

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

Suppose $\int_a^b f(x) dx$ and $\int_a^b g(x) dx$ exists then

- 1) $\int_a^b cf(x) dx$ exists and $\int_a^b cf(x) dx = c \int_a^b f(x) dx$
- 2) $\int_a^b (f(x) \pm g(x)) dx = \int_a^b f(x) dx \pm \int_a^b g(x) dx$
- 3) $\int_a^b f(x) dx = - \int_b^a f(x) dx$
- 4) $\int_a^a f(x) dx = 0$
- 5) If $f(x) \geq 0$ on $[a, b]$ then $\int_a^b f(x) dx \geq 0$
- 6) If $f(x) \geq g(x)$ on $[a, b]$ then $\int_a^b f(x) dx \geq \int_a^b g(x) dx$
- 7) If $m \leq f(x) \leq M$ on $[a, b]$ then $m(b-a) \leq \int_a^b f(x) dx \leq M(b-a)$
- 8) $\int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^c f(x) dx + \int_c^b f(x) dx$ where $a < c < b$

We will evaluate couple of integrals next using the properties of definite integrals.

Examples 1) $\int_0^1 (x-5) dx = \int_0^1 x dx - \int_0^1 5 dx = \frac{1^2-0^2}{2} - 5(1-0) = \frac{-9}{2}$ by Property 2

2) $\int_0^2 6x^2 = 6 \int_0^2 x^2 dx = 6 \frac{2^3-0^3}{3} = 16$ by Property 1

3) $\int_2^0 5 dx = - \int_0^2 5 dx = -5(2-0) = -10$ by Property 3

4) $\int_2^2 x^3 \sin^{-1} x dx = 0$ by Property 4

5) Write the given difference of integrals as a single integral of the form $\int_a^b f(x) dx$.

$$\int_2^{10} f(x) dx - \int_2^7 f(x) dx$$

Use Property 8 to write the first integral as $\int_2^{10} f(x) dx = \int_2^7 f(x) dx + \int_7^{10} f(x) dx$ then

$$\int_2^{10} f(x) dx - \int_2^7 f(x) dx = \int_2^7 f(x) dx + \int_7^{10} f(x) dx - \int_2^7 f(x) dx = \int_7^{10} f(x) dx$$

6) If $\int_0^1 f(t) dt = 2$, $\int_0^4 f(t) dt = -6$ and $\int_3^4 f(x) dx = 1$, find $\int_1^3 f(t) dt$.

First note that $\int_1^3 f(t) dt = \int_0^3 f(t) dt - \int_0^1 f(t) dt$

And since $\int_0^4 f(t) dt = \int_0^3 f(t) dt + \int_3^4 f(t) dt$ by Property 8

$$\int_0^3 f(t) dt = -6 - 1 = -7, \int_1^3 f(t) dt = -7 - 2 = -9$$