

Integration by Parts—Solutions

Wednesday, January 21

Tips

- “L-I-A-T-E”

When in doubt, a good heuristic is to choose u to be the first type of function in the following list:

1. L-Logarithmic functions ($\ln(x)$, $\log_2(x)$).
 2. I-Inverse trig functions ($\arcsin(x)$, $\arccos(x)$, $\arctan(x)$).
 3. A-Algebraic functions ($x^2 + 2x$, $1/x$, $\sqrt{1 + x^2}$).
 4. T-Trig functions ($\sin(x)$, $\cos(x)$, $\tan(x)$).
 5. E-Exponential functions (e^{2x} , 5^x).
- If that doesn't lead to a clear choice for u , instead choose dv so that it can be easily integrated.
- Example:** If we want to evaluate $\int x^3/\sqrt{1+x^2} dx$, there is not a clear choice for u since the entire function is algebraic. If we look at choices for dv instead, we can see that although $1/\sqrt{1+x^2}$ might not have a simple antiderivative, $x/\sqrt{1+x^2}$ has $\sqrt{1+x^2}$ as an antiderivative. So we should choose $dv = x/\sqrt{1+x^2}$ and $u = x^2$.

Warm-up

Use integration by parts to evaluate the following integrals:

1. $\int x e^x dx$

Pick $u = x$, $dv = e^x dx$. Then $\int x e^x dx = x e^x - \int e^x dx = x e^x - e^x$.

2. $\int_1^e \ln(x) dx$

Pick $u = \ln(x)$, $dv = dx$. Then $\int_1^e \ln(x) dx = x \ln(x)|_1^e - \int_1^e dx = e - e + 1 = 1$.

3. $\int x^3 \sqrt{1+x^2} dx$

Let $u = x^2$, $dv = x\sqrt{1+x^2} dx$, so $v = \frac{1}{3}(1+x^2)^{3/2}$, $du = 2x dx$. Then $\int x^3 \sqrt{1+x^2} dx = \frac{x^2}{3}(1+x^2)^{3/2} - \frac{1}{3} \int 2x(1+x^2)^{3/2} = \frac{x^2}{3}(1+x^2)^{3/2} - \frac{2}{15}(1+x^2)^{5/2}$.

Alternatively, substitute $y = x^2$ to get $\frac{1}{2} \int y \sqrt{1+y} dy$ to get a slightly simpler problem. Then let $u = y$, $dv = \sqrt{1+y} dy$ and get $\frac{1}{3}y(1+y)^{3/2} - \frac{1}{3} \int (1+y)^{3/2} = \frac{1}{3}y(1+y)^{3/2} - \frac{2}{15}(1+y)^{5/2} = \frac{1}{3}x^2(1+x^2)^{3/2} - \frac{2}{15}(1+x^2)^{5/2}$.

Speed Round

For the following problems, you do not have to evaluate the integral. Simply circle the part of the function that you would set equal to u (dv will implicitly be everything you did not circle). Answer each batch of problems as quickly and as accurately as you can.

Round 1

1. $\int x e^{3x} dx$: $u = x$

2. $\int x \sin(5x) dx$: $u = x$

3. $\int x^2 \ln(x) dx$: $u = \ln x$

4. $\int x^2 e^{-5x} dx$: $u = x^2$
5. $\int x^2 \cos(3x) dx$: $u = x^2$
6. $\int (x^3 + 4)e^{2x} dx$: $u = x^3 + 4$ (or split the integral into two parts first)
7. $\int \arcsin(x) dx$: $u = \arcsin(x)$
8. $\int x \arctan(x) dx$: $u = \arctan(x)$
9. $\int x \ln(x) dx$: $u = \ln(x)$

Round 2

This time the LIATE rule might not always get you the answer. Write down your choice of u if you cannot circle it properly.

1. $\int x^2 2^x dx$: $u = x^2$
2. $\int \ln(x)/\sqrt{x} dx$: $u = \ln(x)$
3. $\int x^3/\sqrt{1+x^2} dx$: $u = x^2$ (or substitute $y = x^2$ first)
4. $\int e^x \sin(2x) dx$: Either choice is okay; you will have to integrate parts twice before getting the integral you started with as part of a larger expression.
5. $\int x^5 e^{x^2} dx$: $u = x^4$ (or substitute $y = x^2$ first)
6. $\int \ln(x)/x^2 dx$: $u = \ln x$
7. $\int e^{2x} \sin(e^x) dx$: $u = e^x$ (or substitute $y = e^x$ first)
8. $\int x \ln^2(x) dx$: $u = \ln^2(x)$
9. $\int \arctan(x) dx$: $u = \arctan(x)$

Round 3

Using integration by parts might not always be the correct (or best) solution. For the following problems, indicate whether you would use integration by parts (with your choices of u and dv), substitution (with your choice of u), or neither.

1. $\int x \ln(x) dx$: IBP: $u = \ln x$
2. $\int \ln(x)/x dx$: sub $y = \ln x$
3. $\int e^x dx$: just integrate
4. $\int \frac{1}{x \ln(x)} dx$: sub $y = \ln x$
5. $\int \arccos(2x) dx$: IBP $u = \arccos(2x)$
6. $\int e^{\cos(x)} \sin(x) dx$: sub $y = \cos x$
7. $\int e^x \sin(x) dx$: IBP $u = e^x$ (or $u = \sin x$)
8. $\int x^3 \cos(x^2) dx$: IBP $u = x^2$ (or sub $y = x^2$)
9. $\int 1/(1+x^2) dx$: just integrate (it's arctan)
10. $\int x \tan^2(x) dx$: IBP $u = x$
11. $\int x^5 e^{-x^2} dx$: IBP $u = x^4$ (or sub $y = x^2$)
12. $\int x + \sin(x) dx$: just integrate.

Bonus

Evaluate $\int_0^1 x^5 e^{-x}$ using integration by parts. Then use the fact that $0 \leq \int_0^1 x^5 e^{-x} \leq 1$ (why?) to put an upper and lower bound on e .

Integrating by parts five times in a row gives

$$\int_0^1 x^5 e^{-x} = -e^{-x}(x^5 + 5x^4 + 20x^3 + 60x^2 + 120x + 120)|_0^1 = 120 - 326/e$$

The integral must be greater than zero because the function is positive on $[0,1]$, and it must be less than 1 since the function is less than 1 on $[0,1]$. Therefore

$$0 \leq 120 - 326/e$$

$$0 \leq 120e - 326$$

$$326/120 \leq e$$

$$1 \geq 120 - 326/e$$

$$e \geq 120e - 326$$

$$326/119 \geq e$$

Put together, this gives the (approximate) bounds $2.71 \leq e \leq 2.74$. Evaluating an integral with a higher power of x will give an even more accurate bound.