

Module Definite integral: definition

Distance Problem

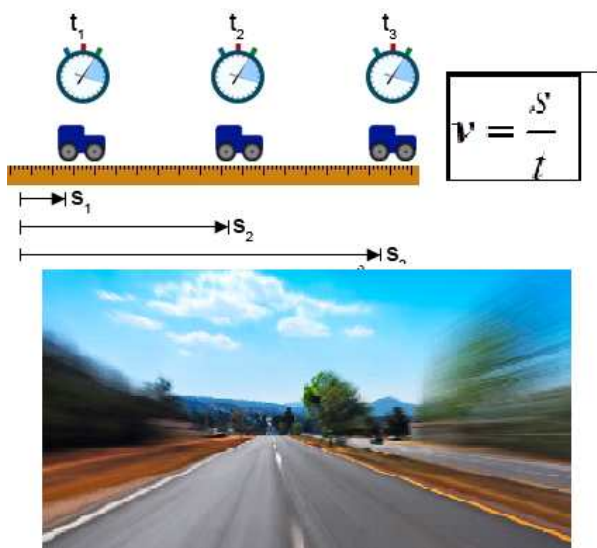
Definite integral

1. Distance problem

Find the distance traveled by an object during a certain time period.

Velocity of the object is known at all times.

(You drive a car and keep watching speedometer of the car)



Case) Velocity is constant => distance = (velocity) \times (time)

Case) Velocity is not constant

Records of your speedometer

Time (sec)	0	5	10	15	20	25	30
Velocity (ft/sec)	25	31	35	43	47	46	41

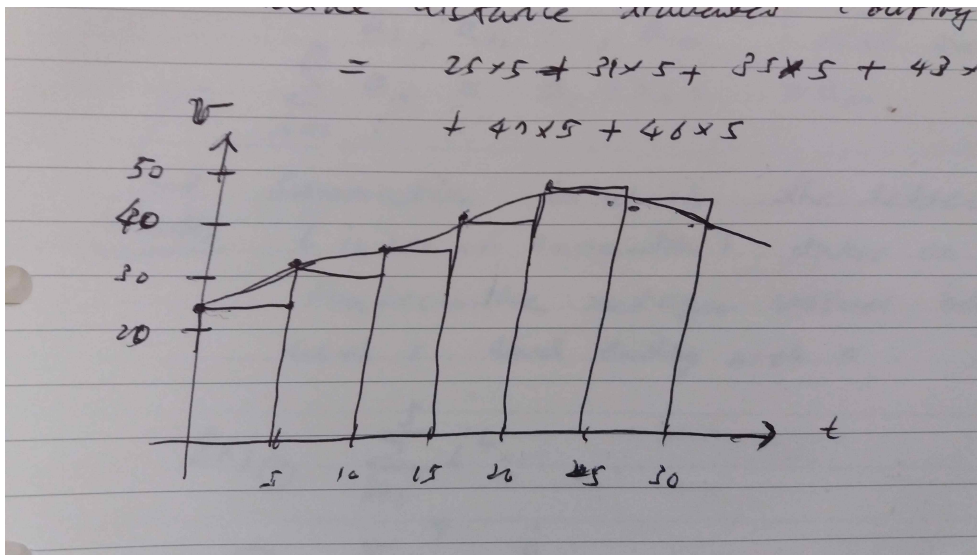
Approximately, traveled distance for first 5 seconds = $25 \times 5 = 125$ ft

Approximately, traveled distance for second 5 seconds = $31 \times 5 = 155$ ft

=>(Approximate) Total distance traveled during 30 seconds

$$= 25 \times 5 + 31 \times 5 + 35 \times 5 + 43 \times 5 + 47 \times 5 + 46 \times 5$$

We can visualize total distance as follows



The sum of area of rectangles \approx area below the curve (=graph of time-velocity function)

(\Rightarrow actual velocity function takes changing values passing through the known points (time, velocity))

$$\Rightarrow D = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{j=1}^n v(t_j) \Delta t$$

Question) The velocity of a moving object is given by $v = 10 - 4t$ ($t \geq 0$) meters.

What is the position of the object, that is displacement, after 5 seconds?

What is the total distance traveled by the object for 5 seconds?

2. Definite integral: Definition

A function f is defined over $a \leq x \leq b$.

Partition of $[a, b]$ =>

We divide the interval $[a, b]$ into n sub-intervals where each one has the length $(b-a)/n$. The j -th sub-interval is $[a+(j-1)(b-a)/n, a+j(b-a)/n]$. We define the righthand sum

$$R_n(f, [a, b]) := \sum_{j=1}^n f(a+j(b-a)/n)(b-a)/n$$

and the lefthand sum

$$L_n(f, [a, b]) := \sum_{j=1}^n f(a+(j-1)(b-a)/n)(b-a)/n$$

Definite integral of f over $[a, b]$ is defined to be the following limit if it exists:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n(f, [a, b]) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} L_n(f, [a, b])$$

Denote it with $\int_a^b f(x)dx$.