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Main Points:

- 1. Basic use of IBP
- 2. Two tricks

1. Basic use of IBP

Integration by parts is a way to use the “reverse product rule” to exchange a hard integral for an easier one. Here is an example:

What is $\frac{d}{dx} (x \sin x)$? (Use the product rule.)

Given your answer above, what is $\int (\sin x + x \cos x) dx$?

On the other hand, notice that we can split the integral above into two integrals:

$$\int (\sin x + x \cos x) dx = \int \sin x dx + \int x \cos x dx \tag{*}$$

The first of these two integrals is easy:

$$\int \sin x dx =$$

Since we know two out of three integrals in the equation (*), we can determine the third integral simply by subtracting.

$$\int x \cos x dx =$$

The integration by parts rule is a generalization of what we have just done. Recall that the product rule can be written as:

$$\frac{d}{dx} u(x)v(x) = u'(x)v(x) + u(x)v'(x)$$

Restating in terms of integrals and rearranging gives:

$$\int u(x)v'(x) dx = u(x)v(x) - \int u'(x)v(x) dx$$

Using the shorthand $du = u'(x) dx$ and $dv = v'(x) dx$, we can rewrite this as:

$$\boxed{\int u dv = uv - \int v du}$$

See Example 1, page 465, “Solution using Formula 2,” for a solution of the example using this formula.

Tip: IBP is a good strategy to try when the integrand is a product of two functions. In order for IBP to work, you need to be able to differentiate one of the functions and anti-differentiate the other. Choose u to be the function you want to differentiate and v' to be the function you want to anti-differentiate.

Exercises

1. Evaluate the integral using integration by parts with the indicated choices of u and dv . Make sure to state explicitly what v and du are. (See Example 1, “Solution using Formula 2.”)

(a) $\int x^2 \ln(x) dx$; $u = \ln x$, $dv = x^2 dx$

(b) $\int \theta \cos(2\pi\theta) d\theta$; $u = \theta$, $dv = \cos(2\pi\theta) d\theta$

2. Evaluate the integrals.

(a) $\int y e^{2y} dy$

(b) $\int t^2 \sin t \, dt$ (Hint: Use IBP twice.)

2. Two tricks

Trick #1 Sometimes IBP can be used even when the integrand does not look like a product of two functions. In particular, if we know the derivative of the integrand, we can let the whole integrand be u and we can let $v' = 1$. See Example 2.

Exercise

3. Evaluate the integral: $\int \arctan x \, dx$.

Trick #2 Sometimes IBP can be used even when neither part of the integrand becomes simpler when differentiated, if we can notice a pattern of repeating derivatives. See Example 4.

4. Evaluate the integral: $\int e^\theta \cos \theta d\theta$

Hint: Use IBP twice. You will get: $\int e^\theta \cos \theta d\theta = e^\theta \sin \theta + e^\theta \cos \theta - \int e^\theta \cos \theta d\theta$. Notice that the original integral shows up on the right side of the equation! Call the original integral \mathcal{I} . Then we have an equation: $\mathcal{I} = e^\theta \sin \theta + e^\theta \cos \theta - \mathcal{I}$. Solve this equation algebraically to find \mathcal{I} .