

Getting FTC II from FTC I

If f is a continuous function on $[a, b]$, we want to show that

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = F(b) - F(a)$$

for any antiderivative F of f .

We do know that f has at least one antiderivative, namely: $A(x) = \int_a^x f(t) dt$.

Why? Because $A'(x) = f(x)$, by FTC I

For this antiderivative, we can check that FTC II is true:

$$\begin{aligned} A(b) - A(a) &= \int_a^b f(t) dt + \int_a^a f(t) dt \leftarrow \text{from definition of } A(x) \\ &= \int_a^b f(t) dt + 0 \leftarrow \text{property of integrals (area under one point is 0)} \\ &= \int_a^b f(t) dt \end{aligned}$$

And this is what we wanted! This says that FTC II is true for the specific

antiderivative $A(x)$. But what about other antiderivatives $F(x)$ of $f(x)$?

If $F(x)$ is any other derivative of $f(x)$, we know it can be written as

$$F(x) = A(x) + C$$

for some constant C . So

$$F(b) - F(a) = (A(b) + \cancel{C}) - (A(a) + \cancel{C})$$

$$= A(b) - A(a)$$

$$= \int_a^b f(t) dt$$

shown on
previous page

And this is precisely FTC II!