

Fundamental Theorem of Calculus

Part I: If f is continuous on $[a,b]$ and $g(x) = \int_a^x f(t)dt$ for $a \leq x \leq b$ then g is differentiable on (a,b) and $g'(x) = f(x)$. That is, g is an antiderivative of f on $[a,b]$.

Proof: See class notes or the text book.

Part II: If f is continuous on $[a,b]$ and F is any antiderivative of f then
$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = F(b) - F(a).$$

Proof: Suppose that f is continuous on $[a,b]$ and that F is an antiderivative of f . Let $g(x) = \int_a^x f(t)dt$ for $a \leq x \leq b$. By Part I, g is also an antiderivative of f . It follows that:

$g(x) = F(x) + C$ (since any two antiderivatives of f can differ by at most a constant)

$g(a) = F(a) + C$ but $g(a) = \int_a^a f(t)dt = 0$ so we get that

$C = -F(a)$.

Therefore: $g(b) = F(b) + C = F(b) - F(a)$ (but $g(b) = \int_a^b f(t)dt$)

And so: $\int_a^b f(x)dx = F(b) - F(a)$ (recall, the t is just a “dummy” variable).

Q.E.D.