

Unless otherwise specified, if we write (a, b) or $[a, b]$, it is always the case that $a < b \in \mathbb{R}$.

1 Improper Integrals

Definition 1.1. Let $f : [a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function with $-\infty < a < b \leq \infty$. Suppose $f \in \mathcal{R}([a, c])$ for all $c \in [a, b)$. Then we define

$$\int_a^b f := \lim_{c \rightarrow b^-} \int_a^c f$$

to be the improper integral of f over $[a, b)$ if the limit exists.

Quick Practice

1. Evaluate the improper integral $\int_0^\infty e^{-t} dt$
2. Suppose $f \in \mathcal{R}([0, t])$ for all $t > 0$. Show that $\int_0^\infty f$ exists if and only if for all $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $M > 0$ such that $s, t > M$ would imply $\left| \int_s^t f \right| < \epsilon$
3. Suppose $f \in \mathcal{R}([0, t])$ for all $t > 0$. Show that if $\int_0^\infty |f|$ exists, then $\int_0^\infty f$ exists.
4. Let $f : [0, \infty)$ be non-negative and $f \in \mathcal{R}([0, t])$ for all $t > 0$. Define $F(t) := \int_0^t f$ for all $t \geq 0$. Show that $\int_0^\infty f$ exists if and only if F is bounded on $[0, \infty)$.
5. Define $f(\alpha) := 1/\alpha$ and $g_t(\alpha) := e^{-\alpha t}$ for all $t, \alpha > 0$.
 - (a) Find $g'(\alpha)$ and $g'_t(\alpha)$ for all $\alpha, t > 0$.
 - (b) Show that $f(\alpha) = \int_0^\infty g_t(\alpha) dt$ for all $\alpha > 0$.
 - (c) Is it true that $f'(\alpha) = \int_0^\infty g'_t(\alpha) dt$ for all $\alpha > 0$?

6. (Integral Test). Let $f : [0, \infty)$ be a non-negative, decreasing function.

(a) Show that for all $N > 1 \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$\int_1^{N+1} f \leq \sum_{k=1}^N f(k) \leq \int_0^N f$$

(b) Show that $\int_1^\infty f$ exists if and only if $\sum_{n=1}^\infty f(n)$ exists.

(c) Show that

$$\sum_{n=2}^\infty f(n) \leq \int_1^\infty f \leq \sum_{n=1}^\infty f(n)$$

whenever the conditions in part (b) holds.

(d) Show that $\sum_{n=1}^\infty \frac{1}{n^p} < \infty$ for all $p > 1$ and conclude that $\sum_{n=1}^\infty \frac{1}{n^2} \in [1, 2]$

7. Let $f(x) := \frac{x \log(x)}{1+x^2}$ for $x \in (0, 1]$ and $f(0) := 0$.

(a) Show that there exists $M > 0$ and $t > 0$ such that $|x \log x| \leq M\sqrt{x}$ for all $x \in (0, t)$

(b) Show that $\int_0^1 \frac{x \log x}{1+x^2}$ exists.

8. (2016 - 17 Final Q2) Let $f : [1, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by $f(x) := \frac{\sin(x)}{x}$.

(a) Show that $\int_1^\infty f(x) dx$ exists.

(b) Show that $\int_1^\infty |f(x)| dx$ diverges.

