

Math 123: Approximate Integration

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Outline

- 1 Quick Review of Partial Fraction Expansion
- 2 Approximating Definite Integrals

Steps of Partial Fraction Expansion

When $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ are polynomials, we want to find

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Example Find $\int \frac{1}{x^3-x} dx$

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Case 1: $q(x)$ is the product of distinct linear factors

$$q(x) = (a_1x + b_1)(a_2x + b_1)\dots(a_kx + b_k)$$

In this case we let

$$\frac{p(x)}{q(x)} = \frac{A_1}{(a_1x + b_1)} + \frac{A_2}{(a_2x + b_1)} + \dots + \frac{A_k}{(a_kx + b_k)}$$

and we solve algebraically for A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k .

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Definition

(Definite Integral) If f is a function defined for $a \leq x \leq b$, we divide the interval $[a, b]$ into n subintervals of equal width $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n}$. We let $x_0 (= a), x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n (= b)$ be the endpoints of these subintervals and we let $x_1^*, x_2^*, \dots, x_n^*$ be any **sample points** in these subintervals. Then the **definite integral of f from a to b** is

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

provided that this limit exists. If it does exist, we say that f is **integrable** on $[a, b]$.

Picking Sample points and Approx. Integrals

$\int_a^b f(x)dx$ is approximated by each of the following

$$R_n = f(x_1)\Delta x + f(x_2)\Delta x + \dots + f(x_n)\Delta x$$

$$L_n = f(x_0)\Delta x + f(x_1)\Delta x + \dots + f(x_{n-1})\Delta x$$

$$M_n = f\left(\frac{1}{2}(x_0 + x_1)\right)\Delta x + f\left(\frac{1}{2}(x_1 + x_2)\right)\Delta x + \dots + f\left(\frac{1}{2}(x_{n-1} + x_n)\right)\Delta x$$

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Example Find M_4 for $\int_1^2 e^{x^2} dx$ (is this an under estimate or an over estimate?)

Approximating by Trapezoids

Recall that the area of a trapezoid with parallel sides of length a and b and of height h is

$$A = \frac{1}{2}(a + b)h$$

When we use trapezoids to approximate the area under the curve, we get

$$T_n = \frac{1}{2}\Delta x(f(x_0) + 2f(x_1) + 2f(x_2) + \dots + 2f(x_{n-1}) + f(x_n))$$

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