
Methods of Integration

Solutions to these problems should show all of your work, not just a single final answer.

Part 1: Integration by parts. Do each problem as follows: (1) specify u and dv , (2) compute du and v , (3) use integration by parts with your choice of u and dv . (4) If you need integration by parts more than once, each time go through steps 1, 2, and 3 again.

Example. Compute $\int x^2 e^x dx$.

Solution.

(1) Set $u = x^2$ and $dv = e^x dx$.

(2) We have $du = 2x dx$ and $v = e^x$.

(3) Now $\int x^2 e^x dx = \int u dv = uv - \int v du = x^2 e^x - \int e^x (2x) dx = x^2 e^x - 2 \int x e^x dx$.

(4) To find $\int x e^x dx$, set $u = x$ and $dv = e^x dx$, so $du = dx$ and $v = e^x$. Then $\int x e^x dx = \int u dv = uv - \int v du = x e^x - \int e^x dx = x e^x - e^x$.

(5) Substituting the result of (4) into (3),

$$\int x^2 e^x dx = x^2 e^x - 2(x e^x - e^x) + C = (x^2 - 2x + 2)e^x + C.$$

1. Compute $\int x \cos(5x) dx$.

2. Compute $\int x^2 2^x dx$. (Hint: You can find an antiderivative of 2^x by recalling how to differentiate 2^x .)

Part 2: Integration of rational functions.

Example. Compute $\int \frac{2x+1}{x^2-4} dx$ using partial fractions.

Solution. Write $\frac{2x+1}{x^2-4} = \frac{A}{x+2} + \frac{B}{x-2}$ for some A and B . Clearing the denominator, $2x+1 = A(x-2) + B(x+2)$. Setting $x = 2$ we get $5 = 4B$, so $B = 5/4$. Setting $x = -2$ we get $-3 = -4A$, so $A = 3/4$. Thus $\frac{2x+1}{x^2-4} = \frac{3/4}{x+2} + \frac{5/4}{x-2}$, so

$$\int \frac{2x+1}{x^2-4} dx = \int \left(\frac{3/4}{x+2} + \frac{5/4}{x-2} \right) dx = \frac{3}{5} \ln|x+2| + \frac{5}{4} \ln|x-2| + C.$$

3. Compute $\int \frac{10}{x^3-x^2-6x} dx$ using partial fractions.

4. Compute $\int \frac{x^2+x+1}{x(x^2+4)} dx$ using partial fractions.

Part 3: Approximate Integration.

Example. (a) Compute the trapezoid approximation to $\int_1^3 \sqrt{x} dx$ using $n = 4$ subintervals, rounding your approximation to 5 digits after the decimal point.

(b) Use the error bound for the trapezoid rule to determine an n such that the trapezoid approximation is *guaranteed* by the error bound to be within .01 of the value of the integral.

Solution.

(a) The trapezoid approximation with $n = 4$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{b-a}{2n}(f(x_0) + 2f(x_1) + 2f(x_2) + 2f(x_3) + f(x_4)) &= \frac{2}{8}(f(1) + 2f(1.5) + 2f(2) + \\ &\quad 2f(2.5) + f(3)) \\ &\approx 2.79306. \end{aligned}$$

(b) An upper bound on the error from the trapezoid rule with n intervals is $\frac{K(b-a)}{12}(\Delta x)^2$, where $\Delta x = (b-a)/n$ and K is an upper bound on $|f''(x)|$ for all x in $[a, b]$. In our problem, $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$, so $f''(x) = -\frac{1}{4}x^{-3/2}$. For $1 \leq x \leq 3$, we have $x^{-3/2} \leq 1$, so $|f''(x)| \leq 1/4$ when $1 \leq x \leq 3$. Thus we can use $K = 1/4$, so the trapezoid error bound is $\frac{(1/4)(3-1)}{12}(\frac{2}{n})^2 = \frac{1}{6n^2}$. Having the error be less than .01 means

$$\frac{1}{6n^2} < .01 \iff n^2 > \frac{1}{6(.01)} \iff n > \sqrt{\frac{1}{.06}} \approx 4.082,$$

so for $n \geq 5$ the trapezoid approximation will be within .01 of the integral.

5. (a) Compute the trapezoid approximation to $\int_2^3 x \sin x dx$ using $n = 4$ subintervals, rounding your approximation to 5 digits after the decimal point. (Remember to set your calculator to radian mode for trigonometric functions.)

(b) Use the error bound for the trapezoid rule to determine an n such that the trapezoid approximation is *guaranteed* by the error bound to be within .01 of the value of the integral.

6. (a) Compute the Simpson's rule approximation to $\int_1^2 \sqrt{x} dx$ using $n = 4$ subintervals, rounding your approximation to 5 digits after the decimal point.
- (b) Use the error bound for Simpson's rule to determine an n such that the Simpson's rule approximation is *guaranteed* by the error bound to be within 10^{-6} of the value of the integral. (Remember n must be even.)

Part 4: Improper Integrals.

7. For $a > 0$, compute the improper integrals $\int_0^{\infty} e^{-ax} dx$ and $\int_0^{\infty} xe^{-ax} dx$. Your answer will be in terms of a .

8. Compute the improper integral $\int_0^{\infty} \frac{dx}{(x+2)(x+5)}$ using partial fractions.

9. Decide if the improper integral $\int_0^{\infty} \frac{x}{x^2 + 1} dx$ is convergent or divergent. If it is convergent, evaluate it.

Optional Question.

10. Vibrations show up in many places: civil engineering (oscillations in a bridge or the reaction of a building to an earthquake), music (sound is a vibration of pressure waves), and ski design (smaller vibrations make a smoother ride). The following computation is *fundamental* in any mathematical study of vibrations: for all positive integers m and n , use integration by parts to show

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \sin(mx) \cos(nx) dx = 0.$$

(Hint: Use the bounds of integration during the integration by parts, and treat $m = n$ and $m \neq n$ separately. It may help to first try this for specific m and n , such as $m = 2$ and $n = 3$, and then $m = 5$ and $n = 5$.) There are two other integral formulas related the one above, with products of two sines and two cosines:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \sin(mx) \sin(nx) dx = \begin{cases} \pi, & \text{if } m = n, \\ 0, & \text{if } m \neq n \end{cases} \quad \int_0^{2\pi} \cos(mx) \cos(nx) dx = \begin{cases} \pi, & \text{if } m = n, \\ 0, & \text{if } m \neq n. \end{cases}$$

Here too m and n are positive integers. The optional question is only the first formula.