

I-U3a Practice Assessment

1. Find the left Riemann sum approximation of $\int_1^4 -(x-3)^2 + 5 \, dx$ using 6 intervals of equal length. Use 3 decimal places of accuracy.

Solution

$$\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n} = \frac{4-1}{6} = \frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{so intervals are spaced by } \frac{1}{2}, \text{ being } 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, \text{ and } 4$$

Since we want left sum, we use the all but the last one: 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5. Notice that this is 6 values, as required.

Riemann sum:

$$\sum_{i=1}^6 f(x_i)dx = f(1)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + f(1.5)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + f(2)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + f(2.5)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + f(3)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + f(3.5)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$\text{Factor out a } \frac{1}{2} \quad \frac{1}{2}[f(1) + f(1.5) + f(2) + f(2.5) + f(3) + f(3.5)]$$

$$\text{Plug each x into f(x)} \quad \frac{1}{2}[1 + 2.75 + 4 + 4.75 + 5 + 4.75]$$

$$\frac{1}{2}[22.25] = 11.125$$

2. Is your answer in #1 an over or under approximation? Explain.

Solution

Since this function is increasing, the left-endpoint's y-value is always less than the right endpoint's y-value. Thus the rectangles are shorter, so it is an under approximation.

3. Approximate $\int_{-5}^{-1} -\frac{5}{x} \, dx$ using a right Riemann approximation using 4 intervals of equal length. Use 3 decimal places of accuracy.

Solution

$$\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n} = \frac{-1 - -5}{4} = \frac{4}{4} = 1 \quad \text{so intervals are spaced by 1 being } -5, -4, -3, -2, \text{ and } -1$$

Since we want Right sum, we use the all but the first one: -4, -3, -2, -1. Notice that this is 4 values, as required.

Riemann sum:

$$\sum_{i=1}^4 f(x_i)dx = f(-4)(1) + f(-3)(1) + f(-2)(1) + f(-1)(1)$$

$$\text{Factor out a 1} \quad 1[f(-4) + f(-3) + f(-2) + f(-1)]$$

$$\text{Plug each x into f(x)} \quad 1[1.25 + 1.667 + 2.5 + 5]$$

$$1[10.417] = 10.471$$

4. Is your answer in #3 an over or under approximation? Explain.

Solution

Since this function is increasing, the right-endpoint's y-value is always more than the left endpoint's y-value. Thus the rectangles are taller, so it is an over-approximation.