

1. (improper:cauchy)

Compute $\int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{x}{1+x^2} dx$ and $\int_0^{\infty} \frac{x}{1+x^2} dx$. What does this say about $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{x dx}{1+x^2}$?

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{x}{1+x^2} dx &= \lim_{A \rightarrow -\infty} \int_A^0 \frac{x dx}{1+x^2} \\ &= \lim_{A \rightarrow -\infty} \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln(1+x^2) \right]_A^0 \\ &= \lim_{A \rightarrow -\infty} \ln(1) - \ln(1+A^2) \\ &= -\infty \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x}{1+x^2} dx &= \lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^B \frac{x dx}{1+x^2} \\ &= \lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln(1+x^2) \right]_0^B \\ &= \lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} \ln(1+B^2) - \ln(1) \\ &= \infty \end{aligned}$$

Notice that this problem shows that $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{x}{1+x^2} dx$ does not exist.

2. (improper:ln)

Compute $\int_0^1 \ln(t) dt$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \ln(t) dt &= \lim_{A \downarrow 0} \int_A^1 \ln(t) dt \\ &= \lim_{A \downarrow 0} \int_A^1 \underbrace{\ln(t)}_{F(t)} \underbrace{dt}_{G'(t)dt} \\ &= \lim_{A \downarrow 0} \left[\underbrace{t}_{G(t)} \underbrace{\ln(t)}_{F(t)} \right]_A^1 - \int_A^1 \underbrace{t}_{G(t)} \underbrace{\frac{1}{t} dt}_{F'(t)dt} \\ &= \lim_{A \downarrow 0} 1 \ln(1) - A \ln(A) - 1 + A \\ &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

since $\lim_{A \downarrow 0} A \ln(A) = 0$.

3. (improper:pf1)
 Compute $\int_{10}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2-4}$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{10}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2-4} &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \int_{10}^L \frac{dx}{x^2-4} \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \int_{10}^L \frac{dx}{(x-2)(x+2)} \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \int_{10}^L \frac{1}{4(x-2)} - \frac{1}{4(x+2)} dx \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{1}{4} \ln |x-2| - \frac{1}{4} \ln |x+2| \right]_{10}^L \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{1}{4} \ln \left| \frac{x-2}{x+2} \right| \right]_{10}^L \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \underbrace{\frac{1}{4} \ln \left| \frac{L-2}{L+2} \right|}_{0} - \frac{1}{4} \ln \left| \frac{8}{12} \right| \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \ln \left(\frac{3}{2} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

4. (improper:pf2)
 Show that $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2-4}$ is not a finite number. What answer do you get if you forget that the integrand has an asymptote at 2 and fail to split the integral up there?

Solution: You can use partial fractions to compute that

$$\int \frac{dx}{x^2-4} = \frac{1}{4} \ln \left| \frac{x-2}{x+2} \right| + C$$

If we write

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2-4} = \int_1^2 \frac{dx}{x^2-4} + \int_2^3 \frac{dx}{x^2-4} + \int_3^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2-4}$$

it suffices to show that one of these integrals is infinite. For example

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_1^2 \frac{dx}{x^2 - 4} &= \lim_{A \uparrow 2} \int_1^A \frac{dx}{x^2 - 4} \\
 &= \lim_{A \uparrow 2} \left[\frac{1}{4} \ln \left| \frac{x-2}{x+2} \right| \right]_1^A \\
 &= \lim_{A \uparrow 2} \frac{1}{4} \ln \left| \frac{A-2}{A+2} \right| - \frac{1}{4} \ln \left| \frac{1}{2} \right| \\
 &= -\infty
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we will see what happens if we forget that the integrand has an asymptote at 2.

$$\lim_{A \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4} \ln \left| \frac{A-2}{A+2} \right| - \frac{1}{4} \ln \left| \frac{-1}{3} \right| = \frac{1}{4} \ln(3)$$

5. (improper:pf3)

Compute $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{1+e^{2x}}$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{1+e^{2x}} &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^L \frac{dx}{1+e^{2x}} \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \int_{x=1}^{x=L} \frac{1}{u(1+u^2)} du & u = e^x \quad \frac{du}{u} = dx \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \int_{x=1}^{x=L} \frac{1}{u} - \frac{u}{1+u^2} du \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \left[\ln |u| \right]_{x=1}^{x=L} - \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln |1+u^2| \right]_{x=1}^{x=L} \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \left[\underbrace{\ln(e^x)}_x \right]_1^L - \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln |1+e^{2x}| \right]_1^L \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} L - 1 - \frac{1}{2} \ln |1+e^{2L}| + \frac{1}{2} \ln(1+e^2) \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} L - 1 - \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \ln(e^{2L})}_L - \frac{1}{2} \ln(e^{-2L} + 1) + \frac{1}{2} \ln(1+e^2) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \ln(1+e^2) - 1
 \end{aligned}$$

6. (improper:pf4)

Compute $\int_{10}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2-9}$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{10}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2-9} &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \int_{10}^L \frac{dx}{x^2-9} \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \int_{10}^L \frac{1}{9(x-3)} - \frac{1}{9(x+3)} dx \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{1}{9} \ln(x-3) - \frac{1}{9} \ln(x+3) \right]_{10}^L \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{1}{9} \ln \left(\frac{x-3}{x+3} \right) \right]_{10}^L \\
 &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \underbrace{\frac{1}{9} \ln \left(\frac{L-3}{L+3} \right) - \frac{1}{9} \ln \left(\frac{7}{13} \right)}_0 \\
 &= \frac{1}{9} \ln \left(\frac{13}{7} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

7. (improper:trig1)

Compute $\int_1^2 \frac{dt}{t\sqrt{t^2-1}}$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_1^2 \frac{dt}{t\sqrt{t^2-1}} &= \lim_{B \rightarrow 1} \int_B^2 \frac{dt}{t\sqrt{t^2-1}} \\
 &= \lim_{B \rightarrow 1} \operatorname{arcsec}(2) - \operatorname{arcsec}(B) \\
 &= \operatorname{arcsec}(2)
 \end{aligned}$$

8. (improper:trig2)

Compute $\int_1^2 \frac{dt}{\sqrt{4-t^2}}$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_1^2 \frac{dt}{\sqrt{4-t^2}} &= \lim_{L \rightarrow 2} \int_1^L \frac{dt}{\sqrt{4-t^2}} \\ &= \lim_{L \rightarrow 2} \left[\arcsin\left(\frac{t}{2}\right) \right]_1^L \\ &= \lim_{L \rightarrow 2} \arcsin\left(\frac{L}{2}\right) - \arcsin\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{6} \\ &= \frac{\pi}{3}\end{aligned}$$

9. (improper:trig3)
Compute $\int_1^3 \frac{dt}{\sqrt{9-t^2}}$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_1^3 \frac{dt}{\sqrt{9-t^2}} &= \lim_{L \rightarrow 3} \int_1^L \frac{dt}{\sqrt{9-t^2}} \\ &= \lim_{L \rightarrow 3} \left[\arcsin\left(\frac{t}{3}\right) \right]_1^L \\ &= \lim_{L \rightarrow 3} \arcsin\left(\frac{L}{3}\right) - \arcsin\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2} - \arcsin\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)\end{aligned}$$

10. (improper:partial1)
Compute $\int_1^\infty \frac{3}{x^2+3x} dx$.

Solution: First, recall that $\frac{3}{x^2+3x} = \frac{3}{x(x+3)}$. By partial fractions, we can find that

$$\frac{3}{x^2+3x} = \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x+3}$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_1^\infty \frac{3}{x^2 + 3x} dx &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b \frac{3}{x^2 + 3x} dx \\
 &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x+3} dx \\
 &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} [\ln|x| - \ln|x+3|]_1^b \\
 &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\ln \left| \frac{x}{x+3} \right| \right]_1^b \\
 &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \ln \left| \frac{b}{b+3} \right| - \ln \left(\frac{1}{4} \right) \\
 &= \ln(4)
 \end{aligned}$$

11. (improper:exp)

Find $\int_0^\infty \frac{1}{e^t - 1} dt$.

Solution: First notice that the endpoints 0 and ∞ are both improper, so we need to break the integral up.

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{1}{e^t - 1} dt = \lim_{a \downarrow 0} \int_a^1 \frac{1}{e^t - 1} dt + \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b \frac{1}{e^t - 1} dt$$

We compute the antiderivative

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int \frac{1}{e^t - 1} dt &= \int \frac{1}{u(u-1)} du & u = e^t \quad \frac{1}{u} du = dt \\
 &= \int \frac{1}{u-1} du - \int \frac{1}{u} du \\
 &= \ln|u-1| - \ln|u| + C \\
 &= \ln \left| \frac{u-1}{u} \right| + C \\
 &= \ln \left| 1 - \frac{1}{e^t} \right| + C
 \end{aligned}$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{a \downarrow 0} \int_a^1 \frac{1}{e^t - 1} dt + \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b \frac{1}{e^t - 1} dt &= \lim_{a \downarrow 0} \left[\ln \left| 1 - \frac{1}{e^t} \right| \right]_a^1 + \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\ln \left| 1 - \frac{1}{e^t} \right| \right]_1^b \\
 &= \lim_{a \downarrow 0} \ln \left| 1 - \frac{1}{e} \right| - \underbrace{\lim_{a \downarrow 0} \ln \left| 1 - \frac{1}{e^a} \right|}_{\text{Limit DNE}} + \underbrace{\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \ln \left| 1 - \frac{1}{e^b} \right|}_{\text{Limit is 0}} - \ln \left| 1 - \frac{1}{e} \right|
 \end{aligned}$$

so the integral does not exist.