

The First Fundamental Theorem of Integral Calculus

Section 6.4

First fundamental Theorem of Integral Calculus. If F is any antiderivative of the function f on the interval $[a, b]$, then

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = F(b) - F(a)$$

Convention. We usually use the notation $\left[F(x)\right]_{x=a}^{x=b}$ to refer to the difference $F(b) - F(a)$. The following example shows how to use this new notation:

Example. Evaluate the definite integral $\int_{-2}^4 \sqrt{x+4} dx$

Solution. Using the change of variable $u = x+4$ we convert the associated indefinite integral to

$$u = x + 4 \quad \Rightarrow \quad du = dx$$
$$\int \sqrt{x+4} dx = \int \sqrt{u} du = \int u^{\frac{1}{2}} du = \frac{2}{3} u^{\frac{3}{2}} + C = \frac{2}{3} (x+4)^{\frac{3}{2}} + C$$

Since any of the antiderivatives suffices for the evaluation of the definite integral, we take the case $C = 0$, i.e. we take the antiderivative

$$\frac{2}{3} (x+4)^{\frac{3}{2}}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-2}^4 \sqrt{x+4} dx &= \left[\frac{2}{3}(x+4)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]_{x=-2}^{x=4} = \frac{2}{3} \left[(x+4)^{\frac{3}{2}} \right]_{x=-2}^{x=4} \\ &= \frac{2}{3} [16\sqrt{2} - 2\sqrt{2}] = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)(14\sqrt{2}) = \frac{28\sqrt{2}}{3}\end{aligned}$$

Note. Since the evaluation of definite integrals roots back to the evaluation of indefinite integrals , and since the indefinite integral preserve addition and scalar multiplication , we have similar properties for the definite integrals:

Theorem. If f and g are continuous on $[a, b]$, then

$$\int_a^b [f(x) + g(x)] dx = \int_a^b f(x) dx + \int_a^b g(x) dx$$

$$\int_a^b k f(x) dx = k \int_a^b f(x) dx \quad k \text{ being a constant}$$