

The Mean Value Theorem and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus

Suppose that F is continuous on $[a, b]$
and $F' = f$ on (a, b)

Partition $[a, b]$ into $[x_0, x_1], [x_1, x_2], \dots, [x_{n-1}, x_n]$

$$x_0 = a, x_n = b$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} F(b) - F(a) &= F(x_n) - F(x_0) \\ &= F(x_1) - F(x_0) + F(x_2) - F(x_1) + \dots + F(x_n) - F(x_{n-1}) \end{aligned}$$

Now by the Mean value Theorem

$$\frac{F(x_i) - F(x_{i-1})}{x_i - x_{i-1}} = F'(c_i) = f(c_i) \quad c_i \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} F(b) - F(a) &= \sum_{i=1}^n F'(c_i)(x_i - x_{i-1}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n f(c_i)(x_i - x_{i-1}) \end{aligned}$$

The quantity on the right is a Riemann sum and as we let $\max |x_i - x_{i-1}| \rightarrow 0$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n f(c_i)(x_i - x_{i-1}) \rightarrow \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

Hence

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