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## A brief introduction of Riemann integral

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### Abstract

In the branch of mathematics known as real analysis, the Riemann integral, created by Bernhard Riemann, was the first rigorous definition of the integral of a function on an interval. It was presented to the faculty at the University of Göttingen in 1854, but not published in a journal until 1868. For many functions and practical applications, the Riemann integral can be evaluated by the fundamental theorem of calculus or approximated by numerical integration. The Riemann integral is unsuitable for many theoretical purposes. Some of the technical deficiencies in Riemann integration can be remedied with the Riemann–Stieltjes integral, and most disappear with the Lebesgue integral. Historically, the concept of Integration came into existence as a means of evaluating areas under a curve, i.e., in compliance with a geometrical need. The first rigorous approach was therefore, quite naturally based on intuitive ideas of a sum and in effect as the limit of sum, now-a-days known as Riemann sum. But when the limitations of this approach were exposed through different situations, a rigorous arithmetic approach was contemplated by G.F.B. Riemann (1826–1866) with remarkable success. This approach was known as Riemann theory of integration which plays a fundamental role in analysis. Although it can be assumed that readers are familiar with the concepts of bounded and topology of real numbers, even then in view of the importance and utility of these topics for the study of Riemann integration, we give some fundamental definitions and proof of main theorem.

**Keywords:** riemann integral, stieltjes integral, lebesgue integral

### 1. Introduction

#### Partition

Let  $I = [a, b]$  be a finite closed interval. Then by a partition  $P$  of  $I$ , we mean a finite ordered set  $\{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  of points of  $[a, b]$  such that

$$a = x_0 < x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_{n-1} < x_n = b$$

The partition  $P$  consists of  $n + 1$  points and does a partitioning of  $[a, b]$  into  $n$  sub-intervals (or segments)

$$I = [a, b] = \bigcup_{r=1}^n [x_{r-1}, x_r] \text{ Where } I_r = [x_{r-1}, x_r]$$

If length of the  $r$ th sub-interval  $I_r = [x_{r-1}, x_r]$  is denoted by  $\delta_r$ , then  $\delta_r = x_r - x_{r-1}$ , ( $r=1, 2, \dots, n$ ).

The greatest of the lengths of the sub-intervals of a partition  $P$  is called the **norm** or **mesh** of the partition  $P$  and is denoted by  $\|P\|$  or  $\mu(P)$ . Thus,  $\|P\| = \max. \{(x_r - x_{r-1}) : 1 \leq r \leq n\}$

$$= \max. \{\delta_r : 1 \leq r \leq n\}$$

Let  $P$  be a partition of  $[a, b]$ , then any partition  $P'$  is called a refinement of  $P$  if  $P' \supseteq P$ , i.e., every point of  $P$  is a point of  $P'$  and may have some other points of  $[a, b]$  in it. Thus if  $P = \{a = x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{r-1}, x_r, \dots, x_n = b\}$  be a partition, then the partition  $P' = \{a = x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{r-1}, \xi_r, x_r, \dots, x_n = b\}$  is a refinement of  $P$  having one point  $\xi_r$ , more than  $P$ .

If  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are two partitions of  $[a, b]$  and  $P_1, P_2$  are both subsets of  $P_1 \cup P_2$ , then  $P^* = P_1 \cup P_2$  is called a common refinement of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ .

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**Riemann Integral (Integration of Bounded Functions on  $\mathbb{R}$ )**

It was George Friedrich Bernhard Riemann (1826-1866), a German mathematician who gave the purely arithmetic treatment to the integration of a real valued bounded function defined on a finite closed interval

Let  $f$  be a real valued bounded function defined on a finite closed interval  $[a, b]$  and suppose  $P = \{a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_{r-1} < x_r < \dots < x_n = b\}$  be any partition of  $[a, b]$ . Evidently, the function  $f$  is bounded on each sub-interval  $[x_{r-1}, x_r]$ , ( $r = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ).

Let  $m_r = \text{g.l.b. of } f \text{ in } [x_{r-1}, x_r]$

$M_r = \text{l.u.b. of } f \text{ in } [x_{r-1}, x_r]$

$m = \text{g.l.b. of } f \text{ in } [a, b]$

$M = \text{l.u.b. of } f \text{ in } [a, b]$

Clearly,  $m \leq m_r \leq f(x) \leq M_r \leq M$ , ( $r = 1, 2, \dots, n$ )

Then, the sums

$$\sum m_r \delta_r = m_1 \delta_1 + m_2 \delta_2 + \dots + m_n \delta_n$$

and  $\sum M_r \delta_r = M_1 \delta_1 + M_2 \delta_2 + \dots + M_n \delta_n$

are respectively called the lower and upper (Darboux) sums of  $f$  corresponding to the partition  $P$  and are denoted by  $L(f, P)$  and  $U(f, P)$  respectively.

Clearly, these sums depend upon the function  $f$  and the partition  $P$  and do exist for every bounded function. But the interval  $[a, b]$  can be divided into sub-intervals in infinitely many ways and for each partition of  $[a, b]$ , we have lower and upper sums of  $f$ . considering all partitions of  $[a, b]$ , we get a set of lower sums, i.e.,  $\{L(f, P)\}$  and a set of upper sums i.e.,  $\{U(f, P)\}$  of  $f$ . These sets are bounded and hence each has the g.l.b. and l.u.b.

The l.u.b. of the set of lower sums and the g.l.b. of the set of upper sums is called the **lower** and **upper integral** of  $f$  on  $[a, b]$  respectively and are denoted by  $\int_a^b f dx$  and  $\int_a^b f dx$

Thus  $\int_a^b f dx = \text{l.u.b. } \{L(f, P)\}$

and  $\int_a^b f dx = \text{g.l.b. } \{U(f, P)\}$

When these two integrals are equal, then we say that  $f$  is Riemann integrable or just integrable on  $[a, b]$  and the common value is called the Riemann integral of  $f$  on  $[a, b]$  and we write

$$\int_a^b f dx = \int_a^b f dx = \int_a^b f dx$$

and  $f$  is R-integrable.

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