



Simpson's 1/3 Rule - Integration

Graphical Simulation of the Method

Article Information

Subject: This worksheet demonstrates multiple segment Simpson's 1/3rd rule of integration.

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Introduction

Simpson's rule is based on the Newton-Cotes formula that if one approximates the integrand of the integral by an n th order polynomial, then the integral of the function is approximately the integral of that n th order polynomial. Integration of polynomials is simple and is based on the calculus. Simpson's 1/3rd rule is the area under the curve where the function is approximated by a second order polynomial. [click [here](#) for textbook notes] [click [here](#) for power point presentation].

Inputs

The following simulation illustrates the Simpson's 1/3rd rule of integration. This section is the only section where the user interacts with the program. The user enters any function $f(x)$, the lower and upper limit of the integration. By entering this data, the program will calculate the exact value of the integral, followed by the results using the Simpson's 1/3rd rule with $n = 4, 6, 8$ segments.

Integrand $f(x)$ $f(x) := \frac{300 \cdot x}{1 + e^x}$

Lower limit of the integral a $a := 0$

Upper limit of the integral b $b := 10$

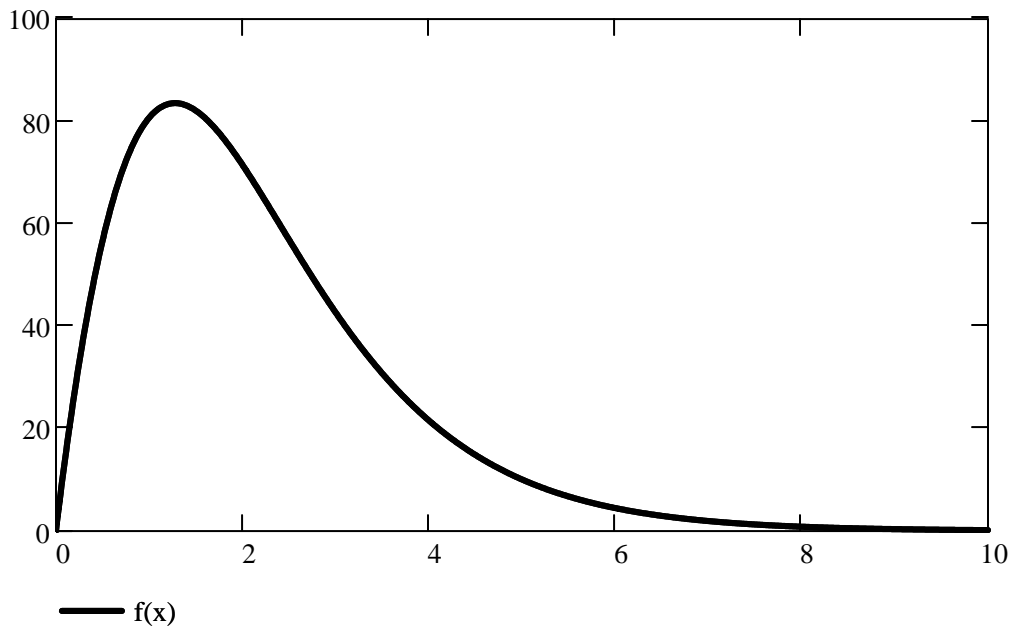
Exact Solution

In this section, the program will evaluate the exact value for the integral of the function f evaluated at the limits a and b .

$$s_{\text{exact}} := \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

$$s_{\text{exact}} = 246.59029$$

Figure 1: Entered function on given interval



2 Segment Simpon 1/3 Rule

$$n := 2$$

$$h_2 := \frac{b - a}{n}$$

$$h_2 = 5$$

The integral of the function $f(x)$ from a to b using Simpson's rule with two segments will be equal to:

$$s_2 := h_2 \cdot \frac{f(a) + 4 \cdot f(a + h_2) + f(b)}{3}$$

$$s_2 = 67.1555$$

4 Segment Simpson 1/3 Rule

$$n := 4$$

$$h_4 := \frac{b - a}{n}$$

$$h_4 = 2.5$$

The integral of the function $f(x)$ from a to b using Simpson's rule with four segments will be equal to:

$$s_4 := h_4 \cdot \frac{f(a) + 4 \cdot (f(a + h_4) + f(a + 3 \cdot h_4)) + 2 \cdot f(a + 2 \cdot h_4) + f(b)}{3}$$

$$s_4 = 210.63691$$

The approximate error (E_a):

$$E_{a4} := s_4 - s_2$$

$$E_{a4} = 143.481$$

The absolute relative approximate percentage error (ϵ_a):

$$\epsilon_{a4} := \left| \frac{E_{a4}}{s_4} \right| \cdot 100$$

$$\epsilon_{a4} = 68.118$$

6 Segment Simpson 1/3 Rule

$$n := 6$$

$$h_6 := \frac{b - a}{n}$$

$$h_6 = 1.667$$

The integral of the function $f(x)$ from a to b using Simpson's rule with four segments will be equal to:

$$i := 1, 3 \dots n - 1 \quad j := 2, 4 \dots n - 2$$

$$s_6 := h_6 \cdot \frac{f(a) + 4 \cdot \sum_i f(a + i \cdot h_6) + 2 \cdot \sum_j f(a + j \cdot h_6) + f(b)}{3}$$

$$s_6 = 241.33838$$

The approximate error (E_a):

$$E_{a6} := s_6 - s_4$$

$$E_{a6} = 30.701$$

The absolute relative approximate percentage error (ϵ_a):

$$\epsilon_{a6} := \left| \frac{E_{a6}}{s_6} \right| \cdot 100$$

$$\epsilon_{a6} = 12.721$$

8 Segment Simpson 1/3 Rule

$$n := 8$$

$$h_8 := \frac{b - a}{n}$$

$$h_8 = 1.25$$

The integral of the function $f(x)$ from a to b using Simpson's rule with four segments will be equal to:

$$i := 1, 3 \dots n - 1 \quad j := 2, 4 \dots n - 2$$

$$s_8 := h_8 \cdot \frac{f(a) + 4 \cdot \sum_i f(a + i \cdot h_8) + 2 \cdot \sum_j f(a + j \cdot h_8) + f(b)}{3}$$

$$s_8 = 245.85499$$

The approximate error (E_a):

$$E_{a8} := s_8 - s_6$$

$$E_{a8} = 4.517$$

The absolute relative approximate percentage error (ϵ_a):

$$\epsilon_{a8} := \left| \frac{E_{a8}}{s_8} \right| \cdot 100$$

$$\epsilon_{a8} = 1.837$$