

Advanced Calculus (I)

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5.4 Improper Riemann Integration

Remark:

If f is integrable on $[a,b]$, then

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \lim_{c \rightarrow a^+} \left(\lim_{d \rightarrow b^-} \int_c^d f(x) dx \right).$$

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Proof:

By Theorem 5.26,

$$F(x) = \int_a^x f(t) dt$$

is continuous on $[a, b]$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^b f(x) dx &= F(b) - F(a) \\ &= \lim_{c \rightarrow a^+} \left(\lim_{d \rightarrow b^-} F(d) - F(c) \right) \\ &= \lim_{c \rightarrow a^+} \left(\lim_{d \rightarrow b^-} \int_c^d f(x) dx \right). \square \end{aligned}$$

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Definition

Let $[a,b]$ be a nonempty, open (possibly unbounded) interval and $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$.

(i)

f is said to be *locally integrable* on (a,b) if and only if f is integrable on each closed subinterval $[c,d]$ of (a,b) .

(ii)

f is said to be *improperly integrable* on (a,b) if and only if f is locally integrable on (a,b) and

$$(18) \quad \int_a^b f(x) dx := \lim_{c \rightarrow a^+} \left(\lim_{d \rightarrow b^-} \int_c^d f(x) dx \right)$$

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The order of the limits in (18) does not matter. In particular, if the limits in (18) exists, then

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Proof:

Let $x_0 \in (a, b)$ be fixed. By Theorem 5.20 and 3.8

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{c \rightarrow a^+} \left(\lim_{d \rightarrow b^-} \int_c^d f(x) dx \right) \\ &= \lim_{c \rightarrow a^+} \left(\int_c^{x_0} f(x) dx + \lim_{d \rightarrow b^-} \int_{x_0}^d f(x) dx \right) \\ &= \lim_{c \rightarrow a^+} \int_c^{x_0} f(x) dx + \lim_{d \rightarrow b^-} \int_{x_0}^d f(x) dx \\ &= \lim_{d \rightarrow b^-} \left(\lim_{c \rightarrow a^+} \int_c^d f(x) dx \right). \square \end{aligned}$$

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Theorem

If f, g are improperly integrable on (a, b) and $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{R}$, then $\alpha f + \beta g$ is improperly integrable on (a, b) and

$$\int_a^b (\alpha f(x) + \beta g(x)) dx = \alpha \int_a^b f(x) dx + \beta \int_a^b g(x) dx.$$

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Theorem (Comparison Theorem For Improper Integrals)

Suppose that f, g are locally integrable on (a, b) . If $0 \leq f(x) \leq g(x)$ for $x \in (a, b)$, and g is improperly integrable on (a, b) , then f is improperly integrable on (a, b) and

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$$\int_c^d f(x)dx = F(b-) \leq G(b-) = \int_c^b g(x)dx.$$

A similar argument works for the case $c \rightarrow a+$. \square

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Prove that the function $\frac{\sin x}{x}$ is conditionally integrable on $[1, \infty)$.

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Integrating by parts, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\int_a^b \frac{\sin x}{x} dx &= -\frac{\cos x}{x} \Big|_1^d - \int_1^d \frac{\cos x}{x^2} dx \\ &= \cos(1) - \frac{\cos d}{d} - \int_1^d \frac{\cos x}{x^2} dx\end{aligned}$$

Since $\frac{1}{x^2}$ is absolutely integrable on $[1, \infty)$, it follows from Remark 5.46 that $\frac{\cos x}{x^2}$ is absolutely integrable on $[1, \infty)$.

Therefore, $\frac{\sin x}{x}$ is improperly integrable on $[1, \infty)$ and

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Integrating by parts, we have

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$$\begin{aligned}\int_1^{n\pi} \frac{|\sin x|}{x} dx &\geq \sum_{k=2}^n \int_{(k-1)\pi}^{k\pi} \frac{|\sin x|}{x} dx \\ &\geq \sum_{k=2}^n \frac{1}{k\pi} \int_{(k-1)\pi}^{k\pi} |\sin x| dx \\ &= \sum_{k=2}^n \frac{2}{k\pi} = \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{k=2}^n \frac{1}{k}\end{aligned}$$

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as $n \rightarrow \infty$, it follows from the Squeeze Theorem that

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