

6. [10 points] The table below gives the expected growth rate, $g(t)$, in ounces per week, of the weight of a baby in its first 54 weeks of life (which is slightly more than a year).¹ Assume for this problem that $g(t)$ is a decreasing function.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|-----|----|----|----|----|
| week t | 0 | 9 | 18 | 27 | 36 | 45 | 54 |
| growth rate $g(t)$ | 6 | 6 | 4.5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |

- a. [6 points] Using six subdivisions, find an overestimate and underestimate for the total weight gained by a baby over its first 54 weeks of life.

Solution: The gain rate is a decreasing function, so a left-hand sum will be an overestimate and a right-hand sum an underestimate. The left-hand sum is

$$\int_0^{54} g(t) dt \approx (6 + 6 + 4.5 + 3 + 3 + 3)(9) = 229.5 \text{ oz},$$

and the right-hand sum

$$\int_0^{54} g(t) dt \approx (6 + 4.5 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 2)(9) = 193.5 \text{ oz}.$$

That is, we expect the weight gain to be between 12 and 14 lb!

- b. [4 points] How frequently over the 54 week period would you need the data for $g(t)$ to be measured to find overestimates and underestimates for the total weight gain over this time period that differ by 0.5 lb (8 oz)?

Solution: We know that the difference between the over- and underestimates is over – under = $|g(54) - g(0)|\Delta t$. Thus we need $\Delta t \leq 8/(6 - 2) = 2$ weeks. So we would need data for $g(t)$ every two weeks.

¹Riordan J. *Breastfeeding and Human Lactation*, 3rd ed. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, 2005, p.103, 512-513.