4.3 DISCOVERY PROJECT: AREA FUNCTIONS

This project can be completed anytime after you have studied Section 4.3 in the textbook.

1. (a) Draw the line $y = 2t + 1$ and use geometry to find the area under this line, above the t-axis, and between the vertical lines $t = 1$ and $t = 3$.

(b) If $x > 1$, let $A(x)$ be the area of the region that lies under the line $y = 2t + 1$ between $t = 1$ and $t = x$. Sketch this region and use geometry to find an expression for $A(x)$.

(c) Differentiate the area function $A(x)$. What do you notice?

2. (a) If $0 \leqslant x \leqslant \pi$, let $A(x) = \int_0^x \sin t \, dt$. $A(x)$ represents the area of a region. Sketch that region.

(b) Use the Evaluation Theorem to find an expression for $A(x)$.

(c) Find $A'(x)$. What do you notice?

(d) If x is any number between 0 and π and h is a small positive number, then $A(x + h) - A(x)$ represents the area of a region. Describe and sketch the region.

(e) Draw a rectangle that approximates the region in part (d). By comparing the areas of these two regions, show that

$$\frac{A(x + h) - A(x)}{h} \approx \sin x$$

(f) Use part (e) to give an intuitive explanation for the result of part (c).

3. (a) Draw the graph of the function $f(x) = \cos(x^2)$ in the viewing rectangle $[0, 2]$ by $[-1.25, 1.25]$.

(b) If we define a new function g by

$$g(x) = \int_0^x \cos(t^2) \, dt$$

then $g(x)$ is the area under the graph of f from 0 to x [until $f(x)$ becomes negative, at which point $g(x)$ becomes a difference of areas]. Use part (a) to determine the value of x at which $g(x)$ starts to decrease. [Unlike the integral in Problem 2, it is impossible to evaluate the integral defining g to obtain an explicit expression for $g(x)$.]

(c) Use the integration command on your calculator or computer to estimate $g(0.2)$, $g(0.4)$, $g(0.6)$, . . . , $g(1.8)$, $g(2)$. Then use these values to sketch a graph of g.

(d) Use your graph of g from part (c) to sketch the graph of g' using the interpretation of $g'(x)$ as the slope of a tangent line. How does the graph of g' compare with the graph of f?

4. Suppose f is a continuous function on the interval $[a, b]$ and we define a new function g by the equation

$$g(x) = \int_a^x f(t) \, dt$$

Based on your results in Problems 1–3, conjecture an expression for $g'(x)$.

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