

# CHAPTER 6. TECHNIQUES OF INTEGRATION

## Section 6.6. Improper Integrals.

### • Infinite Integrals.

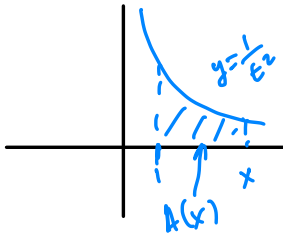
We defined the Natural Logarithmic function by  $\ln x = \int_1^x \frac{1}{t} dt$ , so that

$y = \ln x$  represent the area under  $y = \frac{1}{t}$  for  $1 \leq t \leq x$ . What happens to this area when  $x$  becomes "very large"?

When  $x \rightarrow \infty$  we know that  $\ln x \rightarrow \infty$ . Therefore, the area under  $y = \frac{1}{t}$  is infinite. Consider now the following situation.

Let  $A(x) = \int_1^x \frac{1}{t^2} dt$ .

1. Evaluate  $A(x)$

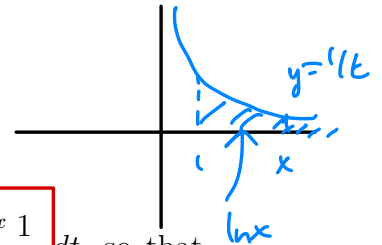


$$A(x) = -\frac{1}{t} \Big|_1^x = -\frac{1}{x} + 1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} A(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( -\frac{1}{x} + 1 \right) = 1$$

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{t^2} dt = 1 \quad \text{convergent}$$

2. What happens to  $A(x)$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ?



$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{t} dt = \infty = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^x \frac{1}{t} dt \quad \text{divergent}$$

• **Definition of an Infinite Integral.**

(a) If  $\int_a^t f(x) \, dx$  exists for every  $t \geq a$ , then

$$\int_a^\infty f(x) \, dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^t f(x) \, dx$$

provided this limit exists as a finite number.

(b) If  $\int_t^b f(x) \, dx$  exists for every  $t \leq b$ , then

$$\int_{-\infty}^b f(x) \, dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \int_t^b f(x) \, dx$$

provided this limit exists as a finite number.

$\int_a^\infty f(x) \, dx$  and  $\int_{-\infty}^b f(x) \, dx$  are called *convergent* if the corresponding limit exists and *divergent* if the limit does not exist.

(c) If both  $\int_a^\infty f(x) \, dx$  and  $\int_{-\infty}^a f(x) \, dx$  are convergent, then we define

$$\int_{-\infty}^\infty f(x) \, dx = \int_{-\infty}^a f(x) \, dx + \int_a^\infty f(x) \, dx$$

$\int_3^\infty f(x) \, dx$  is divergent where  $f$  is increasing on  $(3, \infty)$

## Examples

1. Determine whether the integral is convergent or divergent. Evaluate those that are convergent.

$$\int_{-\infty}^6 x e^{x/3} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \int_t^6 x e^{x/3} dx$$

① Evaluate  $\int_t^6 x e^{x/3} dx$

IBP:  $u = x \quad dv = e^{x/3} dx$   
 $du = dx \quad v = 3e^{x/3}$

$$\int_t^6 x e^{x/3} dx = 3x e^{x/3} \Big|_t^6 - 3 \int_t^6 e^{x/3} dx$$

$$\int_t^6 x e^{x/3} dx = 18e^2 - 3te^{t/3} - 9e^2 + 9e^{t/3} = \underline{9e^2 - 3te^{t/3} + 9e^{t/3}}$$

②  $\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} (9e^2 - 3te^{t/3} + 9e^{t/3}) = 9e^2$

$\begin{matrix} \nearrow \infty & \nearrow 0 \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ t \rightarrow -\infty & t \rightarrow -\infty \\ \frac{t}{e^{-t/3}} & e^{-t/3} \rightarrow \infty \\ \downarrow & \downarrow \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix}$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{t}{e^{-t/3}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{-\frac{1}{3} e^{-t/3}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} -3e^{t/3} = 0$$

$\int_{-\infty}^6 x e^{x/3} dx$  is convergent and  $\int_{-\infty}^6 x e^{x/3} dx = 9e^2$

2. For what values of  $n$  is the integral  $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^n} dx$  convergent?

\*  $n=1$   $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx$  is divergent

$n=2$   $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx$  is convergent

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^n} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t x^{-n} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left. \frac{x^{-n+1}}{-n+1} \right|_1^t \quad n \neq 1$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{1-n} (t^{-n+1} - 1) \right)$$

$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-n+1} = 0$  if  $-n+1 < 0$  or  $(n > 1)$

$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-n+1} = \infty$  if  $-n+1 \geq 0$  (or  $n \leq 1$ )

"Test" integrals

$a > 0$

$\int_a^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx$  is  $\begin{cases} \rightarrow \text{convergent if } p > 1 \\ \rightarrow \text{divergent if } p \leq 1 \end{cases}$

Warmup examples: Is the integral convergent or divergent?

$\int_6^{\infty} \frac{5}{x^4} dx$ ,   
convergent

$\int_{-\infty}^5 x^3 dx$ ,   
divergent

$\int_2^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} dx$ ,   
divergent  $x^{1/2} < 1$

- **Discontinuous Integrands.**

When evaluating  $\int_0^3 \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x}} dx$ , the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus will not work because  $y = \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x}}$  is not continuous at  $x=0$

- **Definition of an Improper Integral with discontinuous Integrand.**

(a) If  $f$  is continuous on  $(a, b]$ , then

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow a^+} \int_t^b f(x) dx$$

provided this limit exists as a finite number.

(b) If  $f$  is continuous on  $[a, b)$ , then

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow b^-} \int_a^t f(x) dx$$

provided this limit exists as a finite number.

$\int_a^b f(x) dx$  is called *convergent* if the corresponding limit exists, and *divergent* if the limit does not exist.

$$a < c < b$$

(c) If  $f$  has a discontinuity at  $c$ , where  $a < \cancel{b}$ , and both  $\int_a^c f(x) dx$  and  $\int_c^b f(x) dx$  are convergent, then we define  $\int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^c f(x) dx + \int_c^b f(x) dx$ .

**Example** Determine whether the integral is convergent or divergent. Evaluate the integral if it is convergent.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^3 \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x}} dx &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \int_t^3 x^{-3/2} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \left[ -2x^{-1/2} \right]_t^3 \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} -2 \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \right) = \infty \\ \int_0^3 \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x}} dx &\text{ is divergent} \end{aligned}$$

If  $a > 0$   $\int_a^\infty \frac{1}{x^p} dx$  is convergent if  $p > 1$  divergent if  $p \leq 1$  | If  $a > 0$   $\int_0^a \frac{1}{x^p} dx$  is convergent if  $p < 1$  divergent if  $p \geq 1$

- A Comparison Test for Improper Integrals.

Consider the improper integral  $\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^3}} dx$ . If we use material from the first paragraph the idea is to find

$$\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^3}} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^3}} dx$$

$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^3}}$   
 $\int_1^t \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^3}} dx \rightarrow \infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^3}} \sim \frac{1}{x^{3/2}}$   
 $\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{x^{3/2}} dx$  is  $< \infty$   
 does not have an antiderivative.

### Comparison Theorem.

Suppose that  $f$  and  $g$  are continuous functions with  $0 \leq g(x) \leq f(x)$  for  $x \geq a$ .

- (a) If  $\int_a^\infty f(x) dx$  is convergent,  $\int_a^\infty g(x) dx$  is convergent.  
 (b) If  $\int_a^\infty g(x) dx$  is divergent,  $\int_a^\infty f(x) dx$  is divergent.

Remark: This theorem remains valid for all types of improper integrals.

**Important:** Assume  $a > 0$

Test "integral"

- $\int_a^\infty \frac{1}{x^p} dx$  is convergent if  $p > 1$ , divergent if  $p \leq 1$
- $\int_0^a \frac{1}{x^p} dx$  is convergent if  $p < 1$ , divergent if  $p \geq 1$

Rewrite

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^3+1}} dx = ?$$

As  $x \rightarrow \infty$   $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^3+1}} \sim \frac{1}{x^{3/2}}$   $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^{3/2}} dx$  is convergent

"Educated guess"  $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^3+1}} dx$  is cv

The comparison Theorem:  $a > 0$

Start with  $\int_a^{\infty} g(x) dx = ?$  and  $\int_a^{\infty} f(x) dx$  (test integral)

Case 1: If  $g(x) \leq f(x)$  for  $x > a$  and  $\int_a^{\infty} f(x) dx$  is convergent, then  $\int_a^{\infty} g(x) dx$  is also convergent.

Case 2: If  $g(x) \geq f(x)$  for  $x > a$  and  $\int_a^{\infty} f(x) dx$  is divergent then  $\int_a^{\infty} g(x) dx$  is also divergent

Back to  $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^3+1}} dx$ . Compare  $g(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^3+1}}$

to  $\frac{1}{x^{3/2}} = f(x)$

If  $x > 1$   $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^3+1}} \leq \frac{1}{x^{3/2}}$ . Since  $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^{3/2}} dx$  is convergent,  $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^3+1}} dx$  is convergent.

**Exercises.** Use the Comparison Theorem to determine whether the integral is convergent or divergent.

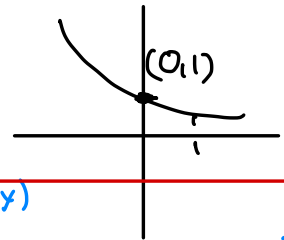
1.  $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x^6}} dx$  (on Wednesday)

$\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^p} dx$  is  $\begin{cases} \text{convergent if } p < 1 \\ \text{divergent if } p \geq 1 \end{cases}$

2.  $\int_0^1 \frac{e^{-x}}{\sqrt{x}} dx$

$g(x) = \frac{e^{-x}}{\sqrt{x}}$

$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$



if  $0 < x \leq 1$   $e^{-x} \leq 1 \Rightarrow \frac{e^{-x}}{\sqrt{x}} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$ . Since  $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^{1/2}} dx$  is convergent, therefore  $\int_0^1 \frac{e^{-x}}{\sqrt{x}} dx$  is also convergent