

2 ways of generating equally spaced  $x$  coordinates

①  $x = a$   
 DO  $i = 2, n+1$   
 $x = x + h$   
 ENDDO

② DO  $i = 1, n+1$   
 $x = a + (i-1) \cdot h$   
 ENDDO

$i$	①	② (more accurate)
1	-1	$-1 + 0 \cdot h = -1 + 0 = -1$
2	$-1 + \frac{1}{5} = -0.8$	$-1 + 1h = -1 + \frac{1}{5} = -0.8$
3	$-0.8 + \frac{1}{5} = -0.6$	$-1 + 2h = -1 + \frac{2}{5} = -0.6$
4	$-0.6 + \frac{1}{5} = -0.4$	$-1 + 3h = -1 + \frac{3}{5} = -0.4$
5	$-0.4 + \frac{1}{5} = -0.2$	$-1 + 4h = -1 + \frac{4}{5} = -0.2$
6	$-0.2 + \frac{1}{5} = 0.0$	$-1 + 5h = -1 + \frac{5}{5} = 0.0$
7	$0.0 + \frac{1}{5} = 0.2$	$-1 + 6h = -1 + \frac{6}{5} = 0.2$
8	$0.2 + \frac{1}{5} = 0.4$	$-1 + 7h = -1 + \frac{7}{5} = 0.4$
9	$0.4 + \frac{1}{5} = 0.6$	$-1 + 8h = -1 + \frac{8}{5} = 0.6$
10	$0.6 + \frac{1}{5} = 0.8$	$-1 + 9h = -1 + \frac{9}{5} = 0.8$
11	$0.8 + \frac{1}{5} = 1.0$	$-1 + 10h = -1 + \frac{10}{5} = 1$

$a = -1$   
 $b = 1$   
 $n = 10$   
 $h = \frac{b-a}{10} = \frac{1}{5}$

in exact arithmetic, both methods give the same answer.

↑  
 round off error accumulates each time you add another  $h$ . If  $n$  is large, this can be a significant source of error.

↑  
 This method takes  $(a)$  and adds a multiple of  $h$ . There is at most 2 rounding errors in each  $x$  (one for  $(i-1) \cdot h$  and one for  $a + (i-1) \cdot h$ ) use this method.

## Definite integrals

- Definite integrals appear frequently in applied math and science

Ex

$$\int_a^b e^{-x^2} dx \quad \text{— statistics}$$

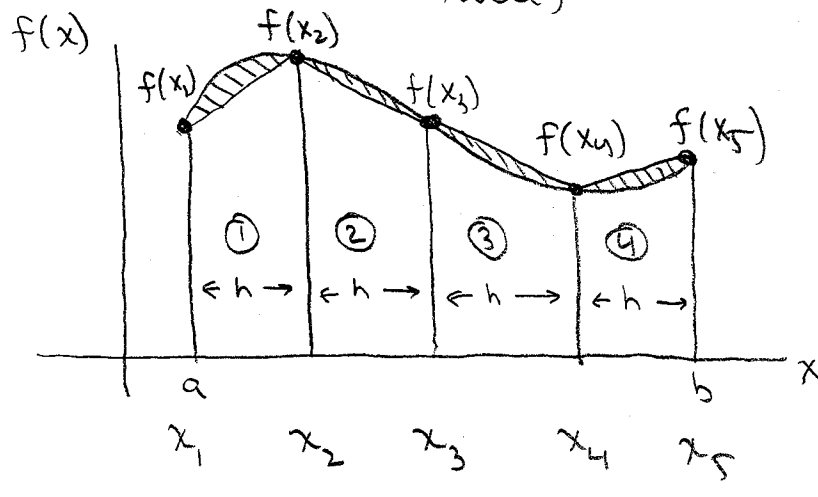
$$\int_0^b \sqrt{1+x^4} dx \quad \text{— optics}$$

$$\int_0^b \frac{\sin x}{x} dx \quad \text{— waves}$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} t^x dt = \Gamma(x) = \text{gamma function}$$

- In many cases, these integrals have no analytic form because the integrand has no anti derivative
- The definite integral still has a value and it needs to be approximated.
- we will examine 3 simple methods for approximating a definite integral (There are many other methods for doing this).

• Trapezoidal Rule (actually, this is the composite trapezoidal rule)



$$\int_a^b f(x) dx$$

→  $n = 4$  for this picture  
 $h = \frac{(b-a)}{n}$

- Idea:
- Divide the interval  $[a, b]$  into  $n$  panels (i.e. partition the  $x$  axis into  $n+1$  equally spaced points) and compute the corresponding function values.
  - Draw in the trapezoids as shown.
  - add up the areas of the trapezoids. This will approximate  $\int_a^b f(x) dx$ .

Trap 1

Area =  $\frac{1}{2} h (f(x_1) + f(x_2))$

Trap 2

Area =  $\frac{1}{2} h (f(x_2) + f(x_3))$

Trap 3

Area =  $\frac{1}{2} h (f(x_3) + f(x_4))$

Trap 4

Area =  $\frac{1}{2} h (f(x_4) + f(x_5))$

so we get

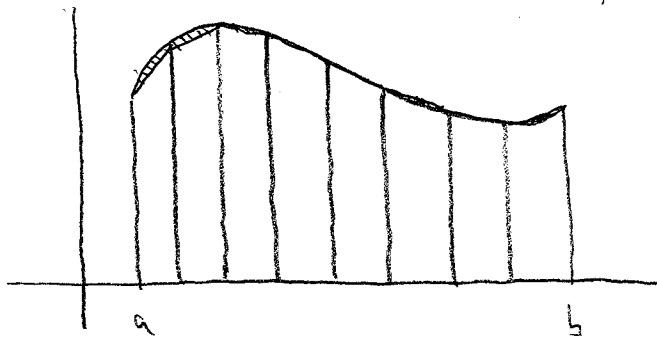
$$\begin{aligned}\int_a^b f(x) dx &\approx A_{(1)} + A_{(2)} + A_{(3)} + A_{(4)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}h (f(x_1) + f(x_2)) + \frac{1}{2}h (f(x_2) + f(x_3)) + \frac{1}{2}h (f(x_3) + f(x_4)) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}h (f(x_4) + f(x_5)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}h (f(x_1) + 2f(x_2) + 2f(x_3) + 2f(x_4) + f(x_5))\end{aligned}$$

Observation

put in  $h = \frac{(b-a)}{n}$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{b-a}{n} \right) (f(x_1) + 2f(x_2) + 2f(x_3) + 2f(x_4) + f(x_5))$$

- This expression looks close to the average of  $f(x_1), f(x_2), f(x_3), f(x_4), f(x_5)$
- if you remove the  $\frac{1}{2}(b-a)$  and the 2's in the middle, it would be the average of the f's.
- This is an example of a weighted average and every formula for approximating a definite integral looks similar to this.
- If we increase the number of trapezoids (ie, increase  $n$  or decrease  $h$ ), the approximation gets better



$n = 8$

hard to see the error at this scale.

In general (for an arbitrary value of n)

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx \approx \frac{1}{2} h (f(x_1) + 2f(x_2) + 2f(x_3) + \dots + 2f(x_n) + f(x_{n+1}))$$

a = ~
b = ~
n = ~

$$\int_a^b e^{-x^2} dx$$

$$h = \frac{b-a}{n}$$

total = 0

DO i = 1, n+1

x = a + (i-1) \* h       $\longrightarrow$  gets x coordinate

f = EXP(-x\*x\*2)       $\longrightarrow$  gets corresp. function value

IF ((i == 1) . OR. (i = n+1)) THEN

total = total + f       $\longrightarrow$  Endpoints

ELSE

total = total + 2 \* f       $\longrightarrow$  middle points

ENDIF

ENDDO

total = total \* h / 2       $\longrightarrow$  approximate integral

- If the problem changes (ie, change the interval or the function) only the lines in the boxes need to change.