Section 2.1: A Preview of Calculus

Lesson 2.1 - A Preview of Calculus

- What things could be considered the greatest achievements of the human mind?

It's the Greatest!

- Consider that all these things emerged because of technological advances
- Those advances relied on CALCULUS !
- Calculus has made it possible to:
  - Build giant bridges
  - Travel to the moon
  - Predict patterns of population change

The Genius of Calculus is Simple

- It relies on only two ideas
  - The Derivative
  - The Integral
- Both come from a common sense analysis of motion
  - Motion is change in position over time
  - All you have to do is drop your pencil to see it happen

What Is Calculus

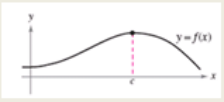
- It is the mathematics of change
- It is the mathematics of
  - tangent lines
  - slopes
  - areas
  - volumes
- It enables us to model real life situations
- It is dynamic
  - In contrast to algebra/precalc which is static

What Is Calculus

- One answer is to say it is a "limit machine"
- Involves three stages
  1. Precalculus/algebra mathematics process
     - Building blocks to produce calculus techniques
  2. Limit process
     - The stepping stone to calculus
  3. Calculus
     - Derivatives, integrals

Contrasting Algebra & Calculus

Without Calculus	With Differential Calculus



- Use f(x) to find the height of the curve at x = c
- Find the limit of f(x) as x approaches c

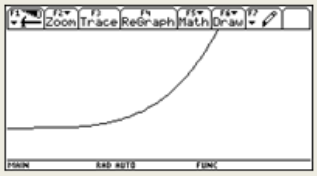
Contrasting Algebra & Calculus

Without Calculus	With Differential Calculus

- Find the average rate of change between $t = a$ and $t = b$
- Find the instantaneous rate of change at $t = c$

Tangent Line Problem

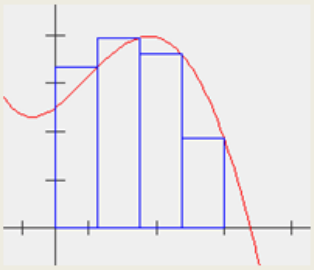
- Now allow the Δx to get smaller



$$m_{\text{tangent}} = \lim_{\Delta x \to 0} \left(\frac{f(x+\Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x} \right)$$

The Area Problem

- We seek the area under a curve, the graph f(x)
- We approximate that area with a number of rectangles
- Sum = 31.9
- Actual = 33.33



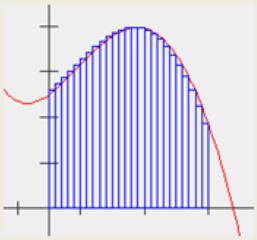
The Area Problem

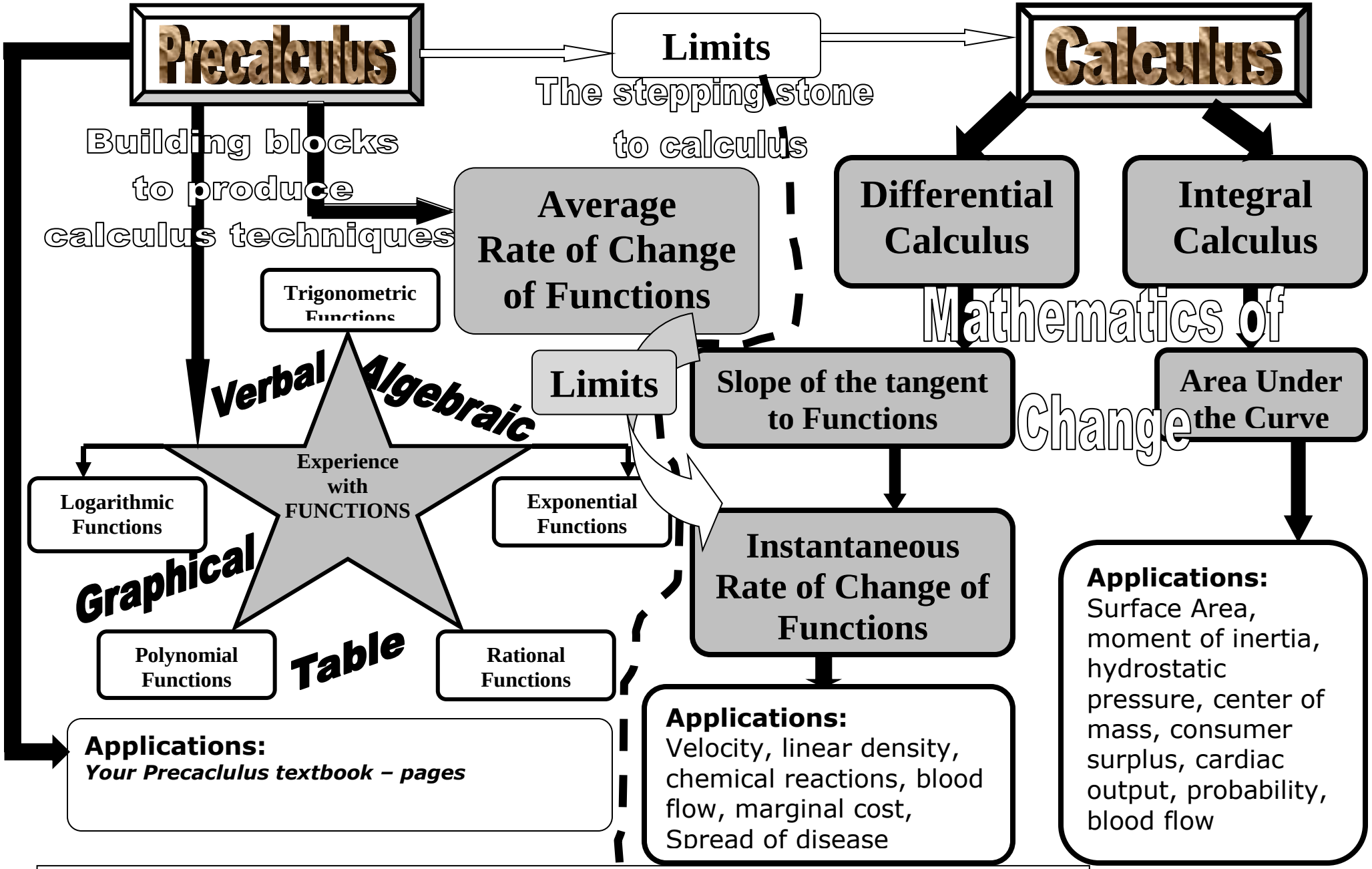
- The approximation is improved by increasing the number of rectangles
- Number of rectangles = 10
- Sum = 32.92
- Actual = 33.33

The Area Problem

- The approximation is improved by increasing the number of rectangles
- Number of rectangles = 25
- Sum = 33.19
- Actual = 33.33

View Applet Example





Calculus is performed on functions. Precalculus gives you the chance to become familiar with the algebraic and graphical properties of the main five types of functions.

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