Integration by Parts

Integration by parts is a technique for simplifying integrals of the form

$$\int f(x)g(x)\,dx.$$

Integration by Parts Formula

$$\int u\,dv = uv - \int v\,du \tag{2}$$

This formula expresses one integral, $\int u\,dv$, in terms of a second integral, $\int v\,du$. With a proper choice of u and v, the second integral may be easier to evaluate than the first. In using the formula, various choices may be available for u and dv. The next examples illustrate the technique. To avoid mistakes, we always list our choices for u and dv, then we add to the list our calculated new terms du and v, and finally we apply the formula in Equation (2).

EXAMPLE 2 Find

$$\int \ln x\,dx.$$

Solution Since $\int \ln x\,dx$ can be written as $\int \ln x \cdot 1\,dx$, we use the formula $\int u\,dv = uv - \int v\,du$ with

$u = \ln x$ Simplifies when differentiated $\qquad dv = dx$ Easy to integrate

$du = \frac{1}{x}\,dx, \qquad v = x.$ Simplest antiderivative

Then from Equation (2),

$$\int \ln x\,dx = x\ln x - \int x \cdot \frac{1}{x}\,dx = x\ln x - \int dx = x\ln x - x + C.$$

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Sometimes we have to use integration by parts more than once.

EXAMPLE 3 Evaluate

$$\int x^2 e^x \, dx.$$

Solution With $u = x^2$, $dv = e^x \, dx$, $du = 2x \, dx$, and $v = e^x$, we have

$$\int x^2 e^x \, dx = x^2 e^x - 2\int x e^x \, dx.$$

The new integral is less complicated than the original because the exponent on x is reduced by one. To evaluate the integral on the right, we integrate by parts again with $u = x$, $dv = e^x \, dx$. Then $du = dx$, $v = e^x$, and

$$\int x e^x \, dx = x e^x - \int e^x \, dx = x e^x - e^x + C.$$

Using this last evaluation, we then obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int x^2 e^x \, dx &= x^2 e^x - 2\int x e^x \, dx \\ &= x^2 e^x - 2x e^x + 2e^x + C. \end{aligned}$$

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Tabular Integration

We have seen that integrals of the form $\int f(x)g(x)\, dx$, in which f can be differentiated repeatedly to become zero and g can be integrated repeatedly without difficulty, are natural candidates for integration by parts. However, if many repetitions are required, the calculations can be cumbersome; or, you choose substitutions for a repeated integration by parts that just ends up giving back the original integral you were trying to find. In situations like these, there is a way to organize the calculations that prevents these pitfalls and makes the work much easier. It is called **tabular integration** and is illustrated in the following examples.

EXAMPLE 7 Evaluate

$$\int x^2 e^x \, dx.$$

Solution With $f(x) = x^2$ and $g(x) = e^x$, we list:

$f(x)$ and its derivatives		$g(x)$ and its integrals
x^2	$(+)$	e^x
$2x$	$(-)$	e^x
2	$(+)$	e^x
0		e^x

We combine the products of the functions connected by the arrows according to the operation signs above the arrows to obtain

$$\int x^2e^x\,dx = x^2e^x - 2xe^x + 2e^x + C.$$

Compare this with the result in Example 3. ■