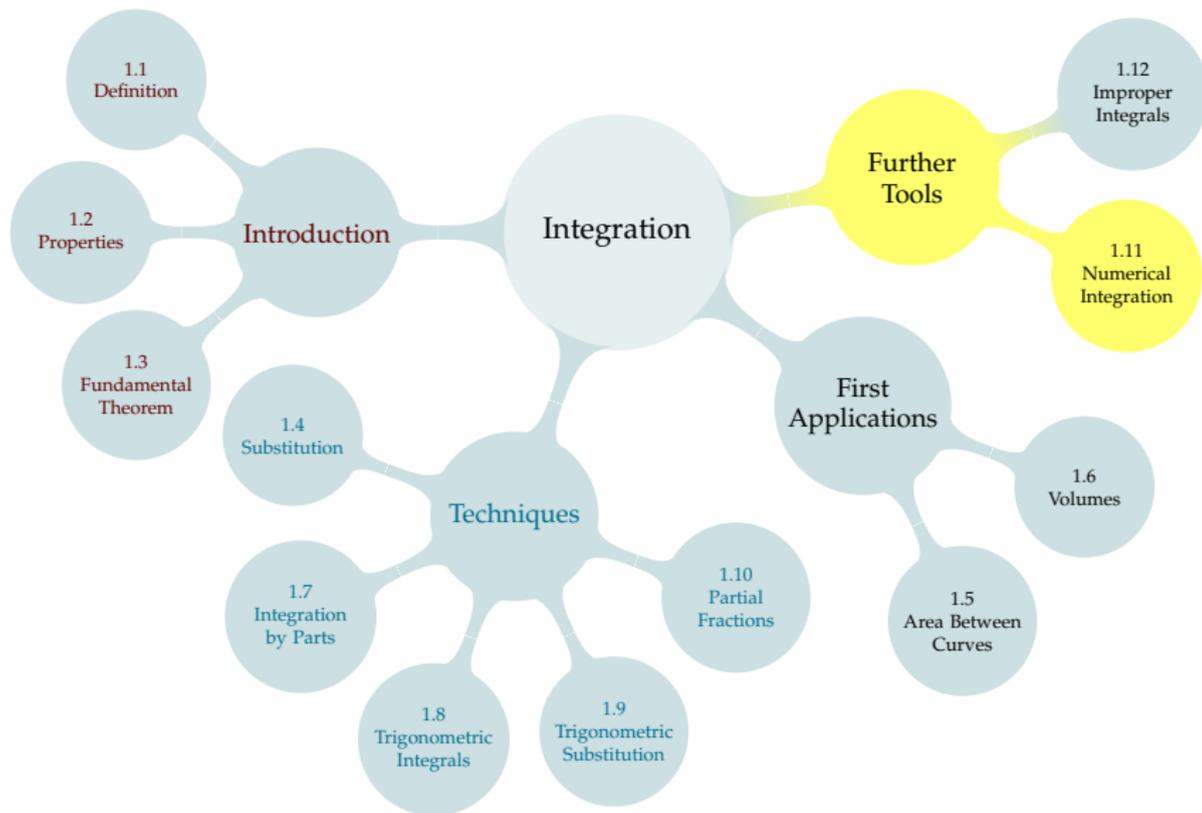


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## Numerical integration errors

Assume that  $|f''(x)| \leq M$  for all  $a \leq x \leq b$  and  $|f^{(4)}(x)| \leq L$  for all  $a \leq x \leq b$ . Then

- ▶ the total error introduced by the midpoint rule is bounded by

$$\frac{M (b-a)^3}{24 n^2},$$

- ▶ the total error introduced by the trapezoidal rule is bounded by

$$\frac{M (b-a)^3}{12 n^2}, \text{ and}$$

- ▶ the total error introduced by Simpson's rule is bounded by

$$\frac{L (b-a)^5}{180 n^4}$$

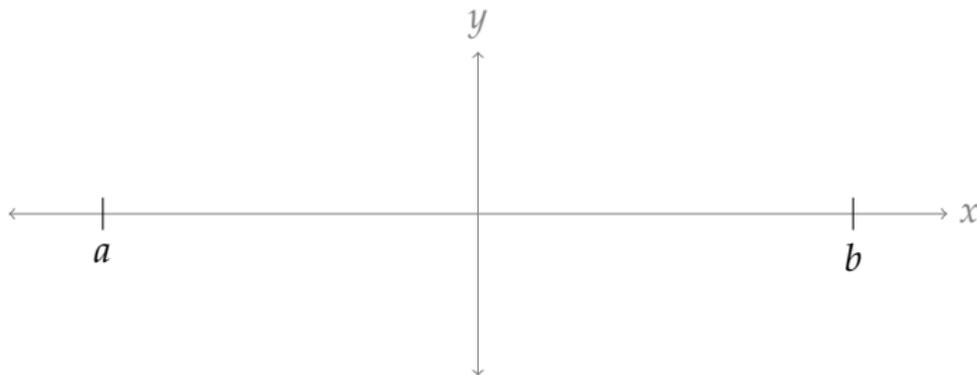
when approximating  $\int_a^b f(x) dx$ .

# WHY THE *second* DERIVATIVE?

The midpoint rule gives the exact area under the curve for

$$f(x) = ax + b$$

when  $a$  and  $b$  are any constants.



The first derivative can be large without causing a large error.

## Numerical integration errors

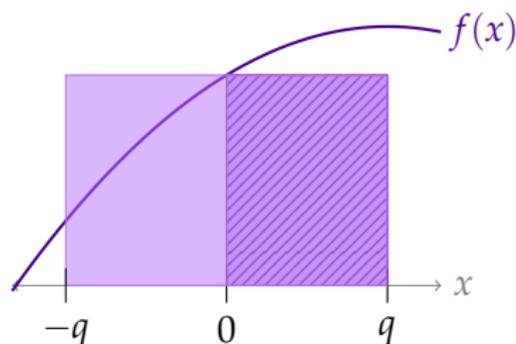
Assume that  $|f''(x)| \leq M$  for all  $a \leq x \leq b$  and  $|f^{(4)}(x)| \leq L$  for all  $a \leq x \leq b$ . Then

- ▶ the total error introduced by the midpoint rule is bounded by  $\frac{M}{24} \frac{(b-a)^3}{n^2}$ ,
- ▶ the total error introduced by the trapezoidal rule is bounded by  $\frac{M}{12} \frac{(b-a)^3}{n^2}$ , and
- ▶ the total error introduced by Simpson's rule is bounded by  $\frac{L}{180} \frac{(b-a)^5}{n^4}$

when approximating  $\int_a^b f(x) dx$ .

We'll start small: let's consider one-half of a single interval being approximated using the midpoint rule.

To avoid messiness, let's also consider a simplified location:



We want to relate the actual area of this half-slice to its approximate area:

$$\int_0^q f(x) \, dx \approx q \cdot f(0)$$

$$\int_0^q f(x) \, dx \approx q \cdot f(0)$$

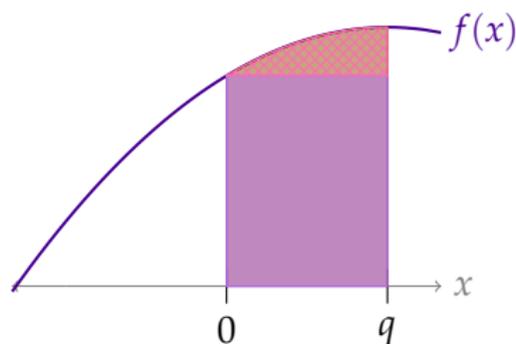
If you squint just right, the right-hand side looks a bit like the “ $u \cdot v$ ” term from integration by parts, where  $u = f(x)$  and  $dv = dx$ .

- ▶ Set  $u = f(x)$  and  $dv = dx$ , so  $du = f'(x) \, dx$ .  
We choose  $v(x) = x - q$ , so that  $f(v(q)) = f(0)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^q f(x) \, dx &= [(x - q)f(x)]_0^q - \int_0^q (x - q)f'(x) \, dx \\ &= q \cdot f(0) - \int_0^q (x - q)f'(x) \, dx \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ We know something about the second derivative, not the first, so repeat: set  $u = f'(x)$ ,  $dv = (x - q) \, dx$ ;  $du = f''(x) \, dx$ ,  $v = \frac{(x - q)^2}{2}$

$$\int_0^q f(x) \, dx = q \cdot f(0) + \frac{q^2}{2} \cdot f'(0) + \int_0^q \frac{(x - q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx$$

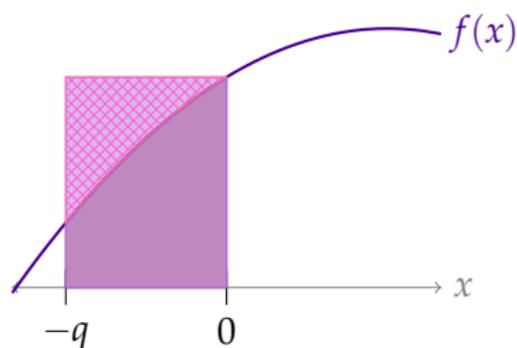


$$\int_0^q f(x) \, dx = q \cdot f(0) + \frac{q^2}{2} \cdot f'(0) + \int_0^q \frac{(x-q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx$$

exact
approximate
± error

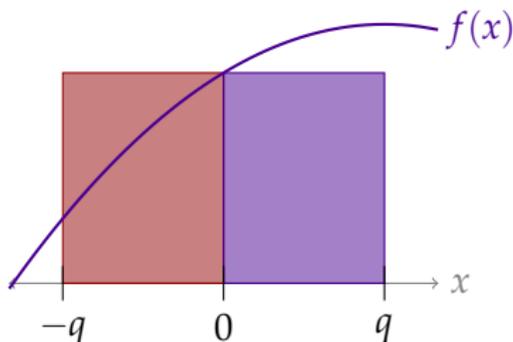
Repeat for the other half of the slice:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{-q}^0 \underbrace{f(x)}_u \underbrace{dx}_{dv} &= \left[ \underbrace{f(x)}_u \cdot \underbrace{(x+q)}_v \right]_{-q}^0 - \int_{-q}^0 \underbrace{(x+q)}_v \cdot \underbrace{f'(x)}_{du} dx \\
 &= q \cdot f(0) - \int_{-q}^0 \underbrace{f'(x)}_{\hat{u}} \cdot \underbrace{(x+q)}_{d\hat{v}} dx \\
 &= q \cdot f(0) - \left[ \underbrace{f'(x)}_{\hat{u}} \underbrace{\frac{(x+q)^2}{2}}_{\hat{v}} \right]_{-q}^0 + \int_{-q}^0 \underbrace{\frac{(x+q)^2}{2}}_{\hat{v}} \underbrace{f''(x)}_{d\hat{u}} dx \\
 &= q \cdot f(0) - \frac{q^2}{2} f'(0) + \int_{-q}^0 \frac{(x+q)^2}{2} f''(x) dx
 \end{aligned}$$



$$\int_{-q}^0 f(x) \, dx = q \cdot f(0) - \frac{q^2}{2} \cdot f'(0) + \int_{-q}^0 \frac{(x+q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx$$

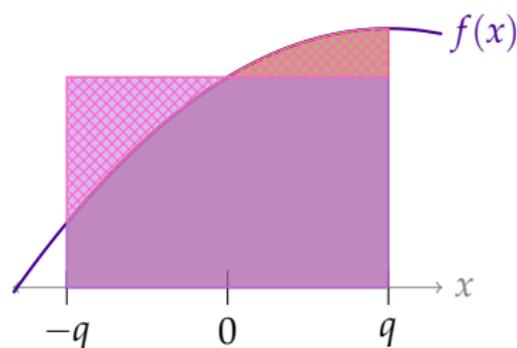
exact
approximate
± error



$$\int_{-q}^0 f(x) \, dx = q \cdot f(0) - \frac{q^2}{2} f'(0) + \int_{-q}^0 \frac{(x+q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx$$

$$\int_0^q f(x) \, dx = q \cdot f(0) + \frac{q^2}{2} \cdot f'(0) + \int_0^q \frac{(x-q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx$$

$$\int_{-q}^q f(x) \, dx = 2q \cdot f(0) + \int_{-q}^0 \frac{(x+q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx + \int_0^q \frac{(x-q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx$$



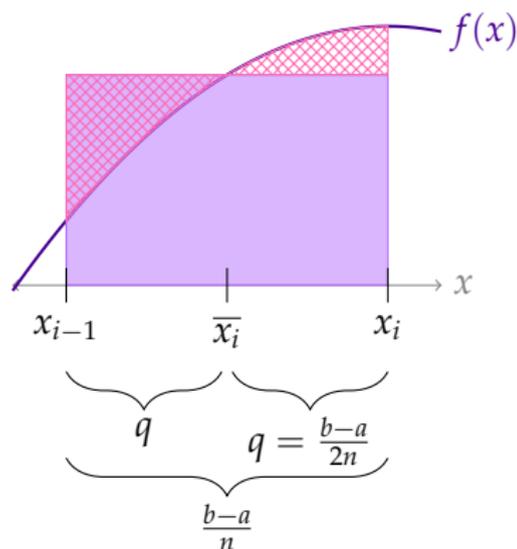
$$\int_{-q}^q f(x) \, dx = 2q \cdot f(0) + \int_{-q}^0 \frac{(x+q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx + \int_0^q \frac{(x-q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx$$

exact
approximate
± error

We re-arrange to write the **error** as the difference between the **actual** area of one slice and its rectangular **approximation**.

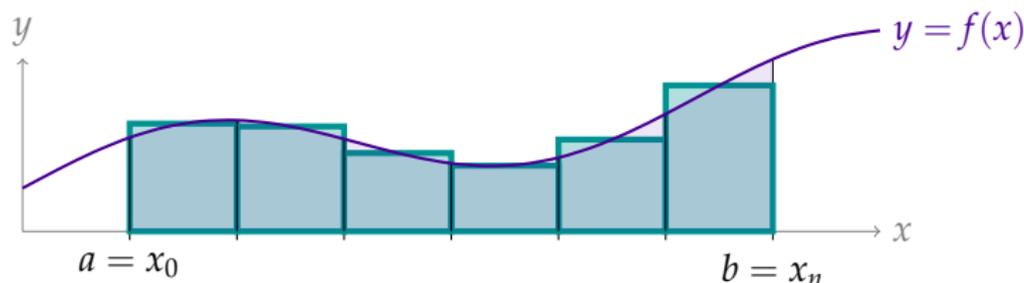
$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-q}^q f(x) \, dx - 2q \cdot f(0) &= \int_{-q}^0 \frac{(x+q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx + \int_0^q \frac{(x-q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx \\ \text{error} &= \left| \int_{-q}^0 \frac{(x+q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx + \int_0^q \frac{(x-q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx \right| \\ &\leq \left| \int_{-q}^0 \frac{(x+q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx \right| + \left| \int_0^q \frac{(x-q)^2}{2} f''(x) \, dx \right| \\ &\leq \int_{-q}^0 \frac{(x+q)^2}{2} M \, dx + \int_0^q \frac{(x-q)^2}{2} M \, dx \\ &= M \left[ \frac{(x+q)^3}{6} \right]_{-q}^0 + M \left[ \frac{(x-q)^3}{6} \right]_0^q \\ &= \frac{M \cdot q^3}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Now we can bound the error of a single slice:



$$\left| \int_{-q}^q f(x) \, dx - 2q \cdot f(0) \right| \leq \frac{M}{3} \cdot q^3$$

$$\left| \int_{x_{i-1}}^{x_i} f(x) \, dx - \frac{b-a}{n} \cdot f(\bar{x}_i) \right| \leq \frac{M}{3} \left( \frac{b-a}{2n} \right)^3 = \frac{M}{24} \frac{(b-a)^3}{n^3}$$



- ▶ The error in each slice is at most  $\frac{M (b - a)^3}{24 n^3}$
- ▶ There are  $n$  slices
- ▶ The overall error is at most  $n \cdot \frac{M (b - a)^3}{24 n^3} = \frac{M (b - a)^3}{24 n^2}$