

## Symmetry.

Submission deadline: October 30<sup>th</sup> 2020

Let  $F$  be a differentiable function on  $[0, 2020]$  such that  $F'(2020 - x) = F'(x)$  for all  $x$  in the domain. Evaluate

$$\int_0^{2020} F(x)dx$$

The problem was solved by

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Discussion

Clearly,

$$F(x) - F(0) = \int_0^x F'(t)dt.$$

Therefore

$$F(x) - F(0) = \int_0^x F'(2020 - t)dt.$$

By change of variables,  $2020 - t = u$ , we get that

$$F(x) - F(0) = - \int_{2020}^{2020-x} F'(u)du.$$

Thus,  $F(x) - F(0) = -(F(2020 - x) - F(2020))$  which yields

$$F(x) + F(2020 - x) = F(2020) + F(0).$$

Therefore,

$$\int_0^{2020} F(x)dx + \int_0^{2020} F(2020 - x)dx = 2020(F(2020) + F(0))$$

By change of variables in the second term of the left hand side above, it is easy to see that two terms on the left are equal to each other. Hence,

$$\int_0^{2020} F(x)dx = 2020 \frac{F(2020) + F(0)}{2}$$

Note that  $2F(1010) = F(2020) + F(0)$ .

Many solutions were variations of the one above. However, Dilmini Manaperuma gave a more "geometrical" solution by taking symmetry into consideration. That solution clearly reveals why the answer looks like the area of a trapezoid.