

Examples of Integration by Parts

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Example: Evaluate $\int e^x \sin(x) dx$.

Strategy: Nothing can be eliminated by differentiation but we can take advantage of the cyclic nature of $\sin(x)$ and $\cos(x)$ with respect to differentiation.

Let $f(x) = \sin(x)$, $g'(x) = e^x$. Then $f'(x) = \cos(x)$ and $g(x) = e^x$ gives

$$\int e^x \sin(x) dx = e^x \sin(x) - \int e^x \cos(x) dx$$

Apply Integration by Parts again with $f(x) = \cos(x)$ and $g'(x) = e^x$ to get

$$\begin{aligned} \int e^x \sin(x) dx &= e^x \sin(x) - \int e^x \cos(x) dx \\ &= e^x \sin(x) - [e^x \cos(x) + \int e^x \sin(x) dx] \\ &= e^x \sin(x) - e^x \cos(x) - \int e^x \sin(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$2 \int e^x \sin(x) dx = e^x \sin(x) - e^x \cos(x)$$

and

$$\int e^x \sin(x) dx = \frac{e^x \sin(x) - e^x \cos(x)}{2} + C$$

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Example: Evaluate $\int \ln(x) dx = \int 1 \cdot \ln(x) dx$

Note: There is an “invisible” second factor in the integrand: $1 \cdot \ln(x)$

Let $g'(x) = 1$ and $f(x) = \ln(x)$. Then $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ and $g(x) = x$.

$$\begin{aligned}\int \ln(x) dx &= \int f(x)g'(x) dx = f(x)g(x) - \int f'(x)g(x) dx \\ &= x \ln(x) - \int \frac{1}{x} \cdot x dx \\ &= x \ln(x) - \int 1 dx \\ &= x \ln(x) - x + C\end{aligned}$$

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Example: Evaluate $\int \arctan(x) dx = \int 1 \cdot \arctan(x) dx$.

Let $f(x) = \arctan(x)$ and $g'(x) = 1$. Then $f'(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$ and $g(x) = x$.
We obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\int \arctan(x) dx &= \int f(x)g'(x) dx = f(x)g(x) - \int f'(x)g(x) dx \\ &= x \arctan(x) - \int \frac{x}{1+x^2} dx\end{aligned}$$

Making the substitution $u = 1 + x^2 \Rightarrow du = 2x dx$ we now have

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{x}{1+x^2} dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{2x}{1+x^2} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{u} du \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \ln(|u|) + C_0 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \ln(|1+x^2|) + C_0\end{aligned}$$

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Example: Evaluate $\int \arctan(x) dx = \int 1 \cdot \arctan(x) dx$.

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\int \arctan(x) dx &= x \arctan(x) - \int \frac{x}{1+x^2} dx \\ &= x \arctan(x) - \left(\frac{1}{2} \ln(|1+x^2|) + C_0\right) \\ &= x \arctan(x) - \frac{1}{2} \ln(|1+x^2|) + C\end{aligned}$$

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Remark: The FTC implies the following:

Theorem: [Integration by Parts]

Assume that $f'(x)$ and $g'(x)$ are both continuous on $[a, b]$. Then

$$\int_a^b f(x)g'(x) dx = f(x)g(x) \Big|_a^b - \int_a^b f'(x)g(x) dx$$