



Pick an  $n$ . Divide  $[a, b]$  into  $n$  equal subintervals, each one with length  $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n}$ .  
 The division points are  $a = x_0, x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_{n-1}, x_n$

Pick a "sample point" in each subinterval:

- $x_1^*$  in the first interval  $[a, x_1] = [x_0, x_1]$ ,
- $x_2^*$  in the second interval  $[x_1, x_2]$
- $\vdots$
- $x_i$  in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  interval  $[x_{i-1}, x_i]$
- $\vdots$
- $x_n$  in the  $n^{\text{th}}$  subinterval  $[x_{n-1}, x_n] = [x_{n-1}, b]$

On each subinterval  $[x_{i-1}, x_i]$  build a rectangle with height =  $f(\text{sample point}) = f(x_i^*)$   
 Add up the areas of these rectangles:

$$Z_n = f(x_1^*)\Delta x + f(x_2^*)\Delta x + \dots + f(x_i^*)\Delta x + \dots + f(x_n^*)\Delta x = \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i^*)\Delta x$$

(\*) If we choose the right endpoints as the sample points (that is,  $x_i^* = x_i$ ), we get the right endpoint Riemann sum

$$R_n = f(x_1)\Delta x + f(x_2)\Delta x + \dots + f(x_i)\Delta x + \dots + f(x_n)\Delta x = \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i)\Delta x$$

(\*\*) If we choose the left endpoints as the sample points (that is,  $x_i^* = x_{i-1}$ ), we get the left endpoint Riemann sum

$$L_n = f(x_0)\Delta x + f(x_1)\Delta x + \dots + f(x_{i-1})\Delta x + \dots + f(x_{n-1})\Delta x = \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_{i-1})\Delta x$$

(\*\*\*) If we choose the midpoints as the sample points (that is,  $x_i^* = m_i$ ), we get the midpoint Riemann sum

$$M_n = f(m_1)\Delta x + f(m_2)\Delta x + \dots + f(m_i)\Delta x + \dots + f(m_n)\Delta x = \sum_{i=1}^n f(m_i)\Delta x$$

If  $y = f(x) \geq 0$  on  $[a, b]$  and  $f$  is continuous, then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} L_n$   
 $= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Z_n = \text{area under graph of } y = f(x) \text{ above } [a, b]$