

# NUMERICAL INTEGRATION

AS WE'VE SEEN, EVALUATING AN INTEGRAL CAN BE HARD, AND IT MIGHT BE THAT WE CANNOT DO IT AT ALL FOR SOME  $f(x)$ . SAME GOES FOR FINDING THE EXACT LIMIT OF A SEQUENCE OF RIEMANN SUMS, SO WHAT CAN WE DO? OR MORE PRECISELY, WHAT CAN WE DO THAT WE CAN ALSO PROGRAM A COMPUTER TO DO?

IDEA: WE COULD PICK A RIEMANN SUM WITH  $n$  RECTANGLES, AND IF  $n$  IS BIG ENOUGH IT WILL BE VERY CLOSE TO THE ACTUAL INTEGRAL.

MORE GENERAL IDEA: WE CAN JUST DIVIDE OUR INTEGRAL IN  $n$  EQUAL PARTS AND IN EACH OF THESE USE SOME REASONABLE APPROXIMATION OF  $f(x)$  THAT WE CAN INTEGRATE; THEN ADD UP THE PIECES.

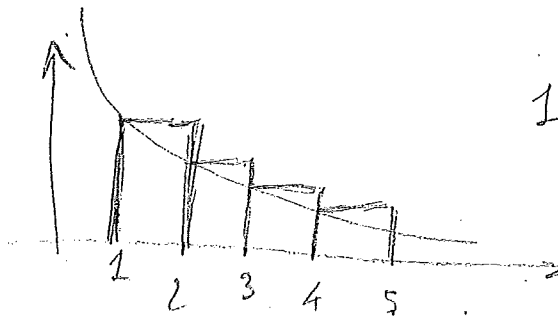
REMARK 1 PICKING A RIEMANN SUM IS JUST APPROXIMATING THE FUNCTION WITH A CONSTANT

REMARK 2 AS IT HAPPENS IN GENERAL WITH APPROXIMATIONS (REMEMBER LINEAR AND QUADRATIC APPROX) WE WILL NEED AN ERROR ESTIMATE, OTHERWISE OUR APPROXIMATIONS WILL BE USELESS.

EXAMPLE:

WE WANT TO APPROXIMATE  $\int_1^5 \frac{1}{x} dx = \log(5)$   
 IN  $n=4$  STEPS (INTERVALS)  $\approx 1.60943$

LEFTPOINT  
RULE

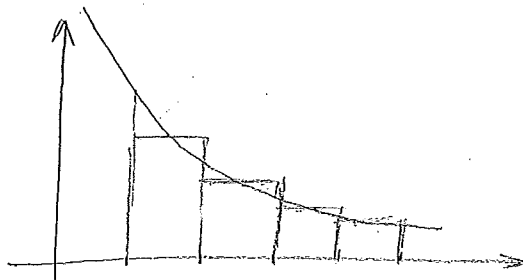


$$1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{25}{12}$$

$$\approx 2.08333$$

$$|\text{ERROR}| \approx 0.47$$

MIDPOINT  
RULE

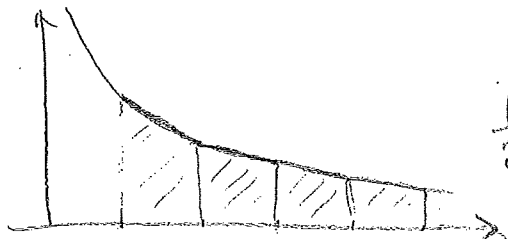


$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{5} + \frac{2}{7} + \frac{2}{9} = \frac{496}{315}$$

$$\approx 1.57460$$

$$|\text{ERROR}| \approx 0.034$$

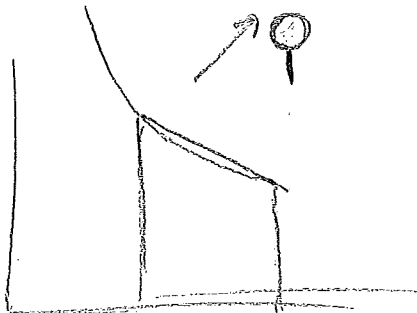
TRAPEZOID  
RULE



$$\frac{1}{2} \left( \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5}\right) \right)$$

$$= \frac{101}{60} \approx 1.68333$$

$$|\text{ERROR}| \approx 0.073$$

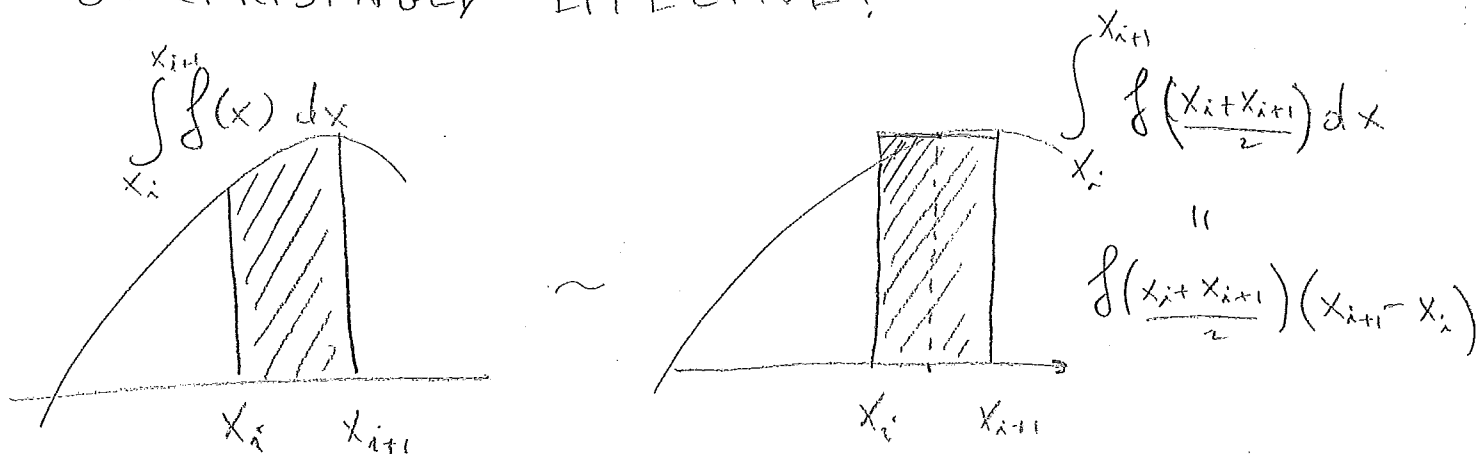


WE'LL STUDY THREE TECHNIQUES OF NUMERICAL INTEGRATION:

MIDPOINT RULE, TRAPEZOIDAL RULE AND SIMPSON'S RULE (UNRELATED TO THE SIMPSONS, UNFORTUNATELY)

## MIDPOINT RULE

WE APPROXIMATE THE INTEGRAL BY JUST TAKING A MIDPOINT RIEMANN SUM. THIS IS SURPRISINGLY EFFECTIVE!



SO WHAT WE ARE DOING IS APPROXIMATING

$$\int_{x_i}^{x_{i+1}} f(x) dx \quad \text{WITH} \quad f\left(\frac{x_i + x_{i+1}}{2}\right) \cdot (x_{i+1} - x_i)$$

DEF: LET  $\Delta_x = \frac{b-a}{n}$ . THE MIDPOINT RULE APPROX (WITH  $n$  STEPS) IS:

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx \approx \left[ f\left(a + \frac{\Delta_x}{2}\right) + f\left(a + \frac{3}{2}\Delta_x\right) + \dots + f\left(a + \left(n - \frac{1}{2}\right)\Delta_x\right) \right] \Delta_x$$

Ex:  $\int_0^1 \frac{4x}{1+x^2} dx$ , APPROX WITH MID RULE,  $M=4$

STEPS

• THE X VALUES:  $a=0$ ,  $b=1$ ,  $\Delta x = \frac{1}{4}$

SO THE X VALUES WILL BE

$$\frac{1}{8}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{7}{8}$$

•  $\int_0^1 \frac{4x}{1+x^2} dx \approx \left[ \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1+\frac{1}{64}} + \frac{\frac{3}{2}}{1+\frac{9}{64}} + \frac{\frac{5}{2}}{1+\frac{25}{64}} + \frac{\frac{7}{2}}{1+\frac{49}{64}} \right] \cdot \frac{1}{4}$

$$= 1.396857 \dots$$

LET'S SEE HOW GOOD OUR APPROX IS;

$$\int_0^1 \frac{4x}{1+x^2} dx = \log(4) = 1.386294 \dots$$

SO THE ERROR IS  $|\log(4) - 1.396857 \dots| = 0.01056 \dots$

$\approx 10^{-2}$ , OR  $\approx 1\%$  OF THE ORIGINAL QTY.

DEF: SUPPOSE  $\alpha$  IS AN APPROX OF  $A$ .

- ABSOLUTE ERROR =  $|A - \alpha|$

- RELATIVE ERROR =  $\frac{|A - \alpha|}{A}$

- % ERROR =  $\frac{|A - \alpha|}{A} \cdot 100$

EX:  $\int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \cos(x) dx$  ; 4 STEPS

• THE X-VALUES:  $a = -\frac{\pi}{2}$ ,  $b = \frac{\pi}{2}$   $\Delta x = \frac{\pi}{4}$

SO X VALUES

$$-\frac{3}{8}\pi, -\frac{\pi}{8}, \frac{\pi}{8}, \frac{3}{8}\pi$$

•  $\int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos(x) dx \approx \left[ \cos\left(-\frac{3}{8}\pi\right) + \cos\left(-\frac{\pi}{8}\right) + \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{8}\right) + \cos\left(\frac{3}{8}\pi\right) \right] \cdot \frac{\pi}{4}$

$$= 2.05234 \dots$$

EXACT VALUE IS  $\int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos(x) dx = 2$

SO ABSOLUTE ERROR  $|2 - 2.05234 \dots| \approx 0.052$

RELATIVE ERROR  $\frac{0.052 \dots}{2} \approx 0.026$

PERCENTAGE ERROR  $\approx 2.6\%$

LATER WE'LL FIND A PRIORI BOUNDS  
FOR ALL THESE ERRORS

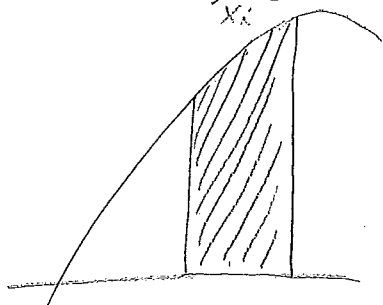
# TRAPEZOIDAL RULE

WE APPROXIMATE THE FUNCTION BETWEEN  $x_i$  AND  $x_{i+1}$  WITH THE LINEAR FUNCTION

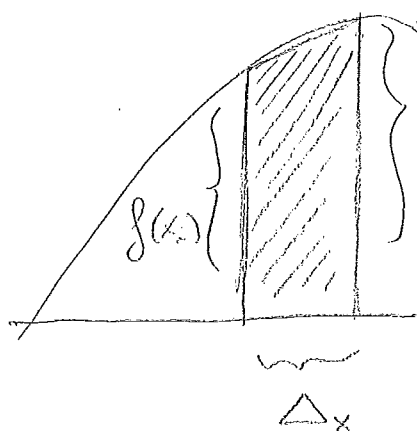
$L(x)$  SUCH THAT  $L(x_i) = f(x_i)$  AND

$$L(x_{i+1}) = f(x_{i+1})$$

$$\int_{x_i}^{x_{i+1}} f(x) dx$$



$$\int_{x_i}^{x_{i+1}} L(x) dx =$$



$$f(x_{i+1}) \left( \frac{f(x_i) + f(x_{i+1}))}{2} \right) \cdot \Delta x$$

DEF: SET  $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{m}$ . THE TRAPEZOIDAL APPROXIMATION (WITH  $m$  STEPS) IS

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^b f(x) dx &\approx \left[ \frac{f(a) + f(a+\Delta x)}{2} + \frac{f(a+\Delta x) + f(a+2\Delta x)}{2} + \dots \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{f(a+(m-1)\Delta x) + f(b)}{2} \right] \cdot \Delta x = [f(a) + 2f(a+\Delta x) + 2f(a+2\Delta x) \\ &\quad + \dots + 2f(a+(m-1)\Delta x) + f(b)] \cdot \frac{\Delta x}{2} = \\ &\quad \left[ \frac{f(a)}{2} + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} f(a+i\Delta x) + \frac{f(b)}{2} \right] \cdot \Delta x \end{aligned}$$

EX: APPROXIMATE  $\int_0^1 \frac{4x}{1+x^2} dx$  WITH THE TRAPEZOIDAL RULE,  $m=4$

• WE HAVE  $\Delta x = \frac{1}{4}$ , SO THE X-VALUES WILL BE  $0, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}, 1$

• THE APPROXIMATION IS

$$\int_0^1 \frac{4x}{1+x^2} dx \approx \left[ \frac{0}{2} + \frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{16}} + \frac{2}{1+\frac{1}{4}} + \frac{3}{1+\frac{9}{16}} + \frac{4}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \right] \cdot \frac{1}{4}$$

$$= 1.365294\dots$$

OUR ERROR IS:

ABSOLUTE  $|\log(4) - 1.365294\dots| = 0.02100\dots$

RELATIVE  $\frac{0.02100}{\log(4)} \approx 0.0151$

PERCENTAGE 1.5%

EX: APPROXIMATE  $\int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos(x) dx$  WITH TRAPEZOID RULE,  $m=4$

•  $\Delta x = \frac{\pi}{4}$ , X VAL  $-\frac{\pi}{2}, -\frac{\pi}{4}, 0, \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{2}$

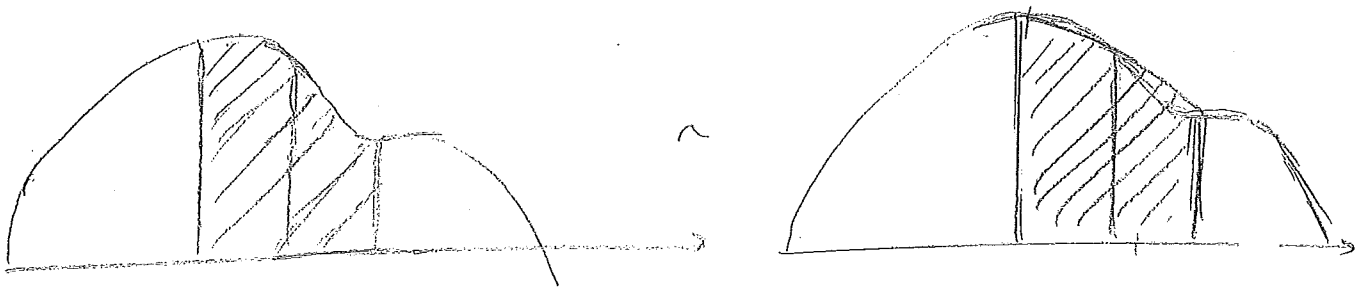
•  $\int_0^1 \cos(x) dx \approx \left[ \frac{\cos(-\frac{\pi}{2}) + \cos(-\frac{\pi}{4}) + \cos(0) + \cos(\frac{\pi}{4})}{2} + \frac{\cos(\frac{\pi}{2})}{2} \right] \cdot \frac{\pi}{4} = (1 + \sqrt{2}) \cdot \frac{\pi}{4} \doteq 1.896118\dots$

ABSOLUTE ERROR  $|2 - (1 + \sqrt{2}) \cdot \frac{\pi}{4}| = 0.103\dots$

RELATIVE  $\frac{0.103\dots}{2} \approx 0.051$  PERCENTAGE 5.1%

# SIMPSON'S RULE

ROUGHLY SPEAKING, SIMPSON'S RULE APPROXIMATES  $f(x)$  ON TWO ADJACENT INTERVALS WITH A QUADRIC



DEF: SET  $\Delta_x = \frac{b-a}{m}$ , AND SUPPOSE  $m$  IS EVEN. THE SIMPSON'S RULE APPROX. IS

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx \approx \left[ f(a) + 4f(a+\Delta_x) + 2f(a+2\Delta_x) + \dots + 2f(a+(m-2)\Delta_x) + 4f(a+(m-1)\Delta_x) + f(b) \right] \frac{\Delta_x}{3}$$

$$= \left[ f(a) + f(b) + 4 \sum_{\substack{i \text{ ODD} \\ 1 \leq i \leq m-1}} f(a+i\Delta_x) + 2 \sum_{\substack{j \text{ EVEN} \\ 2 \leq i \leq m-2}} f(a+i\Delta_x) \right] \frac{\Delta_x}{3}$$

EX:  $\int_0^1 \frac{4x}{1+x^2} dx$  USING SIMPSON'S,  $n=4$

• VALUES OF  $x$ :  $0, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}, 1$

• APPROX  $\int_0^1 \frac{4x}{1+x^2} dx = \left[ f(0) + f(1) + 4 \left( f\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) + f\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) \right) + 2f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \right] \frac{1}{12}$

$= \left[ 0 + 2 + 4 \left( \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{16}} + \frac{3}{1 + \frac{9}{16}} \right) + 2 \left( \frac{2}{1 + \frac{1}{4}} \right) \right] \cdot \frac{1}{12} = \frac{1179}{1000} = 1.387058\dots$



- ERROR :

ABSOLUTE  $|\log(4) - 1.387082\dots| = 0.00076\dots$

RELATIVE  $\frac{0.00076\dots}{\log(4)} = 0.000551\dots \approx 0.0005$

PERCENTAGE  $0.000551\dots \cdot 100 \approx 0.05\%$

EX:  $\int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos(x) dx$  WITH SIMPSON'S,  $n=4$

• X VALUES:  $-\frac{\pi}{2}, -\frac{\pi}{4}, 0, \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{2}$

• APPROXIMATION  $\int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos(x) dx \approx$

$$\left[ \cos\left(-\frac{\pi}{2}\right) + \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) + 4\left(\cos\left(-\frac{\pi}{4}\right) + \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right)\right) + 2\cos(0) \right] \frac{\pi}{12}$$

$$= \left[ 0 + 0 + 4(\sqrt{2}) + 2 \right] \frac{\pi}{12} = (2\sqrt{2} + 1) \frac{\pi}{6} \approx 2.00455\dots$$

ERROR :

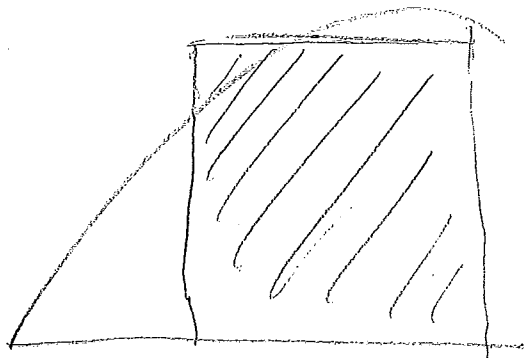
ABSOLUTE  $\left| 2 - (2\sqrt{2} + 1) \frac{\pi}{6} \right| = 0.00455\dots \approx 0.0045$

RELATIVE  $\frac{0.00455\dots}{2} = 0.002277\dots \approx 0.00227$

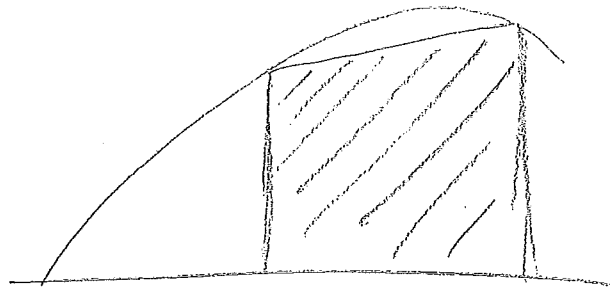
PERCENTAGE  $\approx 0.00227 \times 100 = 0.227\%$

# OPTIONAL

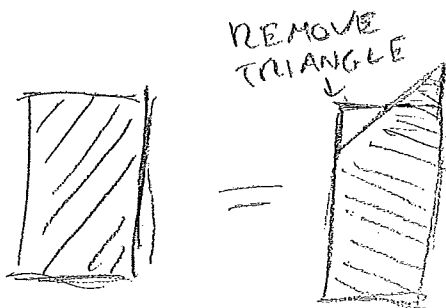
WHY DOES THE MIDPOINT RULE SEEM BETTER THAN TRAPEZOIDAL? IT SEEMS THAT THIS



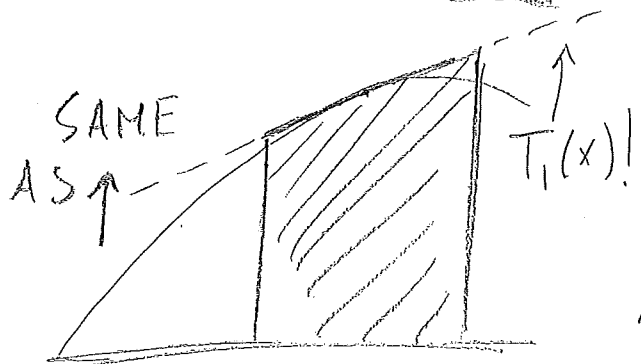
SHOULD BE LESS SMART THAN THIS!



IDEA: WITHOUT CHANGING THE AREA, WE CAN ROTATE THE TOP SEGMENT IN THE MIDPOINT RULE!



SO WE CAN ROTATE IT TO BE TANGENT TO  $f(x)$ !



IT'S THE LINEAR APPROXIMATION OF  $f(x)$  AT THE MIDPOINT!!