

# The Trapezoid Method is Exact For Linear Functions

Example: Suppose  $f$  is a linear function, and

$$f(-2) = 7 \text{ and } f(4) = -3. \text{ Evaluate } \int_{-2}^4 f(x) dx$$

with 2 methods: (1) Using the Trapezoid Rule  
(2) Using antiderivatives.

$$(1) \int_{-2}^4 f(x) dx = \frac{(4+2)}{2} [f(4) + f(-2)] = \frac{6}{2} [-3 + 7] = \frac{6 \cdot 4}{2} = \boxed{12}$$

$$(2) f(x) = 7 + \frac{(-3-7)}{4+2} \cdot (x+2) = 7 - \frac{10}{6} (x+2) = 7 - \frac{5}{3} (x+2) \\ = 7 - \frac{5}{3}x - \frac{10}{3} = -\frac{5}{3}x + \frac{11}{3}$$

$$\int_{-2}^4 \left(-\frac{5}{3}x + \frac{11}{3}\right) dx = \left(-\frac{5x^2}{3 \cdot 2} + \frac{11}{3}x\right) \Big|_{-2}^4 = \frac{-5 \cdot 4^2}{3 \cdot 2} + \frac{11 \cdot 4}{3} \\ - \left(\frac{-5(-2)^2}{3 \cdot 2} + \frac{11(-2)}{3}\right)$$

↑  
Error in class  
was here

$$= \frac{-5}{6} (16 - 4) + \frac{11}{3} (4 - (-2)) = \frac{-5}{6} \cdot 12 + \frac{11 \cdot 6}{3}$$

$$= \frac{-5 \cdot 6}{3} + \frac{11 \cdot 6}{3} = -10 + 22 = \boxed{12}$$