
IMPROPER INTEGRALS



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

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For next lecture

For Wednesday (Feb 27), watch the videos:

- BCT: 12.7, 12.8
- LCT: 12.9, 12.10

Improper integrals: definition – 1

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Let $f : [a, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function which is integrable on each subinterval $[a, c] \subset [a, +\infty)$ (for instance continuous), then we set

$$\int_a^{+\infty} f(x)dx := \lim_{c \rightarrow +\infty} \int_a^c f(x)dx$$

whenever it makes sense.

Let $f : (-\infty, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function which is integrable on each subinterval $[c, b] \subset (-\infty, b]$ (for instance continuous), then we set

$$\int_{-\infty}^b f(x)dx := \lim_{c \rightarrow -\infty} \int_c^b f(x)dx$$

whenever it makes sense.

Improper integrals: definition – 2

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Let $f : [a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function which is integrable on each subinterval $[a, c] \subset [a, b)$ (for instance continuous), then we set

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

whenever it makes sense.

Let $f : (a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function which is integrable on each subinterval $[c, b] \subset (a, b]$ (for instance continuous), then we set

$$\int_a^b f(x)dx := \lim_{c \rightarrow a^+} \int_c^b f(x)dx$$

whenever it makes sense.

- For which $p \in \mathbb{R}$ is the following improper integral convergent?

$$\int_1^{+\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx$$

- For which $p \in \mathbb{R}$ is the following improper integral convergent?

$$\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^p} dx$$

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$$\int_0^{+\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx$$

Antiderivatives

- Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function.
Can all the antiderivatives of f be written as

$$F(x) = \int_a^x f(t)dt$$

where $a \in \mathbb{R}$?

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- Find one function such that the above statement is true.
- Find one function such that the above statement is false.

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Can all the antiderivatives of f be written as

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where $a \in \mathbb{R}$?

- Find one function such that the above statement is true.
- Find one function such that the above statement is false.
- (Additional question, not related to the above phenomenon)*
Find all the antiderivatives of $f : \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$.

What can you tell about the following integral?

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

What's wrong with the following computation?

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{x} dx &= [\ln(|x|)]_{-1}^1 \\ &= \ln(|1|) - \ln(|-1|) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

A first step to the BCT – Homework

Let $f : [a, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a function such that:

- $\forall c \in [a, +\infty)$, f is integrable on $[a, c]$, and,
- $\forall x \in [a, +\infty)$, $f(x) \geq 0$.

Prove that $\int_a^{+\infty} f(t)dt$ is convergent if and only if

$$\left\{ \int_a^c f(t)dt, c \in [a, +\infty) \right\}$$

is bounded from above.