

Riemann Integrability

Mathematics

When upper and lower sums meet, and when they never do.

f is Riemann integrable on $[a, b]$ when some partition makes the upper and lower sums arbitrarily close.

$\varepsilon > 0$ partition $P : U(f, P) - L(f, P) < \varepsilon$

f continuous on $[a, b]$

Uniform continuity.

Integrable

f monotone on $[a, b]$

Even with jumps.

Integrable

Indicator of χ_A on $[0, 1]$

$U = 1$ and $L = 0$.

Not integrable

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ **Assuming bounded implies integrable**

✓ **Bounded plus continuity almost everywhere**

Lebesgue's criterion: a bounded f is Riemann integrable exactly when its set of discontinuities has measure zero.

Riemann handles bounded functions on bounded intervals. Lebesgue extends the theory to limits, which is why analysis moved on.