

# Notes: Improper Integrals

# Additional Techniques of Integration Day 6

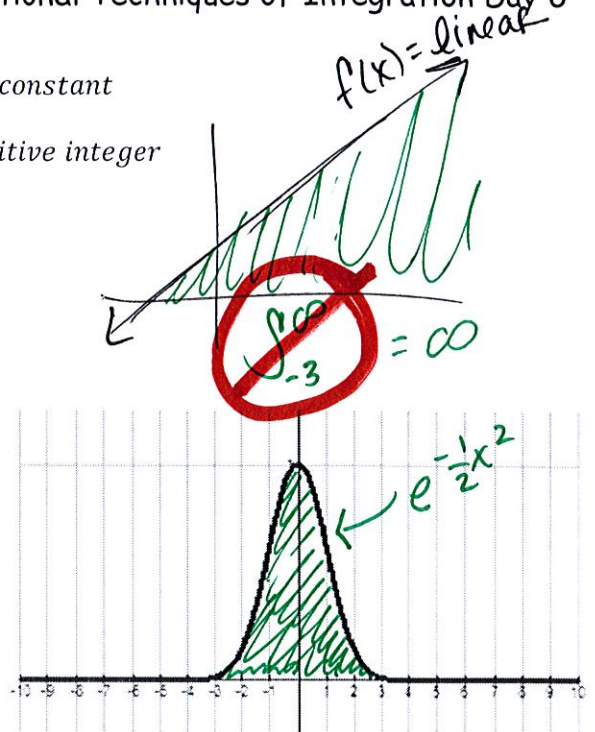
Remember:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{c}{x^n} = 0$  where  $c = \text{some constant}$   
 $n = \text{some positive integer}$   
 End Behavior

## 3 Types of Improper Integrals

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

Example:  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} dx = \text{Area}$

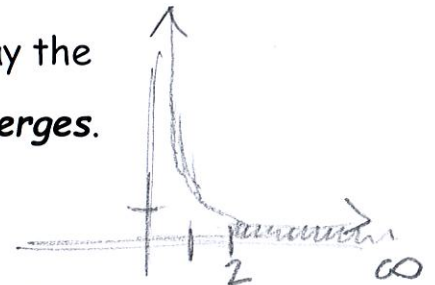
**Improper Integrals:** Although the region under the curve extends infinitely to the left and right, the total area is finite.



**Converges:** If the area approaches some number then the integral is said to converge.

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

When the limit exists, we say the improper integral **converges**.



Example One: Show that  $\int_2^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2}$  converges and compute its value.

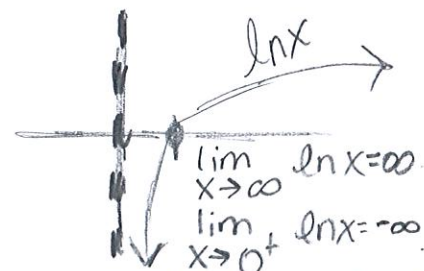
$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_2^R x^{-2} dx = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{x^{-1}}{-1} \right]_2^R = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -\frac{1}{x} \right]_2^R = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \left( -\frac{1}{R} - \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \right) = \frac{1}{2}$$

Converges

Example Two: Determine if  $\int_{-\infty}^{-1} \frac{dx}{x}$  converges.

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow -\infty} \int_R^{-1} \frac{1}{x} dx = \lim_{R \rightarrow -\infty} \left[ \ln|x| \right]_R^{-1} = \lim_{R \rightarrow -\infty} \left( \ln|-1| - \ln|R| \right) = -\infty$$

does not converge.



Example Three: Determine if  $\int_0^{\infty} xe^{-x} dx$  converges. If so compute its value.

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^R xe^{-x} dx \quad \begin{array}{l} u=x \\ du=dx \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} v=-e^{-x} \\ dv=e^{-x} dx \end{array} \quad \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} -xe^{-x} + \int_0^R e^{-x} dx$$

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} -xe^{-x} - e^{-x} \Big|_0^R = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-x}{e^x} - \frac{1}{e^x} \Big|_0^R = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{-R}{e^R} - \frac{1}{e^R} \right) - \left( \frac{-0}{e^0} - \frac{1}{e^0} \right) = \boxed{1}$$

$\frac{\infty}{\infty} = \text{Indeterminant}$   
So L'Hopital's Rule

Memorize (if you want)

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{p-1} & \text{if } p > 1 \\ \infty & \text{if } p \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{[-R] \frac{d}{dR}}{[e^R] \frac{d}{dR}}$$

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-1}{e^R} = 0$$

### Infinite Discontinuities at endpoints:

If  $f(x)$  is continuous on  $[a, b)$  but discontinuous at  $x = b$  we define

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

If  $f(x)$  is continuous on  $(a, b]$  but discontinuous at  $x = a$  we define

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

If, in either case, the limit does not exist, the integral is said to **Diverge**.

$[0, 1)$   $x=1$  is not in the domain of  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

Example Four:  $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx$

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow 1^-} \int_0^R \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \lim_{R \rightarrow 1^-} \sin^{-1}(x) \Big|_0^R = \lim_{R \rightarrow 1^-} \sin^{-1}(R) - \sin^{-1}(0)$$

$$\sin^{-1}(1) - \sin^{-1}(0)$$

$$\frac{\pi}{2} - 0$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\pi}{2}} \text{ :D}$$

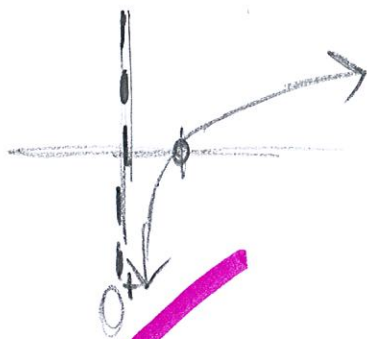
Example Five:  $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} dx$

$(0, 1]$

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow 0^+} \int_R^1 x^{-\frac{1}{2}} dx = \lim_{R \rightarrow 0^+} 2x^{\frac{1}{2}} \Big|_R^1 = \lim_{R \rightarrow 0^+} 2\sqrt{1} - 2\sqrt{R} = \boxed{2}$$



Example Six:  $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x} dx$   $\lim_{R \rightarrow 0^+} \int_R^1 \frac{1}{x} dx = \lim_{R \rightarrow 0^+} \ln|x| \Big|_R^1 = \lim_{R \rightarrow 0^+} (\ln 1 - \ln R) = \lim_{R \rightarrow 0^+} (0 - \ln R) = -\infty$



diverges

$\infty$

Memorize (if you want)

$$\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^p} dx = \begin{cases} \text{if } p < 1 \\ \text{if } p \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Comparison Test for Improper Integrals: Assume that  $f(x) \geq g(x) \geq 0$  for  $x \geq a$ .  
If  $\int_a^\infty f(x) dx$  converges, then  $\int_a^\infty g(x) dx$  also converges.

If  $\int_a^\infty g(x) dx$  diverges, then  $\int_a^\infty f(x) dx$  also diverges.

Example Seven: Show that  $\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^3+1}} dx$  converges.

Example Eight: Determine if  $\int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+1}} dx$  converges or diverges.