Class 21: Wednesday March 14 Some Applications of Integrals

Length of a curve segment

Previously we have learned that one application of an integral is that the length of a curve segment between tow points (a, f(a)) and (b, f(b)) is given by

$$L = \int_{a}^{b} \sqrt{1 + [f'(x)]^2} dx$$

Area between two curves

Look at the figure below and write down an integral which represents the value of the shaded area A. The area A represents the area between two curves, $f(x) = x^{\sqrt{5}}$ and $g(x) = \frac{2x}{1+x^2}$

Compute the value of A by evaluating the definite integral:

So, in general the area between two curves f(x) and g(x), with f(x) > g(x) on [a, b] is given by:

Average value of a function

What is the average value of the natural log function between 1 and 4?

You should be able to write down an integral which represents this number and answer the question by evaluating this integral.

The average value, \bar{f} , of a function f(x) on some interval $a \leq xleb$ on which it varies continuously is given by the integral: