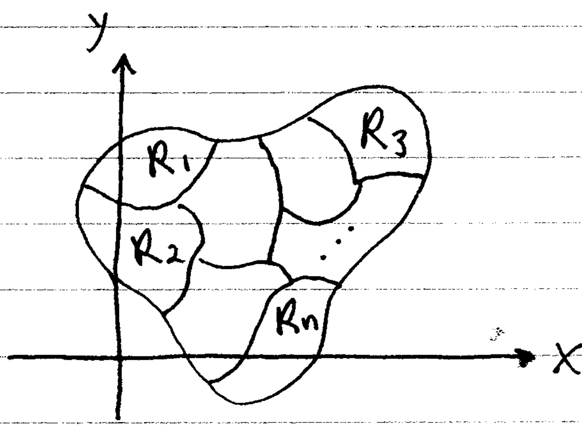
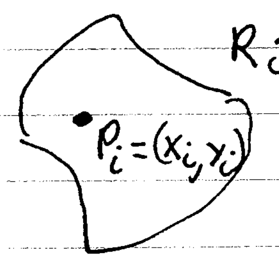
Math 21C
Kouba

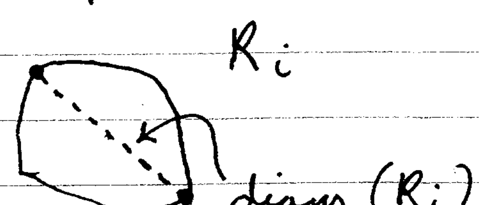
The Definite Integral Over Regions in the Plane

Let $z = f(x,y)$ be a function of two variables defined on a region R in the xy-plane. Partition R into n parts $R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_n$ of areas $A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n$, resp. Let $P_i = (x_i, y_i)$ be an arbitrary point in R_i for $i = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, n$.





Define the diameter of each part R_i, $\text{diam}(R_i)$, to be the largest possible distance between any two points of R_i for $i = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, n$.

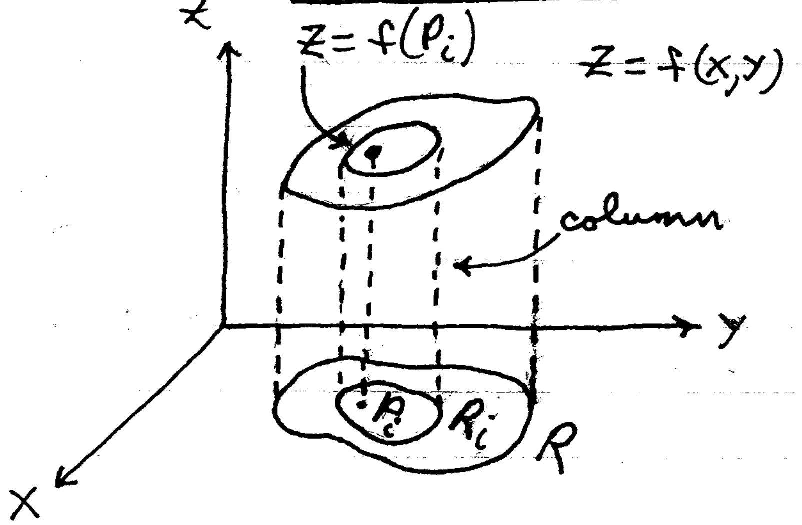


Define the mesh of the partition to be the largest of the n diameters, i.e.,

$$\text{mesh} = \max_{1 \le i \le n} (\text{diam}(R_i)).$$

Define the <u>definite</u> <u>integral</u> of $z = f(x,y)$ over the region R to be

$$\boxed{\int_R f(P)\, dA = \lim_{\text{mesh} \to 0} \sum_{i=1}^{n} f(P_i) \cdot A_i}.$$



The area of R_i is A_i so $f(P_i) \cdot A_i$ is an estimate for the volume of the column.

<u>Remarks</u>: 1.) $\int_R 1\, dA =$ area of R.

2.) If $f(P)$ measures depth of solid at point P, then

$$\int_R f(P)\, dA = \text{Volume of Solid}.$$

3.) If $f(P)$ measures density ($\frac{\text{mass}}{\text{area}}$ units) at point P, then

$$\int_R f(P)\, dA = \text{Mass of Flat Region } R.$$