

**Warm up:** Recall we can approximate  $\int_a^b f(x) dx$  using rectangles as follows:

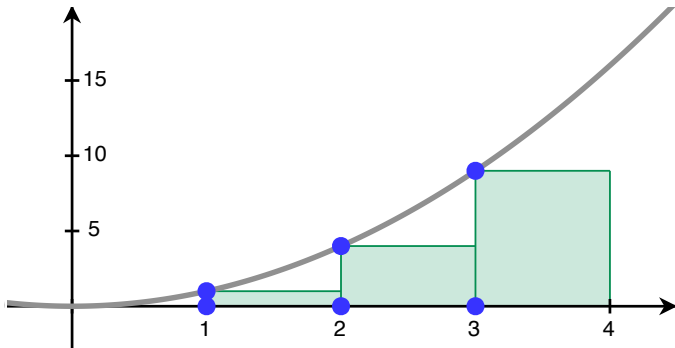
- i. Pick a number  $n$  and divide  $[a, b]$  into  $n$  equal intervals. Note that  $\Delta x = (b - a)/n$  is the length of each of these intervals.
- ii. Choose a point  $c$  in each of the intervals (usually either the left-most point, the right-most point, or the mid point).
- iii. Use a rectangle with base  $(b - a)/n$  and height  $f(c)$  to model the area under the curve  $y = f(x)$  over each of the intervals.
- iv. Add up the area of the rectangles.

Now consider  $I = \int_1^4 x^2 dx$ .

Approximate  $I$  using the given  $n$  and  $c$ , and draw a picture to go with that shows (a)  $y = x^2$ , (b) the  $n$  intervals on the  $x$ -axis, (c) the point  $c$  in each of the intervals, and (d) the rectangle that approximates the area under the curve.

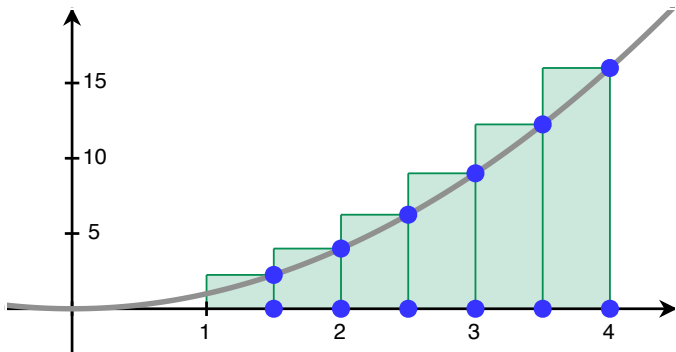
- (1)  $n = 3$  and  $c$  being the left-most point of each of the intervals.
- (2)  $n = 6$  and  $c$  being the right-most point of each of the intervals.
- (3)  $n = 2$  and  $c$  being the midpoint of each of the intervals.

Approximating  $I = \int_1^4 x^2 dx$  with  $n = 3$  intervals using left endpoints:



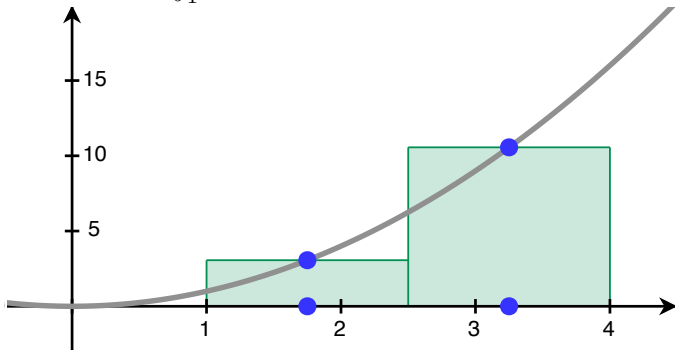
$$I \approx 1 \cdot 1^2 + 1 \cdot 2^2 + 1 \cdot 3^2 = 14$$

Approximating  $I = \int_1^4 x^2 dx$  with  $n = 6$  intervals using right endpoints:



$$I \approx .5 \cdot 1.5^2 + .5 \cdot 2^2 + .5 \cdot 2.5^2 + .5 \cdot 3^2 + .5 \cdot 3.5^2 + .5 \cdot 4^2 = 24.875$$

Approximating  $I = \int_1^4 x^2 dx$  with  $n = 2$  intervals using midpoints:



$$I \approx 1.5 \cdot 1.75^2 + 1.5 \cdot 3.25^2 = 20.4375$$

## Review from Section 4.2

Approximating  $I = \int_a^b f(x) dx$  using  $n$  intervals:  
The intervals are of length  $\Delta x = (b - a)/n$  and

$$I \approx \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta x * f(c_i),$$

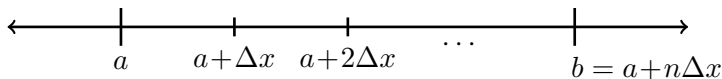
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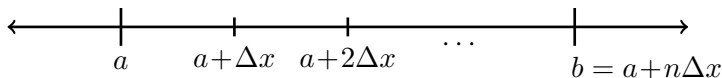


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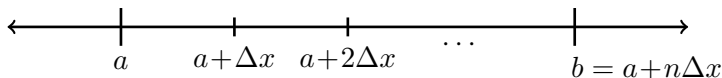
Left-hand endpoints:  $c_i = a + (i - 1)\Delta x$

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Right-hand endpoints:  $c_i = a + i\Delta x$

Midpoints:  $c_i = a + (i - \frac{1}{2})\Delta x$

## Section 6.5: Approximate integration

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Example: What is  $\int e^{-x^2} dx$ ?



Enter what you want to calculate or know about:

int e<sup>-x<sup>2</sup></sup> dx



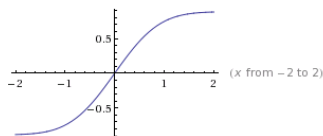
Examples Random

Indefinite Integral:

$$\int e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\pi} \operatorname{erf}(x) + \text{constant}$$

[erf\(x\) is the error function »](#)

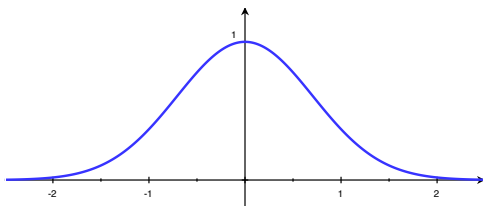
Plots of the Integral:



From Wikipedia: "In mathematics, the error function (also called the Gauss error function) is a special function (non-elementary) of sigmoid shape which occurs in probability, statistics and partial differential equations."

## Approximating $\int_{-2}^2 e^{-x^2} dx$ using rectangles

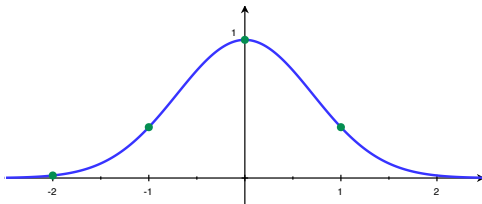
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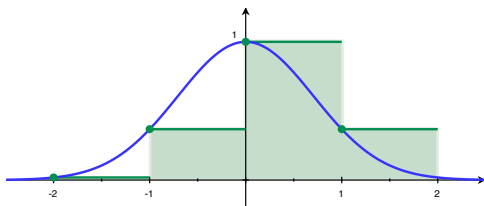
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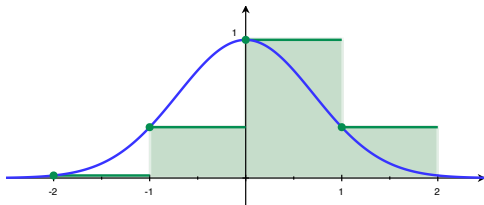


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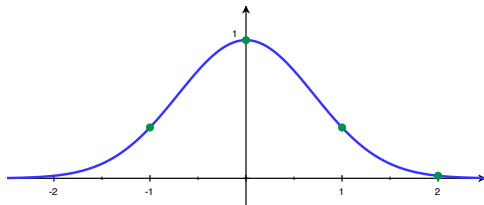
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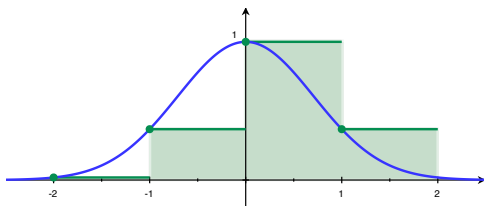
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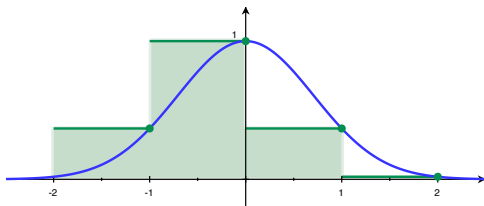
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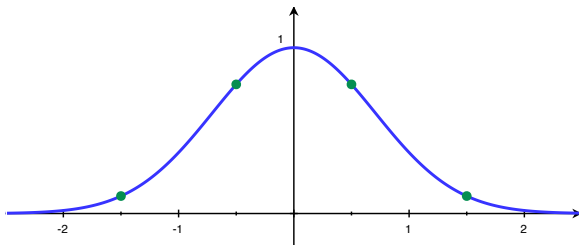
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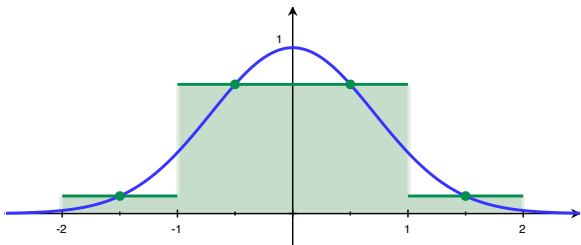
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Let  $n = 4$  (so that  $\Delta x = (2 - (-2))/4 = 1$ ).

Midpoints:



$$I \approx e^{-(-1.5)^2} + e^{-(-.5)^2} + e^{-(.5)^2} + e^{-(1.5)^2} = 1.7684\dots$$

## Error

Let  $L_n$ ,  $R_n$ , and  $M_n$  be the estimates of a definite integral with  $n$  intervals, using left, right, and midpoints, respectively.

For example, for the definite integral  $\int_{-2}^2 e^{-x^2} dx$ ,

$$L_4 = 1.7540\dots, \quad R_4 = 1.7540\dots, \quad \text{and} \quad M_4 = 1.7684\dots$$

In reality,

$$\int_{-2}^2 e^{-x^2} dx = 1.7641\dots$$

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## Error for the midpoint rule

Suppose we approximate  $\int_a^b f(x) dx$  using  $n$  intervals and midpoints. The error of the approximation  $M_n$  is exactly

$$E_M = \int_a^b f(x) dx - M_n.$$

If I knew  $E_M$  exactly, then I could actually calculate the integral exactly (add it to the approximation), which we're supposing we can't calculate exactly.



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Comparing against the exact value,  $\int_1^4 x^2 dx = 21$ . So  $E_M = 21 - 20.4375 = 0.5625$ . So our bound was exact!

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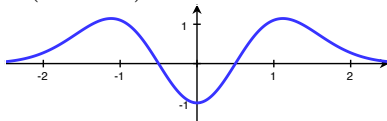
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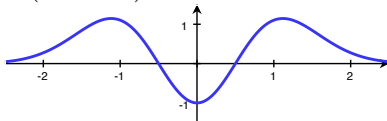


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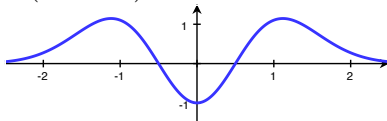


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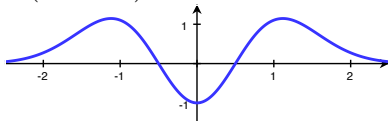
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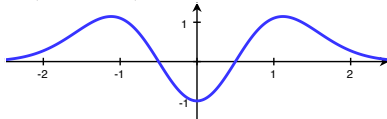
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Checking against exact values:

$$E_M \approx 0.004 \leq 1.1911 \checkmark.$$

You try:

$$M_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta x * f(c_i), \text{ where } \Delta x = (b - a)/n \text{ and } c_i = a + (i - \frac{1}{2})\Delta x$$

$$|E_M| \leq \frac{K(b-a)^3}{24n^2} \text{ where } |f''(x)| \leq K \text{ over } [a, b].$$

1. Use the midpoint rule to approximate  $\int_{-1}^2 x^4 dx$  using  $n = 3$ . Draw a picture to help yourself.
2. Calculate  $\frac{d^2}{dx^2}x^4$  and maximize  $|\frac{d^2}{dx^2}x^4|$  over  $[-1, 2]$ . Let  $K$  be that maximum value.
3. Calculate an upper bound on  $E_M$  using the formula above.
4. Calculate  $\int_{-1}^2 x^4 dx$  exactly, and use that to calculate  $E_M$  exactly. Compare to your bound.

## Approximations using other shapes: Trapezoids!

Instead of picking one height over each interval (approximating the function as a constant) we can pick a sloped line over each interval (approximating the function as a line) and use a trapezoid to approximate the area under the curve.

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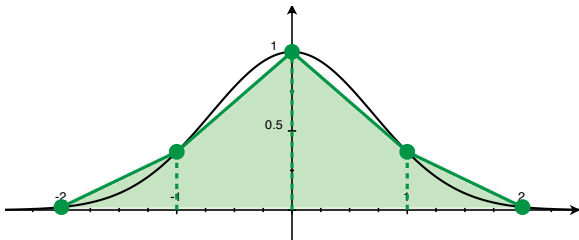
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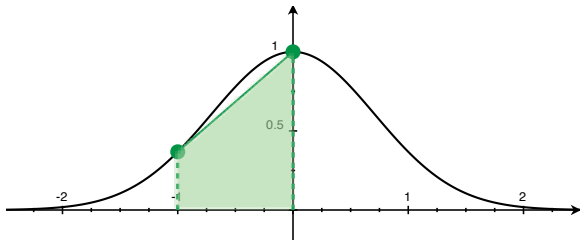
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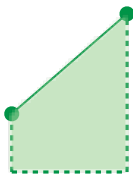
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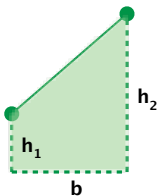
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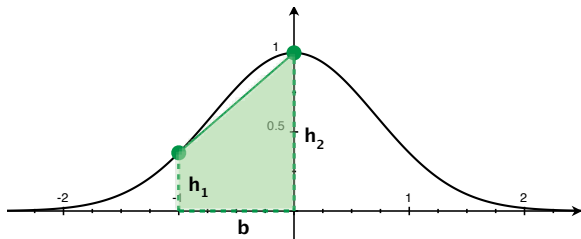


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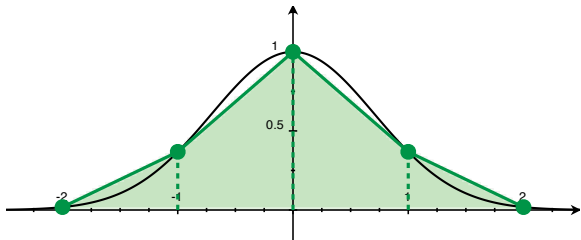
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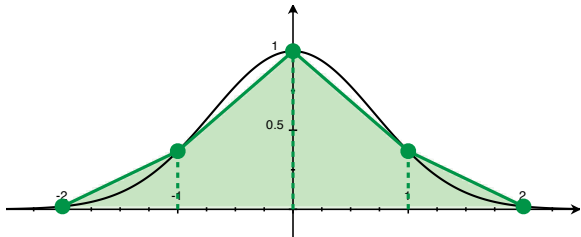
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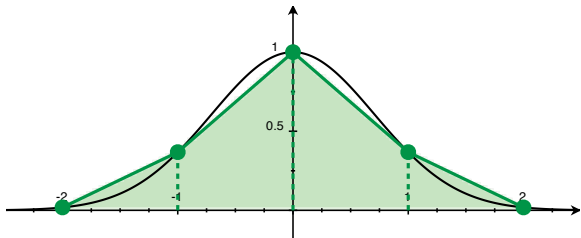
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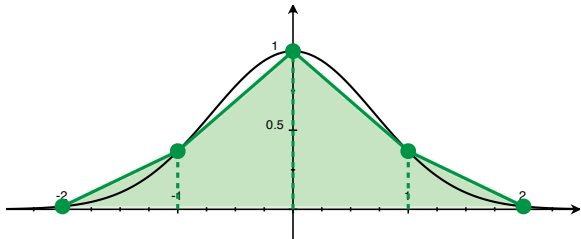
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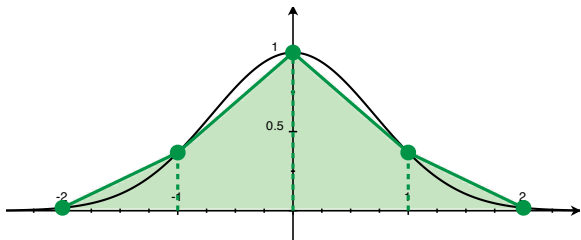
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In general,

$$T_n = \frac{1}{2} \Delta x (f(c_0) + f(c_n) + 2(f(c_1) + f(c_2) + \cdots + f(c_{n-1})))$$

where  $\Delta x = (b - a)/n$  and  $c_i = a + i\Delta x$ .

## You try:

1. Draw a graph of  $f(x) = x^4$  over  $[-1, 2]$ .
2. Let  $n = 3$  and calculate  $\Delta x$  and  $c_i = a + i\Delta x$  for  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , and 3. Mark the  $c_i$ 's on the x-axis.
3. Mark the 4 points on the graph corresponding to  $f(c_i)$ .
4. Draw the three trapezoids whose tops are the line segments joining  $f(c_{i-1})$  to  $f(c_i)$ .
5. Calculate the areas of the three trapezoids.
6. Add the areas together to get  $T_n$ .
7. Use the formula
$$T_n = \frac{1}{2}\Delta x(f(c_0) + f(c_n) + 2(f(c_1) + f(c_2) + \cdots + f(c_{n-1})))$$
and compare to your previous answer (you should get the same thing).
8. Compare your answer to the exact value of  $\int_{-1}^2 x^4 dx$ .

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Let  $K$  be such that  $|f''(x)| \leq K$  over  $[a, b]$  as before. Then the error

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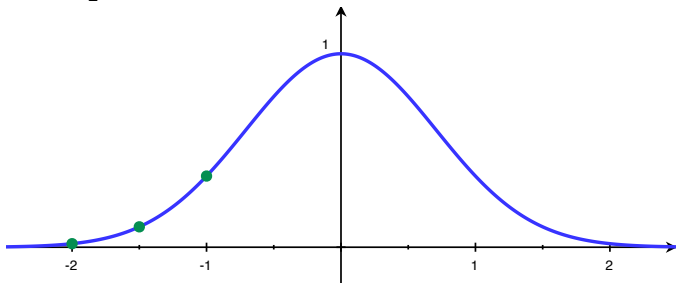
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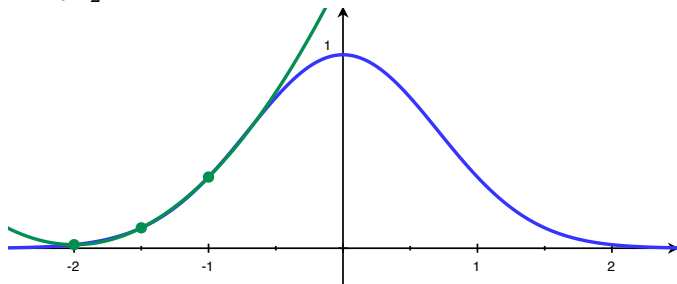
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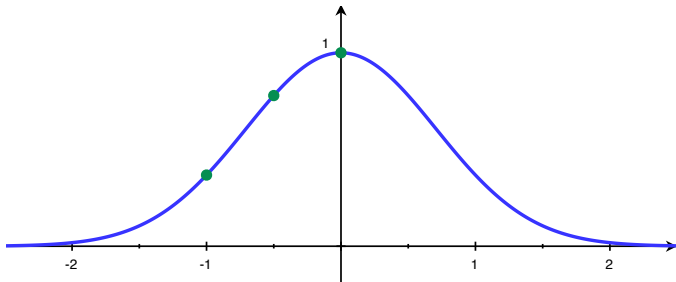




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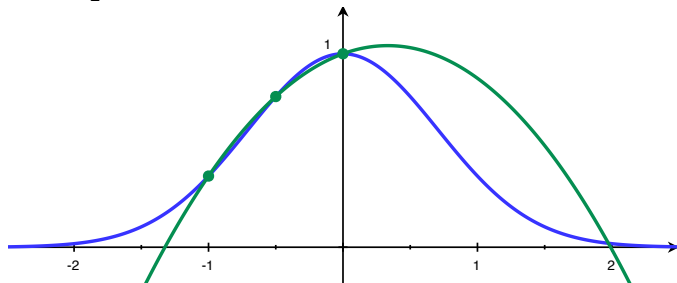
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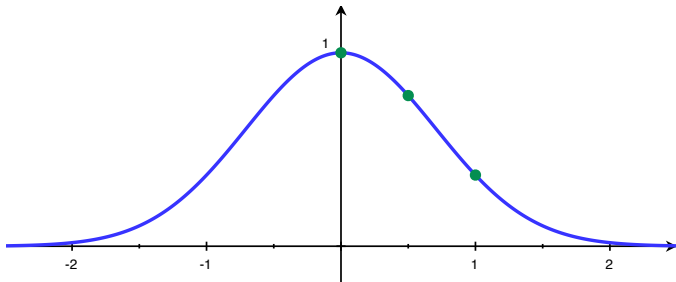
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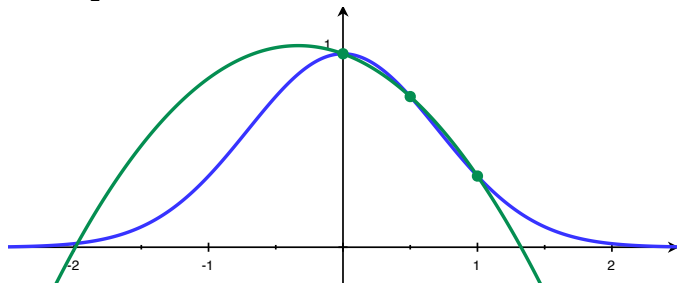
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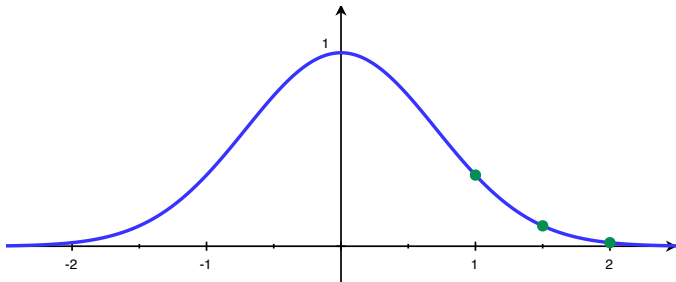
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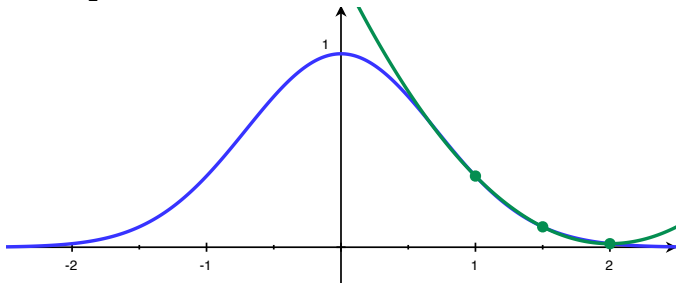
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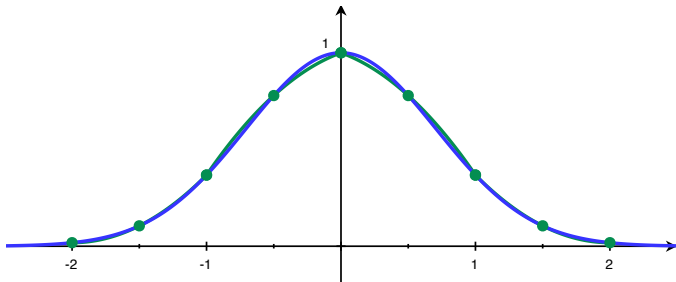
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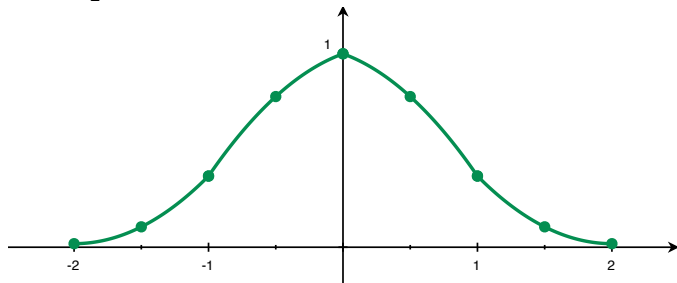
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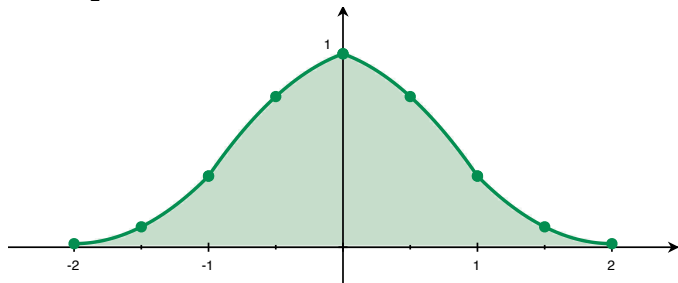




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Whatever  $a_0$ ,  $a_1$ , and  $a_2$  are, we can calculate

$$\int_{c_{i-1}}^{c_i} a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 dx = a_0x + \frac{1}{2}a_1x^2 + \frac{1}{3}a_2x^3 \Big|_{c_{i-1}}^{c_i}$$

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Let  $n$  be even. The resulting approximation, once the curves are fit and the integrals are taken, gives

$$S_n = \frac{1}{3}\Delta x(f(c_0) + 4f(c_1) + 2f(c_2) + 4f(c_3) \\ + \cdots + 2f(c_{n-2}) + 4f(c_{n-1}) + f(c_n))$$

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Error: For  $E_S = \int_a^b f(x) dx - S_n$  and  $K \geq |f^{(4)}(x)|$  over  $[a, b]$  (new  $K!!$ ),

$$|E_S| \leq \frac{K(b-a)^5}{180n^4}.$$

**You try:** Calculate an upper bound for  $|E_S|$  for  $\int_{-1}^2 x^4 dx$  and  $n = 6$ . Compare to the exact value of  $|E_S|$ .

Consider  $\int_0^\pi \sin(x)$ .

1. Calculate the maximum value of  $\left| \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \sin(x) \right|$  over  $[0, \pi]$ . Let this be  $K$ .
2. For each of  $M_4$ ,  $T_4$  and  $S_4$ , do the following:
  - (a) Draw a picture of the approximation, with  $y = \sin(x)$  overlaid.
  - (b) Calculate the approximation.
  - (c) Calculate an upper bound of the error of the approximation.
  - (d) Compare your upper bound against the actual value of the error.

