

Improper Integrals

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$$B) \int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^3} dx$$

$$C) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4+x^2}$$

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- ▶ Note that the function $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^3}$ has a discontinuity at $x = 0$ and the F.T.C. does not apply to B.
- ▶ Note that the limits of integration for integrals A and C describe intervals that are infinite in length and the F.T.C. does not apply.

Infinite Intervals

An Improper Integral of Type 1

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

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

provided that limit exists and is finite.

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

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

provided that limit exists and is finite.

The improper integrals $\int_a^\infty f(x)dx$ and $\int_{-\infty}^b f(x)dx$ are called **Convergent** if the corresponding limit exists and is finite and **divergent** if the limit does not exist.

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

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

Infinite Intervals

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

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If $f(x) \geq 0$, we can give the definite integral above an area interpretation; namely that if the improper integral converges, the area under the curve on the infinite interval is finite.

Example Determine whether the following integrals converge or diverge:

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx, \quad \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^3} dx,$$

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- ▶ $= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \ln x \Big|_1^t = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (\ln t - \ln 1)$

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- ▶ The integral $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx$ diverges.

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- ▶ $= 0 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$.

Infinite Intervals

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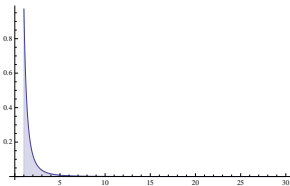
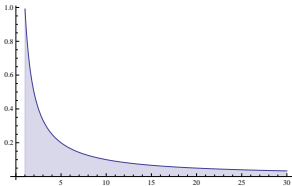
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- ▶ $= 0 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$.
- ▶ The integral $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^3} dx$ converges to $\frac{1}{2}$.

Area Interpretation



Since $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx$ diverges, the area under the curve $y = 1/x$ on the interval $[1, \infty)$ (shown on the left above) is not finite.

Since $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^3} dx$ converges, the area under the curve $y = 1/x^3$ on the interval $[1, \infty)$ (shown on the right above) is finite.

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Example Determine whether the following integral converges or diverges:

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

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- ▶ $= 1 - 0 = 1.$
- ▶ The integral $\int_{-\infty}^0 e^x dx$ converges to 1.

Infinite Intervals

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

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

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- ▶ $= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2} (\tan^{-1} \frac{t}{2} - \tan^{-1} 0) = \frac{1}{2} (\frac{\pi}{2} - 0) = \frac{\pi}{4}.$

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- ▶ The integral $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4+x^2} dx$ converges and is equal to

$$\int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{1}{4+x^2} dx + \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{4+x^2} dx = \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

Infinite Intervals

Theorem

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx \quad \text{is convergent if } p > 1 \text{ and divergent if } p \leq 1$$

Proof

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

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- ▶ If $p > 1$, $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{t^{1-p}}{1-p} - \frac{1}{1-p} \right) = -\frac{1}{1-p}$ and the integral converges.

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- ▶ If $p > 1$, $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{t^{1-p}}{1-p} - \frac{1}{1-p} \right) = -\frac{1}{1-p}$ and the integral converges.
- ▶ If $p < 1$, $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{t^{1-p}}{1-p} - \frac{1}{1-p} \right)$ does not exist since $\frac{t^{1-p}}{1-p} \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and the integral diverges.

Functions with infinite discontinuities

Improper integrals of Type 2

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

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

if that limit exists and is finite.

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

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

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Functions with infinite discontinuities

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- ▶ Therefore the improper integral $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^2} dx$ diverges.

Functions with infinite discontinuities

Theorem It is not difficult to show that

$$\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^p} dx \quad \text{is divergent if } p \geq 1 \text{ and convergent if } p < 1$$

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- ▶ $= \lim_{t \rightarrow 2^-} \left(\frac{-1}{t-2} - \frac{1}{2} \right)$, which does not exist.
- ▶ Therefore we can conclude that $\int_0^4 \frac{1}{(x-2)^2} dx = \int_0^2 \frac{1}{(x-2)^2} dx + \int_2^4 \frac{1}{(x-2)^2} dx$ diverges, since this integral converges only if both improper integrals $\int_0^2 \frac{1}{(x-2)^2} dx$ and $\int_2^4 \frac{1}{(x-2)^2} dx$ converge.

Comparison Test for Integrals

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Theorem If f and g are continuous functions with $f(x) \geq g(x) \geq 0$ for $x \geq a$, then

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

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

Example Use the comparison test to determine if the following integral is convergent or divergent (using your knowledge of integrals previously calculated).

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

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- Therefore using $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$ and $g(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 + x + 1}$ in the comparison test above, we can conclude that

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

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- therefore using $f(x) = \frac{1}{x - \frac{1}{2}}$ and $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ in the comparison test, we have

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