

Integration by Parts

Consider the integral $\int x e^{x^2} dx$. We can use the substitution $u = x^2$ to evaluate this.

Now consider $\int x e^x dx$. Substitution will not help with this integral. We can integrate x and e^x , but we don't know what to do with the product. Since this is a product, perhaps the product rule for differentiation will help.

$$\frac{d}{dx} [f(x)g(x)] = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x)$$

Solving for $f(x)g'(x)$ we have $f(x)g'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} [f(x)g(x)] - f'(x)g(x)$
Integrating wrt x gives

$$\int f(x)g'(x) dx = f(x)g(x) - \int f'(x)g(x) dx$$

Let $u = f(x)$ so $du = f'(x) dx$

then $v = g(x)$ so $dv = g'(x) dx$

$$\boxed{\int u dv = uv - \int v du}$$

The use of this formula is called Integration by Parts.

Ex $\int x e^x dx$ We need to identify the function u and a function for dv .

The function for u should "become simpler," or at least not get "more complicated" when we take its derivative.

The function for dv should not become "more complicated" when we find its antiderivative.

$$\begin{array}{ll} u = x & dv = e^x dx \\ du = dx & v = e^x \end{array}$$

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$$\text{so } \int x e^x dx = \int u dv = uv - \int v du$$

$$= x e^x - \int e^x dx \leftarrow \text{The key to integration by parts is that this integral should be simpler to evaluate than the original integral.}$$

$$= \boxed{x e^x - e^x + C}$$

$$\text{Ex } \int x^2 \cos x dx \quad \begin{array}{ll} u = x^2 & dv = \cos x dx \\ du = 2x dx & v = \sin x \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int x^2 \cos x dx &= x^2 \sin x - \int \sin x (2x) dx \\ &= x^2 \sin x - 2 \int x \sin x dx \end{aligned}$$

Well, we've gotten somewhere, but we still need integration by parts to evaluate this new integral

$$\begin{array}{ll} u = x & dv = \sin x dx \\ du = dx & v = -\cos x \end{array}$$

$$= x^2 \sin x - 2 \left[-x \cos x + \int \cos x dx \right]$$

$$= \boxed{x^2 \sin x + 2x \cos x - 2 \sin x + C}$$

Check:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} [x^2 \sin x + 2x \cos x - 2 \sin x + C] \\ = 2x \sin x + x^2 \cos x + 2 \cos x - 2x \sin x - 2 \cos x \\ = x^2 \cos x \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Ex } \int x \ln x dx \quad \begin{array}{ll} u = \ln x & dv = x dx \\ du = \frac{1}{x} dx & v = \frac{x^2}{2} \end{array}$$

$$= \frac{x^2}{2} \ln x - \int \frac{x^2}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{x} dx$$

$$= \frac{x^2}{2} \ln x - \frac{1}{2} \int x dx$$

$$= \frac{x^2}{2} \ln x - \frac{x^2}{4} + C = \boxed{\frac{x^2}{4} (2 \ln x - 1) + C}$$

function for dv does get "more complicated" when integrated, but we don't yet know how to integrate $\ln x$ so we have no choice.

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ex } \int e^{ax} \sin bx \, dx & \quad u = e^{ax} \quad dv = \sin bx \, dx \\ & \quad du = ae^{ax} \, dx \quad v = -\frac{1}{b} \cos bx \\ & = -\frac{e^{ax}}{b} \cos bx + \frac{a}{b} \int e^{ax} \cos bx \, dx \end{aligned}$$

Notice that $\int e^{ax} \cos bx \, dx$ is "about the same" as the original integral.

Will using integration by parts work if we use it again? Let's try...

$$\begin{aligned} u &= e^{ax} & dv &= \cos bx \, dx \\ du &= ae^{ax} & v &= \frac{1}{b} \sin bx \end{aligned}$$

$$I = -\frac{e^{ax}}{b} \cos bx + \frac{a}{b} \left[\frac{e^{ax}}{b} \sin bx - \frac{a}{b} \int e^{ax} \sin bx \, dx \right]$$

Hmm - We are back where we started; needing to evaluate $\int e^{ax} \sin bx \, dx$.

Let's use I to stand for the original integral so

$$I = -\frac{e^{ax}}{b} \cos bx + \frac{ae^{ax}}{b^2} \sin bx - \frac{a^2}{b^2} I + K \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{for some constant } K \\ \text{(constant of integration)} \end{array}$$

and solve for I

$$I + \frac{a^2}{b^2} I = \frac{ae^{ax}}{b^2} \sin bx - \frac{e^{ax}}{b} \cos bx + K$$

multiply both sides by b^2 and factor out I on the LHS:

$$I(b^2 + a^2) = ae^{ax} \sin bx - be^{ax} \cos bx + b^2 K$$

$$I = \frac{e^{ax}}{a^2 + b^2} [a \sin bx - b \cos bx] + C, \quad C = \frac{b^2 K}{a^2 + b^2}$$

$$\boxed{\int e^{ax} \sin bx \, dx = \frac{e^{ax}}{a^2 + b^2} (a \sin bx - b \cos bx) + C}$$

Warning: Do not change your choices for u and dv during the second step - otherwise you end up with $0=0$.

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$$\text{Ex } \int \sin^n x \, dx$$

$$u = \sin^{n-1} x \quad dv = \sin x \, dx$$

$$du = (n-1) \sin^{n-2} x \cdot \cos x \, dx \quad v = -\cos x$$

$$\int \sin^n x \, dx = -\sin^{n-1} x \cos x + \int (n-1) \sin^{n-2} x \cos^2 x \, dx$$

$$= -\sin^{n-1} x \cos x + (n-1) \int \sin^{n-2} x (1 - \sin^2 x) \, dx$$

$$= -\sin^{n-1} x \cos x + (n-1) \int \sin^{n-2} x \, dx - (n-1) \int \sin^n x \, dx$$

$$(1+n-1) \int \sin^n x \, dx = -\sin^{n-1} x \cos x + (n-1) \int \sin^{n-2} x \, dx$$

$$\boxed{\int \sin^n x \, dx = -\frac{1}{n} \sin^{n-1} x \cos x + \frac{n-1}{n} \int \sin^{n-2} x \, dx}$$

This is an example of a Reduction Formula.

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$$\text{Ex } \int \sec^3 x \, dx$$

This is a challenging problem, not because it is particularly difficult, but rather because it requires creativity and several steps

We begin by using integration by parts:

$$I = \int \sec^3 x \, dx = \int \sec x \sec^2 x \, dx$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} u = \sec x & dv = \sec^2 x \, dx \\ du = \sec x \tan x \, dx & v = \tan x \end{array}$$

$$I = \sec x \tan x - \int \sec x \tan^2 x \, dx$$

Next, use $1 + \tan^2 x = \sec^2 x$ to get

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \sec x \tan x - \int \sec x (\sec^2 x - 1) \, dx \\ &= \sec x \tan x - \int \sec^3 x \, dx + \int \sec x \, dx \end{aligned}$$

The first integral here is I , the one we are trying to evaluate, so we have

$$I = \sec x \tan x - I + \int \sec x \, dx$$

$$2I = \sec x \tan x + \ln |\sec x + \tan x| + K$$

Dividing both sides by 2 gives

$$\boxed{\int \sec^3 x \, dx = \frac{1}{2} \sec x \tan x + \frac{1}{2} \ln |\sec x + \tan x| + C}$$