

Solutions – Week 4

MORE INTEGRATION PROBLEMS, PATH INTEGRALS

1. Compute the following integrals.

$$(a) \int x \log x \, dx \quad (b) \int \frac{dx}{x^2 \sqrt{x^2 + 1}} \quad (c) \int \frac{dx}{x^2(x^2 - 1)}$$

Solutions : (a) $\frac{1}{2}x^2 (\ln x - \frac{1}{2}) + c$, (b) $-x^{-1}\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + c$, (c) $\frac{1}{x} + \ln \sqrt{\frac{x-1}{x+1}} + c$.

2. Sketch the region enclosed by the line $x = 4$, the curve $y = \sqrt{x}$ and the x -axis. Compute its area. Do the same for the region in the first quadrant that is bounded by $y = x^3$ and $y = 4x$.

Solutions : $16/3$ and 4 .

3. Compute the following integrals.

$$(a) \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-\sqrt{x}}}{\sqrt{x}} \quad (b) \int_e^\infty \frac{dx}{x \log x} \quad (c) \int_0^3 \frac{x \, dx}{(x^2 - 1)^{2/3}}$$

Solutions : (a) 2 ; (b) ∞ ; (c) $9/2$.

4. For which $x \in (0, 3\pi/2)$ is $f(x) = \int_x^{2x} \frac{\sin t}{t} dt$ a local maximum ?

Solution : $\pi/3$.

5. Compute the length of the curve defined by $y = \sqrt{x^3}$ on the interval $0 \leq x \leq 28$.

Solution : $4088/27$.

6. Compute the line integral of $x + y^2$ over the segment of the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 4$ going from $(2, 0)$ to $(0, 2)$. Then compute again this line integral but going this time from $(0, 2)$ to $(2, 0)$. Finally compute it over a path of your choice going from $(2, 0)$ to $(0, 2)$.

Solutions : Both times $2(2 + \pi)$. In fact, the value of a path integral $\int_C f ds$ does not depend on the orientation or on the parametrization of the path C .