

Problem

Compute $\int_0^1 x^2 \, dx$.

Without/Before FTC

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^1 x^2 \, dx &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) \Delta x \quad \left(\text{with } \Delta x = \frac{1}{n} \text{ and } x_i = 0 + i \Delta x = \frac{i}{n}\right) \\&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{i^2}{n^2} \cdot \frac{1}{n} \\&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^3} \sum_{i=1}^n i^2 \quad (\text{sum of squares formula}) \\&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^3} \cdot \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} \\&= \frac{1}{6} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) \left(2 + \frac{1}{n}\right) \\&= \boxed{\frac{1}{3}}\end{aligned}$$

With/After FTC

$$\int_0^1 x^2 \, dx = \frac{1}{3} x^3 \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{3} (1 - 0) = \boxed{\frac{1}{3}}$$