

Math AM tut 6 or 7

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How to combine two types of improper Riemann integrals?

When $f : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is such that it blows up near zero, and $f \in \mathbf{R}[\infty)$, then we say that f is Riemann Integrable on $(0, \infty)$ (and write $f \in \mathbf{R}(0, \infty)$), and define

$$\int_{(0, \infty)} f(x) dx = \int_0^\infty f(x) dx = \int_{(0, 1]} f(x) dx + \int_{[1, \infty)} f(x) dx \quad (1)$$

Ex: For each $\alpha \in (0, \infty)$, define a map $f : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ by $f(x) := x^{\alpha-1}e^{-x}$, $x \in (0, \infty)$. Clearly $f \in \mathbf{R}[0, \infty)$.

Qn: is $\int_0^1 f(x) dx < \infty$

case 1: $\alpha \geq 1$

then $f(x) = x^{\alpha-1}e^{-x} : x \in [0, 1]$ is a continuous function on $[0, 1]$ and hence $f \in \mathbf{R}[0, 1] \implies \int_0^1 f(x) dx < \infty$, hence if $\alpha = 1$, then $f \in \mathbf{R}(0, \infty)$

case 2: $\alpha < 1$ means $\alpha \in (0, 1)$.

Define

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{x^{1-\alpha}} : x \in (0, 1] \quad (2)$$

and look at $f|_{[0, 1]}$, ie,

$$f(x) = \frac{e^{-x}}{x^{1-\alpha}} : x \in (0, 1] \quad (3)$$

Note: $f, g \in \mathbf{R}[\epsilon, 1] \forall \epsilon \in (0, 1)$ and both are positive valued functions and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} e^{-x} = 1 \in (0, \infty) \quad (4)$$

Moreover $g(x) = \frac{1}{x^s} : x \in (0, 1]$ where $s = 1 - \alpha \in (0, 1)$ is done as an exercise.

hence $g \in (0, 1]$, hence $\int_0^1 g(x) dx < \infty$

so by ratio test. $\int_0^1 f(x) dx < \infty$ Now, combining everything, we get that $\forall \alpha \in (0, \infty)$, $\int_0^\infty x^{\alpha-1}e^{-x} dx = \int_0^1 x^{\alpha-1}e^{-x} dx + \int_1^\infty x^{\alpha-1}e^{-x} dx$

2 Gamma Function

$\forall \alpha \in (0, \infty)$, $\Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^\infty x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x} dx$ (Gamma function), Note that $\Gamma : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$

Show that :

$$\Gamma(\alpha + 1) = \alpha \Gamma(\alpha) \quad \alpha \in (0, \infty) \quad (5)$$

use by parts

Show that

$$\Gamma(n) = (n-1)! \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \quad (6)$$

Use the first one and induction

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Show that $\int_0^\infty \frac{1}{x^2 + \sqrt{x}} dx < \infty$

ans:

(Hint: Compare with $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$ on 0 to 1 and with $\frac{1}{x^2}$ on 1 to ∞)