

June 20th, 2024

Lecture 17

§ 7.8 Improper integrals

$\int_a^b f(x) dx \rightarrow$ f is a continuous function defined on the interval $[a, b]$

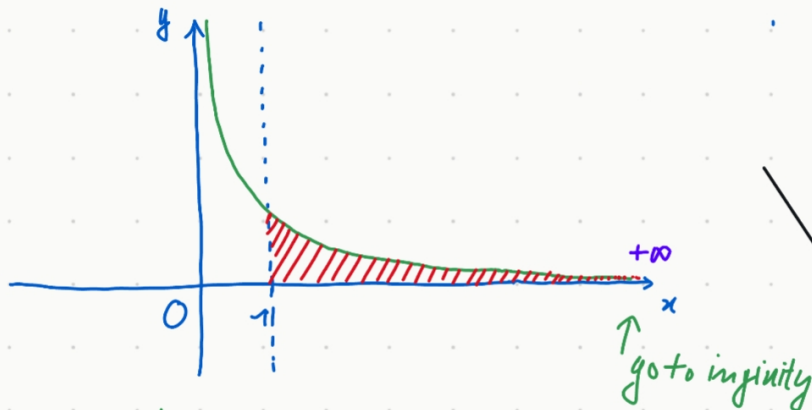


Improper integrals

- 1) $[a, b]$ infinite interval
 $[a, +\infty)$, $(-\infty, b]$, $(-\infty, +\infty)$
- 2) f has an infinite discontinuity in $[a, b]$

Type 1: Infinite intervals

Ex: Consider the region under the curve $y = \frac{1}{x^2}$ above x -axis, and to the right of the line $x = 1$.



\Rightarrow This region is unbounded.

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⇒ This region is unbounded

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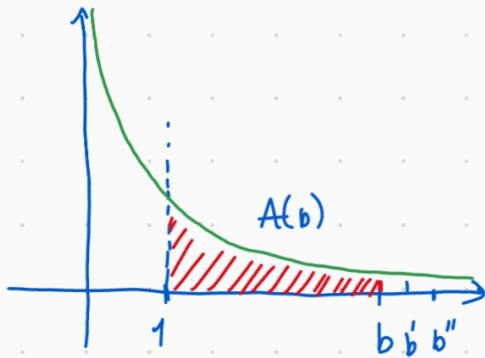
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Task: Compute the area of this region

We know how to compute the area of a bounded region

Assume it is a bounded region:



Area from 1 to b $A(b)$

b' $A(b')$

b'' $A(b'')$

\vdots \vdots

$+\infty$ $A(+\infty)$

⇒ Find the area depending on b

⇒ Take the limit when b tends to $+\infty$.

choose $b > 1$

$$A(b) = \int_1^b \frac{1}{x^2} dx = \int_1^b x^{-2} dx = -x^{-1} \Big|_1^b$$

$$= -\frac{1}{b} - \frac{-1}{1}$$

$$A(b) = 1 - \frac{1}{b}$$

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

$\frac{1}{+\infty} = 0$

Definition Improper integral of type 1

↪ $\int_a^t f(x) dx$ exists for every $t \geq a$

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

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Define similarly for

$\int_{-\infty}^a f(x) dx$

$\int_a^{\infty} f(x) dx$

$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx$



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for every $t \geq a$

then

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

Improper integral.

Define similarly for

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

The improper integrals $\int_a^{\infty} f(x) dx$, $\int_{-\infty}^b f(x) dx$ are called

convergent if the limit exists and
divergent if the limit does not exist.

If both $\int_a^{+\infty} f(x) dx$, $\int_{-\infty}^a f(x) dx$ are convergent,

then

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

Example: Determine whether the integral

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

is convergent or divergent.

By definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx &= \lim_{b \rightarrow +\infty} \int_1^b \frac{1}{x} dx \\ &= \lim_{b \rightarrow +\infty} \ln|x| \Big|_1^b \end{aligned}$$

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$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow +\infty} \ln|x| \Big|_1^b$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow +\infty} \ln b$$

$$= +\infty$$

\Rightarrow The limit does not exist as a finite number
 \Rightarrow the improper integral

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

is divergent. □

From the above examples:

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

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx \text{ diverges.}$$

Example: Evaluate $\int_{-\infty}^0 x e^x dx$.

By definition $\int_{-\infty}^0 x e^x dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \int_t^0 x e^x dx$.

Compute $\int_t^0 x e^x dx$

Integration by parts:

$$\begin{cases} u = x \\ dv = e^x dx \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} du = dx \\ v = e^x \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } \int_t^0 x e^x dx &= x e^x \Big|_t^0 - \int_t^0 e^x dx \\ &= (0 \cdot e^0 - t e^t) - e^x \Big|_t^0 \\ &= -t e^t - (e^0 - e^t) \end{aligned}$$

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 $1 + e^t$

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Thus $\int_{-\infty}^0 x e^x dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} (-t e^t - 1 + e^t)$

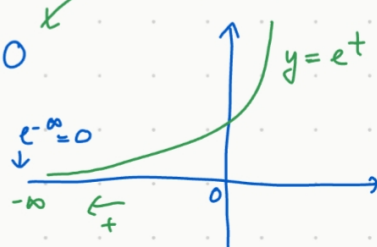
$$= \left(\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} (-t e^t) \right) - \left(\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} 1 \right) + \left(\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} e^t \right)$$

$(e^{-\infty} = 0)$

$$= 0 - 1 + 0$$

$$= -1$$

$\Rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^0 x e^x dx$ converges



Example: Evaluate $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx$.

By definition $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx = \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx + \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx$

Compute $\int_0^{+\infty} \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^t \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tan^{-1} x \Big|_0^t$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (\tan^{-1} t - \tan^{-1} 0)$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tan^{-1} t = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \arctan(t)$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{2}$$

because $\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} = \infty$

means that $\sin x > 0$, $\cos x = 0$

$$\arctan(\tan(y)) = y$$



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$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \arctan t = \frac{\pi}{2}$$



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$$= \frac{\pi}{2}$$

because $\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} = \infty$

means that $\sin x > 0$, $\cos x = 0$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \arctan(\tan(y)) = y \\ \arctan(t) = ? \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{set } t = \tan(y) \\ \text{find } y. \end{array}$$

In our problem $\arctan(\infty)$ so we set

$$\infty = \tan(y)$$

$$\text{find } y \Rightarrow y = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Another example $\arctan(1) = \arctan(\tan(y))$
and find y .

$$\text{we set } 1 = \tan y \Rightarrow y = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow \arctan(1) = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

We saw that

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx = \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx + \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{2} = \pi$$

conclusion: $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx$ converges.



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Example. For what values of p the integral

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

convergent?

We know $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx < \infty$, $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx$ diverges

Assume $p \neq 1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t \frac{1}{x^p} dx \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t x^{-p} dx \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left. \frac{x^{-p+1}}{-p+1} \right|_1^t \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1-p} \left(t^{-p+1} - 1^{-p+1} \right) \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1-p} \cdot t^{1-p} - \frac{1}{1-p} \end{aligned}$$

Since $p \neq 1$, we have two cases.• $p > 1 \Rightarrow 1-p < 0$

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1-p} \cdot t^{1-p} - \frac{1}{1-p} = -\frac{1}{1-p}$$

$$1-p < 0 \Rightarrow t^{1-p} \rightarrow 0$$

So the integral converges

• when $p < 1 \Rightarrow p-1 < 0$

$$\Rightarrow t^{1-p} \rightarrow \infty \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty$$

$$\text{So } \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1-p} t^{1-p} - \frac{1}{1-p} \rightarrow \infty$$

the integral diverges

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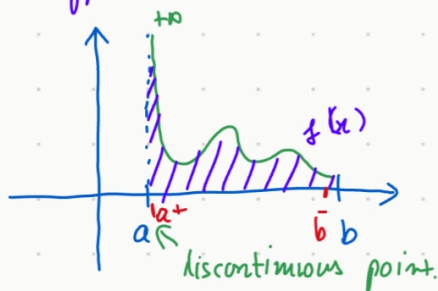
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the integral diverges.

Conclusion: $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx$ is convergent if $p > 1$
 divergent if $p \leq 1$.

II. Type 2: Discontinuous integrands.



We consider a finite interval $[a, b]$. f has discontinuous point at a or b .

\Rightarrow Compute the area of shaded region under the graph of $f(x)$.

Definition

a) If f is continuous on $[a, b)$ and is discontinuous at a then

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

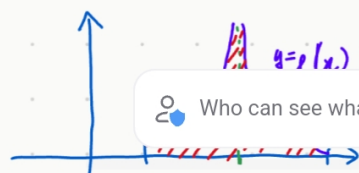
$$b) \int_a^b f(x) dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow b^-} \int_a^t f(x) dx$$

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

c) If f has discontinuity at c : $a < c < b$

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^c f(x) dx + \int_c^b f(x) dx$$

if these integrals are convergent.



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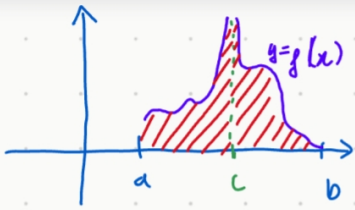
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ds are convergent.

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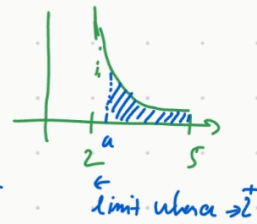


Example: Find $\int_2^5 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x-2}} dx$.

The function $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x-2}}$ is not defined at $x=2$

or f is discontinuous at $x=2$

By definition $\int_2^5 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x-2}} dx = \lim_{a \rightarrow 2^+} \int_a^5 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x-2}} dx$



Substitution: put $u = x-2 \Rightarrow du = dx$

$$\begin{cases} x=5 \\ x=a \end{cases} \rightarrow \begin{cases} u=3 \\ u=a-2 \end{cases}$$

$$\int_a^5 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x-2}} dx = \int_{a-2}^3 \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} du = \frac{u^{1/2}}{1/2} \Big|_{a-2}^3$$

$$= 2 u^{1/2} \Big|_{a-2}^3$$

$$= 2(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{a-2})$$

Thus $\int_2^5 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x-2}} dx = \lim_{a \rightarrow 2^+} \int_a^5 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x-2}} dx$

$$= \lim_{a \rightarrow 2^+} 2(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{a-2})$$

$$= 2(\sqrt{3} - 0)$$

$$= 2\sqrt{3}$$

Conclusion: The improper integral is convergent.

Example: Determine whether $\int_0^{\pi/2} \sec x dx$ converges or diverges

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cos x



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Example: Determine whether $\int_0^{\pi/2} \sec x dx$

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We know $\sec x = \frac{1}{\cos x} \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}^+$

so $f(x) = \sec x$ has discontinuity at $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \sec x dx = \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{1}{\cos x} dx$$

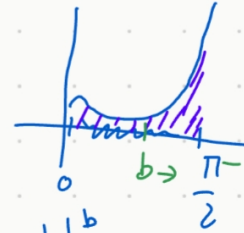
$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}^-} \int_0^b \sec x dx$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}^-} \ln |\sec x + \tan x| \Big|_0^b$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}^-} \left(\ln |\sec b + \tan b| - \ln |\sec 0 + \tan 0| \right)$$

$$= \ln |1| = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^{\pi/2} \sec x dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}^-} \ln |\sec b + \tan b|$$



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$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \sec x \, dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}^-} \ln |\sec b + \tan b|$$

$\nearrow \sec b \rightarrow \infty$

$$= \infty$$

Conclusion: The improper integral is divergent.

Example: Evaluate $\int_0^3 \frac{dx}{x-1}$ if possible.

$f(x) = \frac{1}{x-1}$ has discontinuity at $x=1$

By definition, we have

$$\int_0^3 \frac{dx}{x-1} = \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x-1} + \int_1^3 \frac{dx}{x-1}$$

Compute $\int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x-1} = \lim_{b \rightarrow 1^-} \int_0^b \frac{dx}{x-1}$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow 1^-} \ln |x-1| \Big|_0^b$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow 1^-} (\ln |b-1| - \ln |0-1|)$$

$\ln |1|$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow 1^-} \ln |b-1|$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow 1^-} \ln (1-b)$$

$$= -\infty$$

Conclusion: $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x-1} dx$ is divergent.

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^3 \frac{1}{x-1} dx = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{x-1} dx + \int_1^3 \frac{1}{x-1} dx$$

diverges \nearrow diverges



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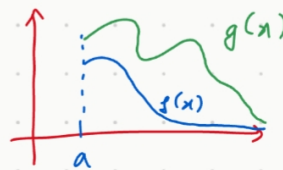


diverges



* Comparison test for improper integrals

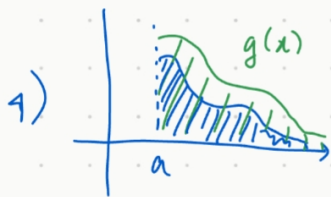
Comparison theorem
 $0 \leq f(x) \leq g(x)$



1) $\int_a^\infty g(x) dx$ is convergent

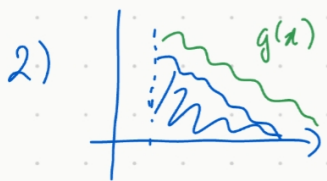
$\Rightarrow \int_a^\infty f(x) dx$ is convergent

2) $\int_a^\infty f(x) dx$ is divergent $\Rightarrow \int_a^\infty g(x) dx$ is divergent



If green region has finite area
 \Rightarrow blue region has finite area.

$\int_a^\infty g(x) dx$ converges $\Rightarrow \int_a^\infty f(x) dx$ converges



If blue region has infinite area
 \rightarrow green region has infinite area

$\int_a^\infty f(x) dx$ diverges $\Rightarrow \int_a^\infty g(x) dx$ diverges

1 Example: Determine whether

$\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} dx$ converges or diverges?

$f(x) = e^{-x^2}$, what is $g(x) = ?$
 (some function that we already know)

or converges)

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converges or diverges?

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$f(x) = e^{-x^2}$, what is $g(x) = ?$
 (some function that we already know that $\int g(x)$ diverges or converges)

For example $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, or $\frac{1}{x^2}$.
 $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx$ is divergent, $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx$ is convergent

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \int_0^1 e^{-x^2} dx + \int_1^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx$$

$\leq C$ because e^{-x^2} is continuous on $[0, 1]$

$$I = \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{e^{x^2}} dx$$

$$\text{on } [1, \infty] : f(x) = \frac{1}{e^{x^2}} \leq \frac{1}{x^2} = g(x)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{e^x} = g(x)$$

Then: $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{e^x} dx$ is converges

$\Rightarrow \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{e^{x^2}} dx$ is converges by Comparison Test

Example: $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1+e^{-x}}{x} dx$ is divergent

because $f(x) = \frac{1+e^{-x}}{x} > \frac{1}{x}$

and $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx$ is divergent

By the Comparison Test $\Rightarrow \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1+e^{-x}}{x} dx$ is divergent.