

Extra Riemann Sum, Definite Integral Example

Evaluate $\int_0^3 x^2 dx$ using Riemann Sums and the limit definition of the definite integral.

Here $f(x) = x^2$, $a = 0$, $b = 3$, $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n} = \frac{3-0}{n} = \frac{3}{n}$

and $x_i = a + i\Delta x = 0 + i\left(\frac{3}{n}\right) = \frac{3i}{n}$.

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^3 x^2 dx &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i)\Delta x \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f\left(\frac{3i}{n}\right) \left(\frac{3}{n}\right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{3i}{n}\right)^2 \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{9i^2}{n^2} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{27}{n^3} \sum_{i=1}^n i^2 \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{27}{n^3} \left(\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}\right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{27}{6} \left(\cancel{n}\right) \left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right) \left(\frac{2n+1}{n}\right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{27}{6} (1) \left(1 + \frac{\cancel{1}}{n}\right) \left(2 + \frac{\cancel{1}}{n}\right) \\ &= \frac{27}{6} (1)(1)(2) = \frac{27}{3} \\ &= \boxed{9}\end{aligned}$$