

# Area and Estimating with Finite Sums

Part 2

Finite Sums with  
Distance Traveled and Displacement

# Finite Sums and Distance Traveled

- $v(t)$  = velocity of an object moving in one direction along a straight line
- $s(t)$  = position of the object
- $v = \frac{ds}{dt} \iff s = \int v dt$

# Finite Sums and Distance Traveled

- If  $F(t)$  is any antiderivative of  $v(t)$ , then
$$s(t) = F(t) + C$$
- The **total distance traveled** by the object over the time interval  $[a, b]$  is given by
$$\begin{aligned} s(b) - s(a) &= [F(b) + C] - [F(a) + C] \\ &= F(b) - F(a) \end{aligned}$$

# Finite Sums and Distance Traveled

We don't always know a formula for  $v(t)$

To approximate the total distance traveled:

- Subdivide  $[a, b]$  into  $n$  subintervals of equal width of  $\Delta t$

- Let  $t_k$  be any point in the  $k$ -th subinterval

- If  $\Delta t$  is small enough, the total distance traveled on the  $k$ -th subinterval is approximately  $v(t_k)\Delta t$

$$s(b) - s(a)$$

$$\approx v(t_1)\Delta t + v(t_2)\Delta t + v(t_3)\Delta t + \cdots + v(t_n)\Delta t$$

# Finite Sums and Distance Traveled

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Total distance traveled} &= s(b) - s(a) \\ &\approx v(t_1)\Delta t + v(t_2)\Delta t + v(t_3)\Delta t + \cdots + v(t_n)\Delta t\end{aligned}$$

This is the approximation for the area under the curve  $y = v(t)$  over the interval  $[a, b]$ !

# Example 1

You are sitting on a bank of a tidal river watching the incoming tide carry a bottle upstream. You record the velocity of the flow every 5 minutes for an hour, with the results in the accompanying table. About how far upstream did the bottle travel during that hour? Find an estimate using 12 subintervals of length 5 with

a. Left endpoint values

b. Right endpoint values

<b>Time (min)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Velocity (m/sec)</b>	1	1.2	1.7	2	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	1	1.8	1.5	1.2	0

# Example 1 (continued)

Solution (a):

$$[a, b] = [0, 60] \text{ minutes}$$

$$n = 12$$

width of interval

$$\Delta t = \frac{\text{width of interval}}{\text{number of subintervals}}$$

$$= \frac{60 - 0}{12} = 5 \text{ minutes} = 300 \text{ seconds}$$

(We change time to seconds to match velocity!)

# Example 1 (continued)

Time (min)	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
Velocity (m/sec)	1	1.2	1.7	2	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	1	1.8	1.5	1.2	0

- Interval 1 is  $[0,5]$ ; Interval 2 is  $[5,10]$ ; Interval 3 is  $[15,20]$ ;...;Interval 12 is  $[55,60]$
- $t_k$  = Left endpoint value of  $k$ -th interval
- $t_1 = 0$ ;  $t_2 = 5$ ;  $t_3 = 10$ ; ...;  $t_{12} = 55$



# Example 1 (continued)

Time (min)	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
Velocity (m/sec)	1	1.2	1.7	2	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	1	1.8	1.5	1.2	0

$$\begin{aligned} \text{distance traveled} &\approx v(t_1)\Delta t + v(t_2)\Delta t + v(t_3)\Delta t + \cdots + v(t_{12})\Delta t \\ &= v(0)\Delta t + v(5)\Delta t + v(10)\Delta t + \cdots + v(55)\Delta t \\ &= (1)300 + (1.2)300 + (1.7)300 + (2)300 + (1.8)300 \\ &\quad + (1.6)300 + (1.4)300 + (1.2)300 + (1)300 + (1.8)300 \\ &\quad + (1.5)300 + (1.2)300 = 5220 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

Answer (a): The bottle traveled about 5220 m upstream during that hour.

# Example 1 (continued)

Solution (b):

The only change is that we are using the right endpoint values.

$$\Delta t = 300 \text{ seconds}$$

Time (min)	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
Velocity (m/sec)	1	1.2	1.7	2	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	1	1.8	1.5	1.2	0

- $t_k$  = Right endpoint value of  $k$ -th interval
- $t_1 = 5; t_2 = 10; t_3 = 15; \dots; t_{12} = 60$

# Example 1 (continued)

Time (min)	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
Velocity (m/sec)	1	1.2	1.7	2	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	1	1.8	1.5	1.2	0

$$\begin{aligned} \text{distance traveled} &\approx v(t_1)\Delta t + v(t_2)\Delta t + v(t_3)\Delta t + \cdots + v(t_{12})\Delta t \\ &= v(5)\Delta t + v(10)\Delta t + v(15)\Delta t + \cdots + v(60)\Delta t \\ &= (1.2)300 + (1.7)300 + (2)300 + (1.8)300 + (1.6)300 \\ &\quad + (1.4)300 + (1.2)300 + (1)300 + (1.8)300 + (1.5)300 \\ &\quad + (1.2)300 + (0)300 = 4920 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

Answer (b): The bottle traveled about 4920 m upstream during that hour.

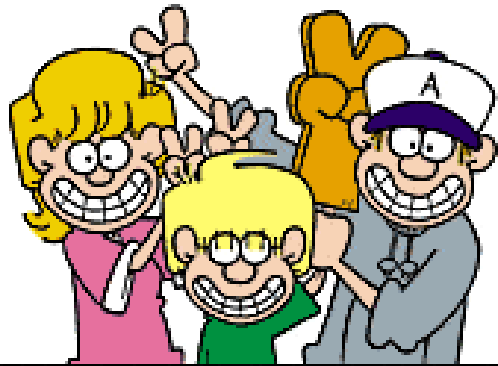
# Finite Sums and Distance Traveled

- $v(t)$  = velocity of an object moving in both directions along a straight line
- $s(t)$  = position of the object
- $v = \frac{ds}{dt} \Leftrightarrow s = \int v dt$
- $s(b) - s(a)$  *no longer represents the total distance traveled*
- $s(b) - s(a)$  is the **displacement** of the object (the difference between its initial and final positions)

# Finite Sums and Distance Traveled

The **total distance traveled** is approximately:

$$|v(t_1)|\Delta t + |v(t_2)|\Delta t + |v(t_3)|\Delta t + \cdots + |v(t_n)|\Delta t$$



# FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

