

**EXAMPLE 6.6.** Find the area of the region in the first quadrant enclosed by the graphs of  $y = 1$ ,  $y = \ln x$ , and the  $x$ - and  $y$ -axes.

**SOLUTION.** It is easy to sketch the region. See Figure 6.10. The curve  $y = \ln x$  intersects the  $x$ -axis at  $x = 1$  and the line  $y = 1$  at  $x = e$ . Notice that the ‘bottom’ curve of the region switches from  $x$ -axis to  $y = \ln x$  at  $x = 1$ . The region is divided into two subregions (one is a square!) and the graph gives the relative positions of the curves. Since both the functions are continuous Theorem 6.1 applies.

$$\text{Area} = \int_0^1 1 \, dx + \int_1^e 1 - \ln x \, dx$$

We can rewrite the integral in a more convenient way. Notice that the area we are trying to find is really just the rectangle of height 1 minus the area under  $y = \ln x$  on the interval  $[1, e]$ . (Yet another way of saying this is that we are splitting  $\int_1^e 1 - \ln x \, dx$  into two integrals  $\int_1^e 1 \, dx$  and  $\int_1^e -\ln x \, dx$  and then combining the two integrals  $\int_0^1 1 \, dx + \int_1^e 1 \, dx$  into one leaving  $-\int_1^e \ln x \, dx$ .) We get

$$\text{Area} = \int_0^e 1 \, dx - \int_1^e \ln x \, dx = e + ???$$

The problem is that we do not know an antiderivative for  $\ln x$ . So we need another way to attack the problem. We describe this below.

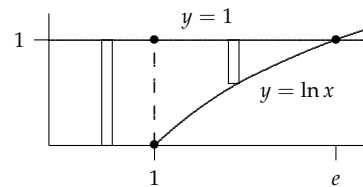


Figure 6.10: The region in the first quadrant enclosed by the graphs of  $y = 1$ ,  $y = \ln x$ , and the  $x$ - and  $y$ -axes. There are two representative rectangles because the bottom curve changes.

### 6.3 Point of View: Integrating along the $y$ -axis

Reconsider Example 6.6 and change our point of view. Suppose that we drew our representative rectangles horizontally instead of vertically as in Figure 6.11. The integration now takes place along the  $y$ -axis on the interval  $[0, 1]$ . Using inverse functions, the function  $y = \ln x$  is viewed as  $x = g(y) = e^y$ . Now the ‘width’ of a representative rectangle is  $\Delta y$  and the (horizontal) ‘height’ of the  $i$ th such rectangle is given by  $g(y_i)$ .

As we saw earlier in the term with integration along the  $x$ -axis, since  $g$  is continuous, the exact area of the region is given by

$$\text{Area} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n g(y_i) \Delta y = \int_c^d g(y) \, dy.$$

In our particular case, the interval  $[c, d] = [0, 1]$  along the  $y$ -axis. The function  $g(y) = e^y$ . So the area of the region is in Figure 6.11 (or equivalently 6.10) is

$$\text{Area} = \int_c^d g(y) \, dy = \int_0^1 e^y \, dy = e^y \Big|_0^1 = e - 1.$$

We can generalize the argument we just made and state the equivalent of Theorem 6.1 for finding areas between curves by integrating along the  $y$ -axis.

**THEOREM 6.2** (Integration along the  $y$ -axis). If  $f(y)$  and  $g(y)$  are continuous on  $[c, d]$  and  $g(y) \leq f(y)$  for all  $y$  in  $[c, d]$ , then the area of the region bounded by the graphs of  $x = f(y)$  and  $x = g(y)$  and the horizontal lines  $y = c$  and  $y = d$  is

$$\text{Area between } f \text{ and } g = \int_c^d [f(y) - g(y)] \, dy.$$

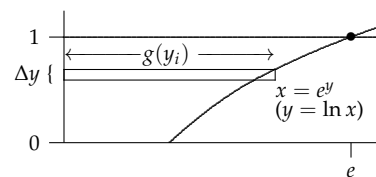


Figure 6.11: The region in the first quadrant enclosed by the graphs of  $y = 1$ ,  $y = \ln x$ , and the  $x$ - and  $y$ -axes. There are two representative rectangles because the bottom curve changes.

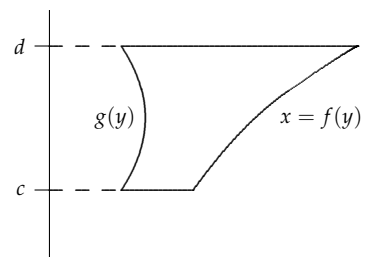


Figure 6.12: The region bounded by the graphs of  $x = f(y)$  and  $x = g(y)$  and the horizontal lines  $y = c$  and  $y = d$ .

## 6.4 More Examples

Here are a few more examples of area calculations, this time involving integrals along the  $y$ -axis.

**EXAMPLE 6.7.** Find the area of the region in the first quadrant enclosed by the graphs of  $x = y^2$  and  $x = y + 2$ .

**SOLUTION.** The intersections of the two curves are easily determined:

$$y^2 = y + 2 \Rightarrow y^2 - y - 2 = 0 \Rightarrow (y + 1)(y - 2) = 0 \Rightarrow y = -1, 2.$$

It is easy to sketch the region since one curve is a parabola and the other a straight line. See Figure 6.13. Since both the functions are continuous Theorem 6.2 applies.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area between } f \text{ and } g &= \int_c^d [f(y) - g(y)] dy = \int_{-1}^2 [y + 2 - y^2] dx \\ &= \left. \frac{y^2}{2} + 2y - \frac{y^3}{3} \right|_{-1}^2 \\ &= \left( 2 + 4 - \frac{8}{3} \right) - \left( \frac{1}{2} - 2 + \frac{1}{3} \right) = \frac{9}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

**EXAMPLE 6.8.** Find the area of the region enclosed by the graphs of  $y = \arctan x$ , the  $x$ -axis, and  $x = 1$ .

**SOLUTION.** The region is given to us in a way that simply requires sketching  $\arctan x$ . The area is described by

$$\text{Area} = \int_0^1 \arctan x dx.$$

However, we don't yet know an antiderivative for the arctangent function. We could develop that now (or look it up in a reference table), or we can switch that axis of integration. Notice that

$$y = \arctan x \iff x = \tan y.$$

The old limits were  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$ , so the new limits for  $y$  are  $\arctan 0 = 0$  and  $\arctan 1 = \frac{\pi}{4}$ . Notice the function  $x = 1$  is the 'top' curve and  $x = \tan y$  is the 'bottom' curve (reading from left to right). Since both the functions are continuous Theorem 6.2 applies.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area} &= \int_0^{\pi/4} 1 - \tan y dy = y - \ln |\sec y| \Big|_0^{\pi/4} \\ &= \left( \frac{\pi}{4} - \ln \sqrt{2} \right) - (0 - \ln 1) = \frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \ln 2. \end{aligned}$$

**EXAMPLE 6.9.** Find the area of the region enclosed by the three graphs  $y = x^2$ ,  $y = \frac{8}{x}$ , and  $y = 1$ . (The region is enclosed by all three curves at the same time.)

**SOLUTION.** Determine where the three curves meet:

$$x^2 = \frac{8}{x} \Rightarrow x^3 = 8 \Rightarrow x = 2.$$

$$x^2 = 1 \Rightarrow x = 1 \text{ (not } -1, \text{ see Figure 6.15).}$$

$$\frac{8}{x} = 1 \Rightarrow x = 8.$$

Notice from Figure 6.15 that if we were to find the area by integrating along the  $x$ -axis, we would need to split the integral into two pieces because the top curve of the region changes at  $x = 2$ . We can avoid the two integrations and all of the corresponding evaluations by integrating along the  $y$ -axis. We need to convert the functions to functions of  $x$  in terms of  $y$ :

$$y = x^2 \Rightarrow x = \sqrt{y} \text{ and } y = \frac{8}{x} \Rightarrow x = \frac{8}{y}.$$

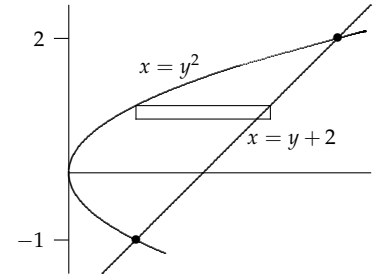


Figure 6.13: The region in the first quadrant enclosed by the graphs of  $x = y^2$  and  $x = y + 2$ .

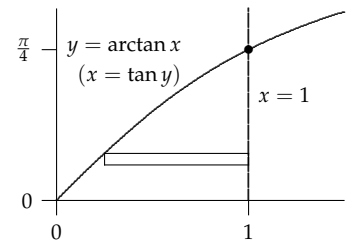


Figure 6.14: The region in the first quadrant enclosed by the graphs of  $y = \arctan x$ , the  $x$ -axis, and  $x = 1$ . Integrate along the  $y$ -axis and use  $x = \tan y$ .

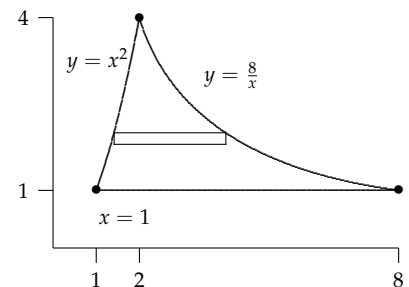


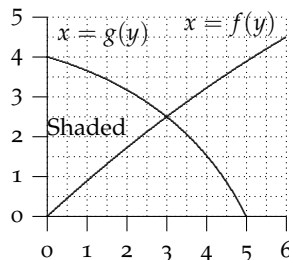
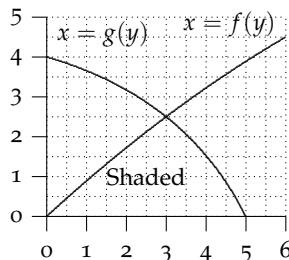
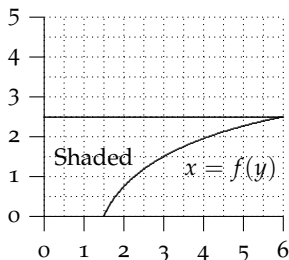
Figure 6.15: The region enclosed by the three graphs  $y = x^2$ ,  $y = \frac{8}{x}$ , and  $y = 1$ . Integrating along the  $y$ -axis uses only a single integral.

Remember to change the limits: At  $x = 2$ ,  $y = 4$  and at  $x = 1$  or  $x = 8$ ,  $y = 1$ . Notice the function  $x = \frac{8}{y}$  is the 'top' curve and  $x = \sqrt{y}$  is the 'bottom' curve (reading from left to right). Since both the functions are continuous Theorem 6.2 applies.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Area} &= \int_1^4 \frac{8}{y} - \sqrt{y} \, dy = 8 \ln |y| - \frac{2x^{3/2}}{3} \Big|_1^4 \\ &= \left(8 \ln 4 - \frac{16}{3}\right) - \left(\ln 1 - \frac{2}{3}\right) = 8 \ln 4 - \frac{14}{3}.\end{aligned}$$

**YOU TRY IT 6.4.** Redo Example 6.9 using integration along the  $x$ -axis. Verify that you get the same answer. Which method seemed easier to you?

**YOU TRY IT 6.5.** Set up the integrals that would be used to find the shaded areas bounded by the curves in the three regions below *using integration along the  $y$ -axis*. You will need to use appropriate notation for inverse functions, e.g.,  $x = f^{-1}(y)$ .



**YOU TRY IT 6.6.** Sketch the regions for each of the following problems before finding the areas.

- Find the area enclosed by  $x = y^2 + 1$  and  $x = 2y + 9$ . Integrate along the  $y$ -axis. (Answer: 36)
- Along the  $y$ -axis (more in the next problem). The area enclosed by  $y = x - 4$  and  $y^2 = 2x$ . (Answer: 18)
- Find the area in the first quadrant enclosed by the curves  $y = \sqrt{x-1}$ ,  $y = 3-x$ , the  $x$ -axis, and the  $y$ -axis by using definite integrals along the  $y$ -axis. (Answer:  $10/3$ , if you get  $9/2$ , you have the wrong region.)
- Find the area of the wedge-shaped region *below* the curves  $y = \sqrt{x-1}$ ,  $y = 3-x$ , and above the  $x$ -axis. Integrate along either axis: your choice! (Note: Not the same as (b)); Answer:  $7/6$ .)

**SOLUTION.** We do part (c). The curves are easy to sketch; remember  $y = \sqrt{x-1}$  is the graph of  $y = \sqrt{x}$  shifted to the right 1 unit. To integrate along the  $y$  axis, solve for  $x$  in each equation.

$$\begin{aligned}y = \sqrt{x-1} &\Rightarrow y^2 = x-1 \Rightarrow x = y^2 + 1 \\ y = 3-x &\Rightarrow x = 3-y\end{aligned}$$

These curves intersect when

$$y^2 - 1 = 3 - y \Rightarrow y^2 + y - 2 = (y-1)(y+2) = 0 \Rightarrow y = 1 \text{ (not } -2\text{)}.$$

Of course  $x = 3 - y$  intersects the  $y$ -axis at 3. So

$$\text{Area} = \int_0^1 y^2 + 1 \, dy + \int_1^3 3 - y \, dy = \frac{y^3}{3} + y \Big|_0^1 + 3y - \frac{y^2}{2} \Big|_1^3 = \frac{10}{3}.$$

**YOU TRY IT 6.7.** Sketch the region (use your calculator?) and find the area under  $y = \arcsin x$  on the interval  $[0, 1]$ . Hint: switch axes. (Answer:  $\pi/2 - 1$ )

**YOU TRY IT 6.8 (From a test in a previous year).** Consider the region bounded by  $y = \ln x$ ,  $y = 2$ , and  $y = x - 1$  shown below. Find the area of this region. (Answer:  $e^2 - 5$ )

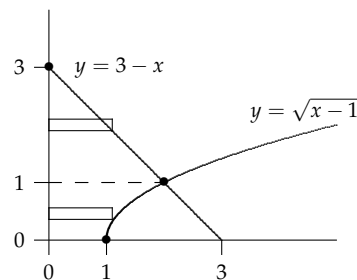
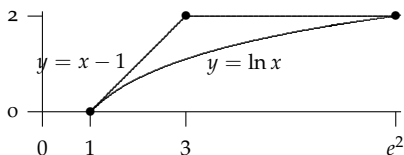
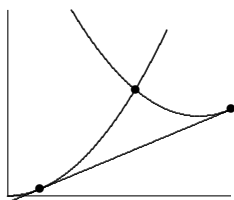


Figure 6.16: The region enclosed by  $y = \sqrt{x-1}$ ,  $y = 3-x$ , the  $x$ -axis and the  $y$ -axis.

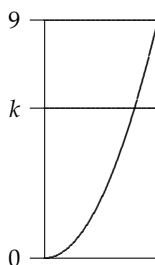
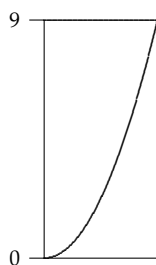
**YOU TRY IT 6.9.** Find the area of the region in the first quadrant enclosed by  $y = 9 - x$ ,  $y = x\sqrt{x+1}$ , and the  $y$ -axis. Hint: The two curves meet at the point  $(3, 6)$ .

**YOU TRY IT 6.10.** Find the region enclosed by the three curves  $y = x^2$ ,  $y = x^2 - 12x + 48$ , and  $y = 2x - 1$ . You will need to find three intersections. (Answer: 18)



**YOU TRY IT 6.11.** Extra Fun.

- (a) (Easy.) The region  $R$  in the first quadrant enclosed by  $y = x^2$ , the  $y$ -axis, and  $y = 9$  is shown in the graph on the left below. Find the area of  $R$ .
- (b) A horizontal line  $y = k$  is drawn so that the region  $R$  is divided into two pieces of equal area. Find the value of  $k$ . (See the graph on the right below). Hint: It might be easier to integrate along the  $y$ -axis now. Answer:  $(13.5)^{2/3}$



**YOU TRY IT 6.12.** Let  $R$  be the region enclosed by  $y = x$ ,  $y = \frac{2}{x+1}$ , and the  $y$  axis in the first quadrant. Find its area. *Be careful to use the correct region: One edge is the  $y$  axis.* (Answer:  $2\ln(2) - \frac{1}{2}$ .)

**YOU TRY IT 6.13.** Two ways

- (a) Find the area in the first quadrant enclosed by  $y = \sqrt{x-1}$ , the line  $y = 7 - x$ , and the  $x$ -axis by integrating along the  $x$ -axis. Draw the figure. (Answer:  $\frac{22}{3}$ .)
- (b) Do it instead by integrating along the  $y$ -axis.
- (c) Which method was easier for you?

**YOU TRY IT 6.14.** Find the area of the region  $R$  enclosed by  $y = \sqrt{x}$ ,  $y = \sqrt{12 - 2x}$ , and the  $x$ -axis in the first quadrant *by integrating along the  $y$  axis*. Be careful to use the correct region: *One edge is the  $x$  axis.* (Answer: 8)

**YOU TRY IT 6.15 (Good Problem, Good Review).** Find the area in the first quadrant bounded by  $y = x^2$ ,  $y = 2$ , the tangent to  $y = x^2$  at  $x = 2$  and the  $x$ -axis. Find the tangent line equation. Draw the region. Does it make sense to integrate along the  $y$ -axis? Why? (Answer:  $\frac{2}{3}$ .)

**YOU TRY IT 6.16 (Extra Credit).** Find the number  $k$  so that the horizontal line  $y = k$  divides the area enclosed by  $y = \sqrt{x}$ ,  $y = 2$ , and the  $y$  axis into two equal pieces. Draw it first. This is easier if you integrate along the  $y$  axis.

**YOU TRY IT 6.17 (Real Extra Credit).** There is a line  $y = mx$  through the origin that divides the area between the parabola  $y = x - x^2$  and the  $x$  axis into two equal regions. Find the slope of this line. Draw it first. The answer is not a simple number.

# Two Applications to Economics

## 6.5 An Application of Area Between Curves: Lorenz Curves

In the last few years, especially during the 2012 presidential election, there was much talk about "the 1%" meaning "the wealthiest 1% of the people in the country," and the rest of us, "we are the 99%." Such labels were intended to highlight the income and wealth inequality in the United States. Consider the following from the *New York Times*.

- The top 1 percent of earners in a given year receives just under a fifth of the country's pretax income, about double their share 30 years ago. (from <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/15/business/the-1-percent-paint-a-more-nuanced-portrait-of-the-rich.html>)
- The wealthiest 1 percent took in about 16 percent of overall income—8 percent of the money earned from salaries and wages, but 36 percent of the income earned from self-employment.
- They controlled nearly a third of the nation's financial assets (investment holdings) and about 28 percent of nonfinancial assets (the value of property, cars, jewelry, etc.). (See <http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/01/17/measuring-the-top-1-by-wealth-not-income/>)

When we make statements such as  $x\%$  of the population controls  $y\%$  of the wealth in the country, we are actually plotting points on what economists call a Lorenz curve.

**DEFINITION 6.5.1.** The **Lorenz Curve**  $L(x)$  gives the proportion of the total income earned by the lowest proportion  $x$  of the population. It can also be used to show distribution of assets (total wealth, rather than income). Economists consider it to be a measure of social inequality. It was developed by Max O. Lorenz in 1905 for representing inequality of the wealth distribution.

**EXAMPLE 6.5.2.**  $L(0.25) = 0.10$  would mean that the poorest 25% of households earns 10% of the total income.  $L(0.90) = 0.55$  would mean that the poorest 90% earns 45% of the total income. Equivalently, the richest 10% households earn 45% of the total income.

Focusing on wealth rather than income, if the top 1% households control about a third of the nation's financial assets as the *New York Times* indicates, then the bottom 99% control about two-thirds of the nation's wealth. This would be represented on the Lorenz curve by the point  $L(0.99) = 0.67$ .

*Basic Properties of the Lorenz Curve.* There are a couple of simple observations about the Lorenz curve.

- The domain of Lorenz curve is  $[0, 1]$ ; any percent is expressed as a decimal in this interval. For the same reason, the range of Lorenz curve is  $[0, 1]$ . So the graph of a Lorenz curve lies inside the unit square in the first quadrant.

- $L(0) = 0$  since no money is earned by 0 households.
- $L(1) = 1$  because all of the income is earned by the entire population.
- $L(x)$  is an increasing function. More of the total income is earned by more of the households.

*Extreme Cases.* Two extreme cases that help us understand the Lorenz curve.

- *Absolute Equality of Income.* Everyone earns exactly the same amount of money. In this situation  $L(x) = x$ , that is,  $x\%$  of the people earn  $x\%$  of the income.
- *Absolute Inequality of Income.* Nobody earns any income except one person (who earns it all). In this situation  $L(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{for } 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 1, & \text{for } x = 1. \end{cases}$

Let's think about this a bit. The lowest paid  $x\%$  of the population cannot earn more than  $x\%$  of the income, therefore,  $L(x) \leq x$ . (If they did, the remaining  $(1 - x)\%$  would earn less than  $(1 - x)\%$  of the total income and would be lower paid than the  $x\%$ .) This means that the Lorenz curve  $L(x)$  lies at or under the diagonal line  $y = x$  in the unit square. A typical Lorenz curve is shown to the right in Figure 6.18.

The information in a Lorenz curve can be summarized in a single measure called the Gini index.

**DEFINITION 6.5.3.** Let  $A$  be the area *between* the line  $y = x$  representing perfect income equality and the Lorenz curve  $y = L(x)$ . (This is the shaded area in Figure 6.18.) Let  $B$  denote the region *under* the Lorenz curve. Then the **Gini index** is

$$G = \frac{A}{A + B}.$$

The area  $A + B = \frac{1}{2}$  because it is half of the unit square. So

$$G = \frac{A}{\frac{1}{2}} = 2A.$$

Using definite integrals to calculate the area of  $A$ , we find

$$G = 2A = 2 \int_0^1 x - L(x) dx.$$

**YOU TRY IT 6.18.** Using properties of the integral prove that

$$G = 1 - 2 \int_0^1 L(x) dx.$$

Notice that when there is perfect income equality,  $L(x) = x$  is the diagonal and we have  $A = 0$ , so  $G = 2A = 0$ . When there is absolute income inequality, then  $B = 0$  and  $A = \frac{1}{2}$ , so  $G = 1$ .  $G$  always falls in the range of 0 to 1 with values closer to 0 representing more equally distributed income.

### Problems

Several of these problems are taken almost word-for-word directly from <http://f10.middlebury.edu/MATH0122C/Lorenz%20Curves.pdf>.

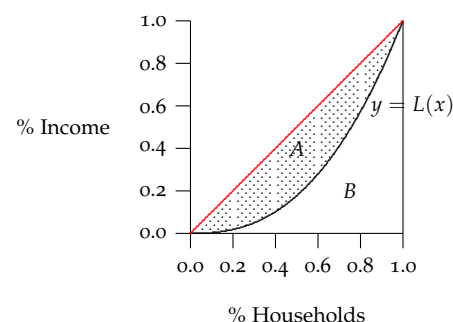


Figure 6.17: A Lorenz curve  $L(x)$  compared to the diagonal line which represents perfect income equality. The region  $A$  represents the difference between perfect income equality and actual income distribution. The larger  $A$  is, the more unequal the income distribution is.

1. A very simple function used to model a Lorenz curve is  $L(x) = x^p$ , where  $p \geq 1$ .

- (a) Check that any such function  $L(x) = x^p$ , where  $p \geq 1$  is a valid Lorenz curve. (That is, check that  $L(0) = 0$ ,  $L(1) = 1$  and  $L(x) \leq x$  on  $[0, 1]$ .)
- (b) Use a graphing calculator or computer to examine the graphs of  $L(x) = x^p$  on the interval  $[0, 1]$  for  $p = 1.2, 1.5, 2, 3$ , and  $4$ . Which value of  $p$  gives the most equitable distribution of income? The least?

2. A country in Northern Europe has a Lorenz curve for household incomes given by the function

$$L(x) = \frac{e^x - 1}{e - 1} \text{ for } 0 \leq x \leq 1.$$

- (a) Show that this function is a valid candidate to be a Lorenz curve. (That is, check that  $L(0) = 0$ ,  $L(1) = 1$  and  $L(x) \leq x$ .)
- (b) Determine  $L(0.5)$  and interpret what it means.
- (c) What is the Gini coefficient for this country? Give your interpretation and commentary.
- (d) The CIA website reports the Gini index for the distribution of family income in the United States to be 0.45. Roughly how does the income inequality you computed compare to that in the U.S. at the present time?
3. Find the Gini index corresponding to the Lorenz curve  $f(x) = x^3$ .
4. Find the Gini index corresponding to the Lorenz curve  $f(x) = \frac{1}{4}x + \frac{3}{4}x^3$ .
5. Prove that a Lorenz curve of the form  $L(x) = x^p$  has a Gini index of  $G = \frac{p-1}{p+1}$ .
6. The CIA website reports the Gini index for the distribution of family income in the United States to be 0.45.
- (a) Determine the number  $p$  so that the Gini index is 0.45 if the Lorenz curve has the form of a power function  $f(x) = x^p$
- (b) According to this model, how much of the family income is earned by the top 5% of families?

7. One type of function often used to model Lorenz curves is

$$L(x) = ax + (1-a)x^p.$$

Suppose that  $a = \frac{1}{4}$  and that the Gini index for the distribution of wealth in a country is known to be  $\frac{9}{16}$ .

- (a) Find the value of  $p$  that fits this situation.
- (b) According to this model, how much of the wealth is owned by the wealthiest 5% of the population?
8. Two-class societies. In theory, it could happen that one portion of the total resources is distributed equally among one class, with the rest being shared equally by another class. Here are functions that represent two different two-class societies:

$$L_1(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{2}, & \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{3x}{2} - \frac{1}{2}, & \text{for } \frac{1}{2} \leq x \leq 1 \end{cases} \quad L_2(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{2}, & \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{5x}{2} - \frac{3}{2}, & \text{for } \frac{3}{4} \leq x \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

Compute the Gini index for each and decide which is the more equitable society. In each case, how much of the total resources are owned by the richest half of the population?

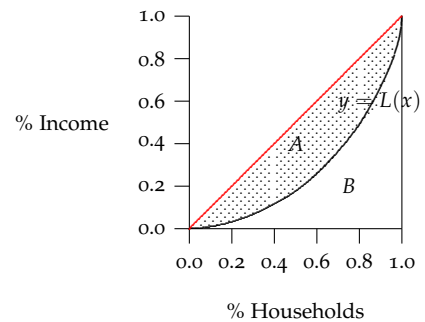


Figure 6.18: The Lorenz curve for the United States based on data from [http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS20811\\_20121113.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS20811_20121113.pdf)

## 6.6 An Application of Area Between Curves: Consumer Surplus

The material up to Figure 6.19 is taken almost word-for-word directly from <http://tutor2u.net/economics/revision-notes/as-markets-consumer-surplus.html>.

In this note we look at the importance of willingness to pay for different goods and services. When there is a difference between the price that you actually pay in the market and the price or value that you place on the product, then the concept of consumer surplus is useful.

### Defining consumer surplus

Consumer surplus is a measure of the welfare that people gain from the consumption of goods and services, or a measure of the benefits they derive from the exchange of goods.

**DEFINITION 6.1.** **Consumer surplus** is the difference between the total amount that consumers are *willing and able to pay* for a good or service (indicated by the demand curve) and the total amount that they *actually do pay* (i.e., the actual market price for the product). The level of consumer surplus is shown by the area below the demand curve and above the ruling market price line as illustrated in Figure 6.19. **Producer surplus** is the difference between the total amount that producers of a good receive and the minimum amount that they would be willing to accept for the good (lighter shading).

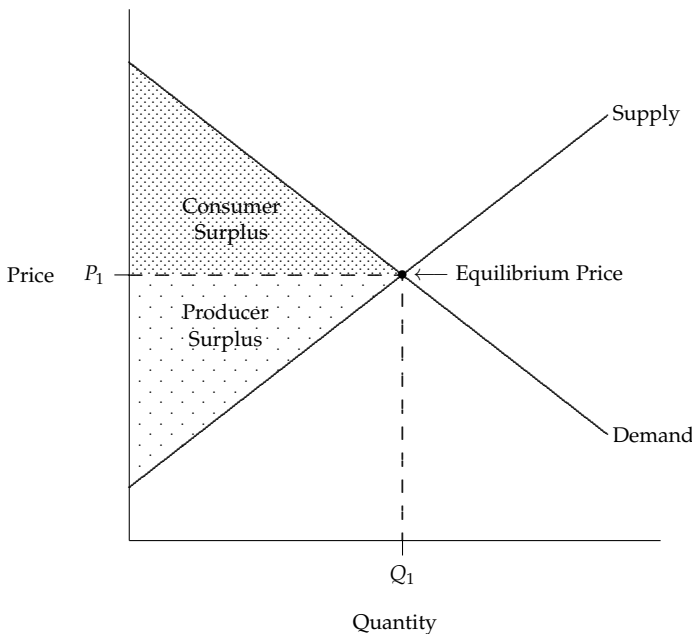


Figure 6.19: **Consumer surplus** is the difference between the total amount that consumers are willing and able to pay for a good or service and the total amount that they actually do pay (darker shading). **Producer surplus** is the difference between the total amount that producers of a good receive and the minimum amount that they would be willing to accept for the good (lighter shading).

Consumer and producer surpluses are relatively easy to calculate if the supply and demand curves are straight lines. However, in realistic models of the economy supply and demand generally do not behave in this way.

To determine either surplus for a product, we first need to determine the **equilibrium price** for that product, that is, the price for a good at which the suppliers are willing to supply an amount of the good equal to the amount demanded by consumers. Typically, as in Figure 6.19, consumers will demand more of a good only if the price (vertical axis) is lowered. So the demand curve has a negative slope. On the other hand, producers will be willing to make and sell more of a good if the price paid increases. So the supply curve generally has a positive slope. The two curves meet at some quantity  $Q_1$  and some corresponding price  $P_1$ .

There are examples of so-called 'backward-bending' supply curves, where the supply curve increases for awhile and then when a particular price is reached suppliers actually are willing to 'produce' less supply so the curve continues upward but bends back to the left. Extra credit if you can think of and justify an example where this might be true.



**EXAMPLE 6.10.** Suppose that the demand curve for students wanting to attend Hobart and William Smith each year is Demand Price =  $\frac{180}{q+2}$  where  $q$  is measured in thousands of students and demand price is measured in thousands of dollars. (E.g., no students are interested in attending if the tuition is  $\frac{180}{0+2} = 90$  thousand dollars, whereas 4 thousand students are interested in attending if the tuition is  $\frac{180}{4+2} = 30$  thousand dollars.) The Colleges are willing to accept students according to the formula for Supply Price =  $\frac{56q}{q+1}$ . Determine the equilibrium price, make a quick sketch of the graphs, and then determine the consumer surplus.

**SOLUTION.** The equilibrium price is where the demand price equals the supply price,

$$\frac{180}{q+2} = \frac{56q}{q+1} \Rightarrow 56q^2 + 112q = 180q + 180 \Rightarrow 14q^2 - 17q - 45 = 0.$$

Using the quadratic formula we find that the only positive root is  $q = 2.5$  and the corresponding price is  $p = \frac{180}{2.5+2} = 40$  thousand dollars.

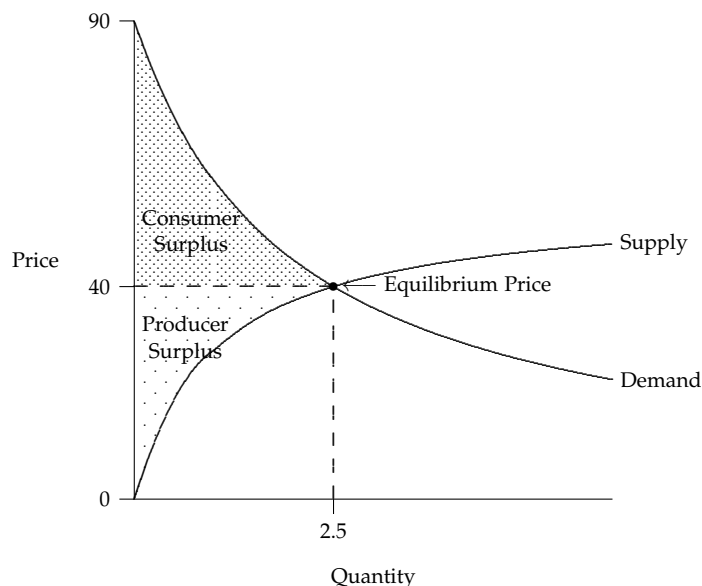


Figure 6.20: The supply and demand curves for enrollment at HWS (in thousands of dollars and thousands of students).

The consumer surplus is the area below the demand curve and above the equilibrium price  $p = 40$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Consumer Surplus} &= \int_0^{2.5} \frac{180}{q+2} - 40 \, dq = 180 \ln |q+2| - 40q \Big|_0^{2.5} \\ &= (180 \ln 4.5 - 100) - (180 \ln 2 - 0) \\ &\approx 45.96743891 \end{aligned}$$

The consumer surplus is approximately \$45,967,438.91 (since the units are thousands times thousands).

**YOU TRY IT 6.19 (Extra Credit).** Find the producer surplus for the situation in Example 6.10.

**YOU TRY IT 6.20 (Extra Credit).** Suppose that the Federal Government wants to increase the number of students able to attend college and offers every such student \$2,000 per year (in the form of a 'coupon' payable to the student's college). This means that students have another \$2,000 to spend per year, so they are willing to accept 'higher prices'. Their new Demand Price =  $\frac{180}{q+2} + 2$ . (The +2 represents the extra \$2,000.) The Colleges' supply price remains the same.

- How many students now would attend the Colleges? You will need to use the quadratic formula. Note: Round your answers for  $q$  to the nearest one-thousandth (and your final answer to the nearest student.)
- Find the new equilibrium price (tuition) at HWS. Did it go up \$2000?
- Find the new consumer surplus. Did it go up or down?
- Find the new producer surplus. Did it go up or down?