*x+*}{(x^2+c_1x+d_1)^{m_1-1}} + \cdots + \frac{*x+*}{(x^2+c_1x+d_1)^1} \\ &+ \frac{*x+*}{(x^2+c_2x+d_2)^{m_2}} + \frac{*x+*}{(x^2+c_2x+d_2)^{m_2-1}} + \cdots + \frac{*x+*}{(x^2+c_2x+d_2)^{1}} \end{aligned}$$

 $+\cdots$ (similarly for the other quadratic terms)

where * stands for some undetermined constants.

If deg $P(x) \ge \deg Q(x)$, we may apply long division first to obtain:

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = A(x) + \frac{B(x)}{Q(x)}$$

where $\deg B(x) < \deg Q(x)$, and then apply partial fraction decomposition to $\frac{B(x)}{Q(x)}.$

Example 6.12. To evaluate

$$\int \frac{x^3 + 6x + 1}{(x^2 - 1)^2 (x^2 + 1)} \, dx,$$

we apply partial fraction decomposition:

$$\frac{x^3 + 6x + 1}{(x^2 - 1)^2(x^2 + 1)} = \frac{x^3 + 6x + 1}{(x - 1)^2(x + 1)^2(x^2 + 1)} = \frac{A}{(x - 1)^2} + \frac{B}{x - 1} + \frac{C}{(x + 1)^2} + \frac{D}{x + 1} + \frac{Ex + F}{x^2 + 1}$$

for some constants A, B, C, D, E, F. By some tedious computations,

$$A = 1, \ B = -\frac{7}{8}, \ C = -\frac{3}{4}, \ D = -\frac{3}{8}, \ E = \frac{5}{4}, \ F = \frac{1}{4}.$$

Moreover,

$$\int \frac{1}{x \pm 1} dx = \ln |x \pm 1| + C',$$

$$\int \frac{1}{(x \pm 1)^2} dx = \int (x \pm 1)^{-2} dx = -(x \pm 1)^{-1} + C',$$

$$\int \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} dx = \arctan x + C',$$

$$\int \frac{x}{x^2 + 1} dx = \int \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} d\left(\frac{1}{2}x^2\right) = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} d\left(x^2 + 1\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \ln |x^2 + 1| + C'.$$

Hence, we can conclude that

$$\int \frac{x^3 + 6x + 1}{(x^2 - 1)^2 (x^2 + 1)} dx$$

= $-A(x-1)^{-1} + B \ln |x-1| - C(x+1)^{-1} + D \ln |x+1| + \frac{E}{2} \ln |x^2+1| + F \arctan x + C'.$

Example 6.13.

$$\int \frac{x^3}{x^2 - 1} \, dx$$

By our procedure, we can integrate any rational function as long as we can integrate the building blocks:

$$\frac{1}{x-b}, \ \frac{1}{(x-b)^n}, \ \frac{x}{x^2+cx+d}, \ \frac{1}{x^2+cx+d}, \ \frac{x}{(x^2+cx+d)^m}, \ \frac{1}{(x^2+cx+d)^m}$$

where $n, m \ge 2$. We have handled the first four in the above example (when c = 0, d = 1). For general c, d, we need to complete the square.

Example 6.14.

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

= $\int \frac{u+1}{u^2+1} \, du$ (by letting $u = x+1$)
= $\int \frac{u}{u^2+1} \, du + \int \frac{1}{u^2+1} \, du$
= $\frac{1}{2} \ln |u^2+1| + \arctan u + C$
= $\frac{1}{2} \ln |(x+1)^2+1| + \arctan(x+1) + C$.

Finally, when $m \ge 1$, we can still complete the square to force the form c = 0, d = 1.

Example 6.15. By trigonometric substitution, evaluate

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

6.6 Integration by Rationalization

Example 6.16. To evaluate

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{x}}{x+1} \, dx,$$

we let $u = \sqrt{x}$. Since

$$u = \sqrt{x} \implies x = u^2 \implies dx = 2u \, du$$

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{x}}{x+1} dx = \int \frac{u}{u^2+1} (2u \, du)$$

= $\int \frac{2u^2}{u^2+1} du$ (which is a rational function now)
= $2 \int \left(1 - \frac{1}{u^2+1}\right) du$
= $2u - 2 \arctan u + C$
= $2\sqrt{x} - 2 \arctan \sqrt{x} + C$.

Example 6.17. To evaluate

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{x}}{\sqrt[3]{x+1}} \, dx,$$

with some thoughts, it's not hard to see that we should use $u = x^{\frac{1}{6}}$. Then, similarly,

$$u = x^{\frac{1}{6}} \implies x = u^6 \implies dx = 6u^5 du.$$

Hence,

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{x}}{\sqrt[3]{x+1}} dx = \int \frac{6u^8}{u^2+1} du$$

= $6 \int \left(u^6 - u^4 + u^2 - 1 + \frac{1}{u^2+1} \right) du$
= $6 \left(\frac{1}{7}u^7 - \frac{1}{5}u^5 + \frac{1}{3}u^3 - u + \arctan u \right) + C$
= $6 \left(\frac{1}{7}x^{\frac{7}{6}} - \frac{1}{5}x^{\frac{5}{6}} + \frac{1}{3}x^{\frac{3}{6}} - x^{\frac{1}{6}} + \arctan(x^{\frac{1}{6}}) \right) + C.$

6.7 Integrating Basic Trigonometric Functions

Proposition 6.18.

$$\int \sin x \, dx = -\cos x + C \qquad \int \sec x \, dx = \ln|\sec x + \tan x| + C$$

$$\int \cos x \, dx = \sin x + C \qquad \int \csc x \, dx = -\ln|\csc x + \cot x| + C$$

$$\int \tan x \, dx = \ln|\sec x| + C \qquad \int \cot x \, dx = -\ln|\csc x| + C$$

Proof of Proposition 6.18.

$$\int \tan x \, dx = \int \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \, dx$$
$$= \int \frac{1}{\cos x} \, d(-\cos x)$$
$$= -\ln|\cos x| + C$$
$$= \ln|\sec x| + C.$$

 $\cot x$ can be handled similarly.

$$\int \sec x \, dx = \int \frac{\cos x}{\cos^2 x} \, dx$$
$$= \int \frac{1}{1 - \sin^2 x} \, d(\sin x)$$
$$= \int \frac{1}{1 - u^2} \, du \quad \text{(by letting } u = \sin x\text{)}$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \int \left(\frac{1}{1 - u} + \frac{1}{1 + u}\right) \, du$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \ln \left|\frac{1 + \sin x}{1 - \sin x}\right| + C$$
$$= \ln \left|\frac{1 + \sin x}{\cos x}\right| + C.$$

 $\csc x$ can be handled similarly.

6.8 Integration by *t*-Substitution

Suppose we want to evaluate

$$\int \frac{1}{1+\sin x} \, dx.$$

If we let
$$t = \tan \frac{x}{2}$$
, then

$$\sin x = 2 \sin \frac{x}{2} \cos \frac{x}{2} = 2 \tan \frac{x}{2} \cos^2 \frac{x}{2} = \frac{2t}{1+t^2}$$

$$\cos x = \cos^2 \frac{x}{2} - \sin^2 \frac{x}{2} = \cos^2 \frac{x}{2}(1-t^2) = \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}$$

Furthermore,

$$x = 2 \arctan t \implies dx = \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt.$$

Hence,

$$\int \frac{1}{1+\sin x} dx = \int \frac{1}{1+\frac{2t}{1+t^2}} \cdot \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt$$
$$= \int \frac{2}{(t+1)^2} dt$$
$$= -2(t+1)^{-1} + C$$
$$= -2\left(\tan\frac{x}{2}+1\right)^{-1} + C.$$

Theorem 6.19 (t-Substitution). By letting $t = tan \frac{x}{2}$, we have

$$dx = \frac{2}{1+t^2} \, dt,$$

$$\sin x = \frac{2t}{1+t^2}$$
 and $\cos x = \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}$.

With t-substitution, we can transform any rational functions of trigonometric functions into an algebraic rational functions, which can then be handled by partial fractions.

Example 6.20.

$$\int \frac{1}{\sin x + 2\cos x + 1} \, dx.$$

6.9 Integration by Parts

Theorem 6.21 (Integration by Parts).

$$\int u\,dv = uv - \int v\,du.$$

Proof of Integration by Parts. From product rule,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(uv) = v\frac{du}{dx} + u\frac{dv}{dx}$$
$$\int \frac{d}{dx}(uv) \, dx = \int v\frac{du}{dx} \, dx + \int u\frac{dv}{dx} \, dx$$
$$uv + C = \int v \, du + \int u \, dv$$
$$\int u \, dv = uv - \int v \, du$$

(C can be omitted because of the remained indefinite integrals)

Example 6.22. To evaluate

$$\int x e^x \, dx$$

we let u = x and $v = e^x$. Then, $dv = e^x dx$ and we have

$$\int xe^x \, dx = \int x \, d(e^x)$$
$$= xe^x - \int e^x \, dx$$
$$= xe^x - e^x + C.$$

Example 6.23. To evaluate:

$$\int x^2 \cos x \, dx,$$

we let $u = x^2$ and $v = \sin x$. Then, $dv = \cos x \, dx$ and we have

$$\int x^2 \cos x \, dx = \int x^2 \, d(\sin x)$$
$$= x^2 \sin x - \int \sin x \, d(x^2)$$
$$= x^2 \sin x - \int 2x \sin x \, dx.$$

So, to apply integration by parts once, we practically integrate $\cos x$ once and differentiate x^2 once. That's how to determine which function to be u and which function to be v. We then proceed to apply integration by parts one more time:

$$\int x^2 \cos x \, dx = x^2 \sin x - \int 2x \sin x \, dx$$
$$= x^2 \sin x + 2 \int x \, d(\cos x)$$
$$= x^2 \sin x + 2x \cos x - 2 \int \cos x \, dx$$
$$= x^2 \sin x + 2x \cos x - 2 \sin x + C.$$

Example 6.24. How about

$$\int \arcsin x \, dx?$$

We don't know how to integrate $\arcsin x$, but we know how to differentiate it. So,

$$\int \arcsin x \, dx = x \arcsin x - \int x d(\arcsin x)$$

= $x \arcsin x - \int \frac{x}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}} \, dx$
= $x \arcsin x - \int \frac{\sin \theta}{\sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta}} \, d(\sin \theta)$ (by letting $x = \sin \theta$)
= $x \arcsin x - \int \sin \theta \, d\theta$
= $x \arcsin x + \cos \theta + C$
= $x \arcsin x + \sqrt{1 - x^2} + C$.

Example 6.25. •

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$$\int \ln x \, dx$$

$$\int e^x \sin x \, dx$$

6.10 Reduction Formula

Example 6.26. How to evaluate:

$$\int x^4 e^x \, dx \, ?$$

Instead of applying integration by parts four times, we could set up a **reduction formula** as follows.

Let

$$I_n = \int x^n e^x \, dx,$$

where n is a non-negative integer. By integration by parts,

$$\int x^n e^x \, dx = \int x^n \, d(e^x)$$
$$= x^n e^x - \int e^x \, d(x^n)$$
$$= x^n e^x - n \int x^{n-1} e^x \, dx$$

provided that $n \ge 1$. In other words,

$$I_n = x^n e^x - n I_{n-1} \quad \text{for all } n \ge 1.$$

All we need now would be the initial result:

$$I_0 = \int x^0 e^x \, dx = \int e^x \, dx = e^x + C.$$

We can then easily generate I_n up to any n using our reduction formula:

$$I_{1} = x^{1}e^{x} - I_{0} = xe^{x} - e^{x} + C$$

$$I_{2} = x^{2}e^{x} - 2I_{1} = x^{2}e^{x} - 2xe^{x} + 2e^{x} + C$$

$$I_{3} = x^{3}e^{x} - 3I_{2} = x^{3}e^{x} - 3x^{2}e^{x} + 6xe^{x} - 6e^{x} + C$$

$$I_{4} = x^{4}e^{x} - 4I_{3} = x^{4}e^{x} - 4x^{3}e^{x} + 12x^{2}e^{x} - 24xe^{x} + 24e^{x} + C.$$

Example 6.27. Let:

$$I_n = \int \frac{1}{x^n(x+1)} \, dx,$$

where n is a non-negative integer. This problem can be solved by partial fraction decomposition if n is given. Interestingly, we can also set up a reduction formula as follows. For $n \ge 1$,

$$I_n = \int \frac{1}{x^n(x+1)} dx$$

= $\int \left(\frac{1+x}{x^n(x+1)} - \frac{x}{x^n(x+1)}\right) dx$
= $\int \frac{1}{x^n} dx - \int \frac{1}{x^{n-1}(x+1)} dx$
= $\begin{cases} \ln|x| - I_0 & \text{if } n = 1; \\ \frac{1}{-n+1} x^{-n+1} - I_{n-1} & \text{if } n \ge 2. \end{cases}$

For n = 0, we have:

$$I_0 = \int \frac{1}{x+1} \, dx = \ln|x+1| + C.$$

6.11 Definite Integral and Riemann Sum

For a continuous function f(x), how to find the area of the region under the curve y = f(x) over the interval [a, b]?



If we cut the interval [a, b] into n parts, then the width of each would be d. The right end-points of the sub-intervals will then be:

$$a+d, a+2d, a+3d, \ldots, a+nd = b.$$

So, the heights of the rectangles in the above graph are

$$f(a+d), f(a+2d), f(a+3d), \dots, f(a+nd).$$

Therefore, $\sum_{k=1}^{n} f(a + kd)d$ is the total area of the rectangles. When n goes to infinity, this value will be exactly the (signed) area under the curve y = f(x) over the interval [a, b].

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Definition 6.28. The **definite integral** of a piecewise continuous function f(x) over an interval [a, b] is

$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x) \, dx = \lim_{n \to +\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{n} f(a+kd)d \quad \text{where } d = \frac{b-a}{n}$$

Proof of Definition 6.28. For its well-definedness, see Definition 1 and Theorem 1 in Appendix 5. \Box

It will be convenient to extend our definition to arbitrary a, b:

$$\int_{a}^{a} f(x) dx = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx = -\int_{b}^{a} f(x) dx \quad \text{if } a > b$$

Notice that if we let $x_k = a + kd$ be the right end-points of the sub-intervals, then

$$\Delta x_k = x_k - x_{k-1} = d$$



That explains why we keep "dx" as part of the notation.

Example 6.29. Consider the function $f(x) = x^2$ over the interval [a, b]. By definition,

$$\begin{split} \int_{a}^{b} f(x) \, dx &= \lim_{n \to +\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{n} f(a+kd) d \quad \text{where } d = \frac{b-a}{n} \\ &= (b-a) \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{n} ((a+d)^{2} + (a+2d)^{2} + \dots + (a+nd)^{2}) \\ &= (b-a) \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{n} ((a^{2} + 2ad + d^{2}) + (a^{2} + 4ad + 4d^{2}) + \dots + (a^{2} + 2and + n^{2}d^{2})) \\ &= (b-a) \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{n} \left(na^{2} + 2ad \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + d^{2} \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} \right) \\ &= (b-a) \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{n} \left(na^{2} + 2a \frac{b-a}{n} \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + \frac{(b-a)^{2}}{n^{2}} \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} \right) \\ &= (b-a) \left(a^{2} + 2a(b-a) \frac{1}{2} + (b-a)^{2} \frac{2}{6} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{3} (b^{3} - a^{3}). \end{split}$$

Proposition 6.30. For any constants $a, b, c, \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx = -\int_{b}^{a} f(x) dx;$$
$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx = \int_{a}^{c} f(x) dx + \int_{c}^{b} f(x) dx;$$
$$\int_{a}^{b} (\alpha f(x) + \beta g(x)) dx = \alpha \int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx + \beta \int_{a}^{b} g(x) dx;$$
$$f(x) \leq g(x) \text{ on } [a, b] \implies \int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx \leq \int_{a}^{b} g(x) dx.$$

Proof of Proposition 6.30. See Proposition 2 in Appendix 5.

6.12 Fundamental Theorem of Calculus

For a continuous function f(t), we may define a function:

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

, where a is any element in the domain of f(x).

We are now ready to state and prove the following fundamental results in Calculus, which basically mean

- "Integration and differentiation are reverse of each other."
- "Definite integrals can be computed by indefinite integrals."
- **Theorem 6.31** (Fundamental theorem of calculus FTC). Part I: If f(x) is a continuous function on [a, b], then the function $F(x) = \int_a^x f(t)dt$ is differentiable on [a, b] and:

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

for all $x \in [a, b]$.

• **Part II:** If F(x) is a differentiable function on [a, b] and F'(x) is continuous on [a, b], then:

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

Proof of Fundamental theorem of calculus (FTC). First: For any $x \in (a, b)$ and small h > 0, by EVT, we can define m(h) and M(h) such that f attains its minimum and maximum within [x, x + h] respectively. Then,

$$RF'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0^+} \frac{F(x+h) - F(x)}{h} = \lim_{h \to 0^+} \frac{\int_a^{x+h} f(t) \, dt - \int_a^x f(t) \, dt}{h} = \lim_{h \to 0^+} \frac{\int_x^{x+h} f(t) \, dt}{h}$$

Since

$$f(m(h)) = \frac{\int_x^{x+h} f(m(h)) \, dt}{h} \le \frac{\int_x^{x+h} f(t) \, dt}{h} \le \frac{\int_x^{x+h} f(M(h)) \, dt}{h} = f(M(h))$$

and, by continuity,

$$\lim_{h \to 0^+} f(m(h)) = f(x) = \lim_{h \to 0^+} f(M(h)),$$

we can conclude that RF'(x) = f(x) (squeeze theorem). Similarly,

$$LF'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0^{-}} \frac{F(x+h) - F(x)}{h} = \lim_{h \to 0^{-}} \frac{F(x) - F(x-|h|)}{|h|}$$

By applying the same arguments over [x - |h|, x], we can also conclude that LF'(x) = f(x). Therefore, F is differentiable and

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\int_{a}^{x} f(t) \, dt\right) = F'(x) = f(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in (a, b).$$

At x = a, by continuity and squeeze theorem, we also have

$$RF'(a) = \lim_{h \to 0^+} \frac{F(a+h) - F(a)}{h} = \lim_{h \to 0^+} \frac{\int_a^{a+h} f(t) \, dt}{h} = f(a)$$

Obviously, LF'(b) = f(b) as well. Second: Suppose g(x) is differentiable and g'(x) = 0 on [a, b]. By Lagrange's MVT, for any $x \in (a, b]$,

$$\frac{g(x) - g(a)}{x - a} = g'(c) = 0 \quad \text{for some } c \implies g(x) = g(a)$$

Therefore, g(x) must be a constant function on [a, b].

Now, by the first part of FTC,

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(F(x) - \int_a^x F'(t) \, dt\right) = F'(x) - \frac{d}{dx} \int_a^x F'(t) \, dt = 0$$

for all $x \in [a, b]$. So,

$$g(x) = F(x) - \int_{a}^{x} F'(t) dt$$

must be a constant function on [a, b]. Hence,

$$F(b) - \int_{a}^{b} F'(t) dt = g(b) = g(a) = F(a)$$

and the result follows.

By the second part of FTC, for any continuous function f(x) and $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, we have:

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

where F(x) is an antiderivative of f(x).

Remark. Replacing F(x) with F(x)+C for any constant C would have no effect, as:

$$(F(b) + C) - (F(a) + C) = F(b) - F(a).$$

Example 6.32. Let us redo Example 6.29 by FTC:

$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x) \, dx = \int_{a}^{b} x^{2} \, dx = \left. \frac{1}{3} x^{3} \right|_{a}^{b} = \frac{1}{3} b^{3} - \frac{1}{3} a^{3}.$$

Example 6.33. Consider the function $y = f(x) = x^3$ over the interval [-1, 1].

Since $f(x) \ge 0$ when $x \in [0,1]$ and $f(x) \le 0$ when $x \in [-1,0]$, to find the area of the region bounded by y = f(x) and the x -axis, we need to split the interval [-1,1] into [-1,0] and [0,1] (to avoid cancellation):

Area =
$$\left| \int_{-1}^{0} x^{3} dx \right| + \left| \int_{0}^{1} x^{3} dx \right| = \frac{1}{2}.$$

(In fact, the signed areas of the two regions will cancel out each other:

$$\int_{-1}^{1} x^3 \, dx = 0.)$$

Example 6.34. When applying integration by substitution on definite integrals, there's no need to substitute x back in at the end as long as we adjust the bounds accordingly:

$$\int_{0}^{1} (2x+1)^{\frac{3}{7}} dx = \int_{1}^{3} u^{\frac{3}{7}} \left(\frac{1}{2} du\right) \quad \text{(by letting } u = 2x+1\text{)}$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{7}{10} \left|u^{\frac{10}{7}}\right|_{1}^{3} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{7}{10} (3^{\frac{10}{7}} - 1).$$

Example 6.35.

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

$$\int_{-3}^{0} |x^2 + 3x + 2| \, dx;$$

$$\int_0^\pi x^6 \sin x \, dx.$$

Here's a surprising application of FTC.

Proposition 6.36. If f(x) is a continuous function over [0, 1], then:

$$\int_0^1 f(x) \, dx = \lim_{n \to +\infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{n} f\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)$$

Example 6.37.

$$\lim_{n \to +\infty} \left(\frac{n}{n^2 + 1} + \frac{n}{n^2 + 4} + \dots + \frac{n}{n^2 + n^2} \right)$$

=
$$\lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{1}{n}\right)^2} + \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{2}{n}\right)^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{n}{n}\right)^2} \right)$$

=
$$\lim_{n \to +\infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{k}{n}\right)^2}$$

=
$$\lim_{n \to +\infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{n} f\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)$$

where $f(x) = \frac{1}{1 + x^2}$. Hence,

$$\lim_{n \to +\infty} \left(\frac{n}{n^2 + 1} + \frac{n}{n^2 + 4} + \dots + \frac{n}{n^2 + n^2} \right) = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{1 + x^2} \, dx = \frac{\pi}{4}.$$

Example 6.38. Given that $F(x) = \int_{2}^{x} f(t) dt$ where



Find F(2), F(4) and F(0).

Example 6.39. Given that $F(x) = \int_0^x f(t) dt$ where



Among $x \in [0, 4]$,

• When is F(x) maximum?

- When is F(x) minimum?
- When is F'(x) maximum?

We may also generalize the first part of FTC a little bit:

Proposition 6.40. If f(x) is a continuous on [a, b] and h(x) is differentiable on [c, d] such that $h([c, d]) \subseteq [a, b]$, then

$$\frac{d}{dx}\int_{a}^{h(x)}f(t)\,dt = f(h(x))\,h'(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in [c,d]$$

Proof of Proposition 6.40. Let $F(x) = \int_{a}^{x} f(t) dt$. Then, by FTC, F(x) is differentiable over [a, b]. Moreover, for any $x \in [c, d]$,

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

as desired.

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Example 6.41. Find g'(x) if

$$g(x) = \int_{-1}^{x^2} \cos(t^2) \, dt$$

$$g(x) = \int_{x^4}^1 \sec(\sqrt[3]{t}) \, dt$$

$$g(x) = \int_{\sin x}^{\cos x} \ln(\sin t) \, dt.$$

6.13 Improper Integrals

Sometimes, we are interested in computing the definite integral of a function over $[a, +\infty)$ or $(-\infty, b]$.

Definition 6.42. If f(x) is a continuous function over $[a, +\infty)$ such that the limit

$$\lim_{b \to +\infty} \int_{a}^{b} f(x) \, dx$$

exists, we define

$$\int_{a}^{+\infty} f(x) \, dx = \lim_{b \to +\infty} \int_{a}^{b} f(x) \, dx$$

Similarly, if f(x) is a continuous function over $(-\infty, b]$ such that the limit

$$\lim_{a \to -\infty} \int_a^b f(x) \, dx$$

exists, we define



Occasionally, we may also consider one-sided improper integrals.

Definition 6.43. If f(x) is a continuous function over (a, b] such that the limit

$$\lim_{c \to a^+} \int_c^b f(x) \, dx$$

exists, we define

$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx = \lim_{c \to a^{+}} \int_{c}^{b} f(x) dx$$

Similarly, if f(x) is a continuous function over [a, b) such that the limit

$$\lim_{c \to b^-} \int_a^c f(x) \, dx$$

exists, we define

$$\int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx = \lim_{c \to b^{-}} \int_{a}^{c} f(x) dx$$





In all four cases above, we say that the improper integral **converges** if the corresponding limit exists. Otherwise, we say that it **diverges**.

Example 6.44. Since

$$\int_{1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx = \lim_{b \to +\infty} \int_{1}^{b} \frac{1}{x^2} dx = \lim_{b \to +\infty} \left. -\frac{1}{x} \right|_{1}^{b} = 1,$$

we can conclude that $\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{x^2} dx$ converges to 1. On the other hand, since:

$$\int_{1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx = \lim_{b \to +\infty} \int_{1}^{b} \frac{1}{x} dx = \lim_{b \to +\infty} \ln|x||_{1}^{b} = +\infty \quad (\text{DNE}),$$

we can conclude that $\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{x} dx$ diverges to $+\infty$.





Example 6.45. Since:

$$\int_0^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \, dx = \lim_{c \to 0^+} \int_c^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \, dx = \lim_{c \to 0^+} \left. 2\sqrt{x} \right|_c^2 = 2\sqrt{2},$$

we can conclude that $\int_0^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} dx$ converges to $2\sqrt{2}$. On the other hand, since

$$\int_{0}^{2} \frac{1}{x} dx = \lim_{c \to 0^{+}} \int_{c}^{2} \frac{1}{x} dx = \lim_{c \to 0^{+}} \ln|x||_{c}^{2} = +\infty \quad (\text{DNE}),$$

we can conclude that $\int_0^2 \frac{1}{x} dx$ diverges to $+\infty$.



