

The Definition of an integral (the a Limit of a Riemann Sum)

Bonus exercise.(read the stuff below then answer the 5 questions on the next page)

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

1. To actually solve the integral as a limit you must be aware of the following summation formulas:

$$1. \sum_{i=1}^n c = cn$$

$$2. \sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$3. \sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

$$4. \sum_{i=1}^n i^3 = \left[\frac{n(n+1)}{2} \right]^2$$

2. Example using the **summation** formulas above:

Example 1 Using the formulas and properties from above determine the value of the following summation.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{100} (3 - 2i)^2$$

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The first thing that we need to do is square out the stuff being summed and then break up the summation using the properties as follows,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{100} (3 - 2i)^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^{100} 9 - 12i + 4i^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{100} 9 - \sum_{i=1}^{100} 12i + \sum_{i=1}^{100} 4i^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{100} 9 - 12 \sum_{i=1}^{100} i + 4 \sum_{i=1}^{100} i^2 \end{aligned}$$

Now, using the formulas, this is easy to compute,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{100} (3 - 2i)^2 &= 9(100) - 12 \left(\frac{100(101)}{2} \right) + 4 \left(\frac{100(101)(201)}{6} \right) \\ &= 1293700 \end{aligned}$$

Example:

Example of solving an Area problem using the limit of a Riemann Sum:
(using the **definition of an integral**.... $n \rightarrow \infty$)

evaluate the Riemann Sum for $f(x) = x^3$ from $x = 0$ to $x = 3$

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

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f\left(\frac{3i}{n}\right) \left(\frac{3}{n}\right)$$

1. Why is $\Delta x = 3/n$? What is the formula for Δx

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{3}{n}\right) \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{3i}{n}\right)^3$$

2. Why is $f(x_i) = (3i/n)$? What is the formula for $f(x_i)$?

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{3}{n}\right)^4 \sum_{i=1}^n i^3$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{3}{n}\right)^4 \left(\frac{n(n+1)}{2}\right)^2$$

3. Explain how we got here from the previous line?

$$= \left(\frac{3^4}{4}\right) \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{n^4}\right) \left(\frac{n(n+1)}{1}\right)^2$$

$$= \left(\frac{3^4}{4}\right) \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^2$$

$$\int_0^3 x^3 dx = \left(\frac{3^4}{4}\right)$$

$$\int_0^3 x^3 dx = \frac{81}{4}$$

4. Use an online integral calculator (or perform this definite integral yourself) to confirm that the AREA under x^3 from 0 to 3 is81/4.

5. Use the definition of an integral (as a limit of a summation) to find the following:

$$\int_0^1 3x^2 dx$$

Answer: 1 unit²