

Collaborators (if any):

Due Tuesday, February 6th at the beginning of class. Submit your work on additional paper, treating this page as a cover sheet. You may use technology and work with with other students. If you work with others, please list their names above.

1. For which values of p does $\int_e^\infty \frac{dx}{x(\ln x)^p}$ converge/diverge? Find the value of the improper integral when it is convergent.
2. For what values of p does the improper integral $\int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x^p}$ converge?
3. First, show that $\int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{x^3+1}$ converges by comparison. Second, find the value of the improper integral. (You should get $\frac{2\pi}{3\sqrt{3}}$).
4. Find the value of C for which the following improper integral converges and evaluate the integral for this value of C :

$$\int_0^\infty \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+4}} - \frac{C}{x+2} \right) dx.$$

[Note that the integral of each summand separately is divergent, but the right choice of C gives “cancellation” and a convergent integral.]

Solutions:

1. If $p \neq 1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_e^\infty \frac{dx}{x(\ln x)^p} &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_e^t \frac{dx}{x(\ln x)^p} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^{\ln t} \frac{du}{u^p} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u^{1-p}}{1-p} \Big|_1^{\ln t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(\ln t)^{1-p}}{1-p} - \frac{1}{1-p} \end{aligned}$$

which is $\frac{1}{p-1}$ if $p > 1$ and ∞ if $p < 1$. For $p = 1$ we get $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \ln(\ln t) = \infty$ and the integral diverges as well. In summary

$$\int_e^\infty \frac{dx}{x(\ln x)^p} = \begin{cases} \infty & p \leq 1 \\ \frac{1}{p-1} & p > 1 \end{cases} .$$

2. For $p \neq 1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x^p} &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \int_t^1 \frac{dx}{x^p} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x^{1-p}}{1-p} \Big|_t^1 \\ &= \frac{1}{1-p} - \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{t^{1-p}}{1-p} \end{aligned}$$

which is $\frac{1}{1-p}$ if $p < 1$ and ∞ if $p > 1$. For $p = 1$ we get $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} -\ln t = \infty$ and the integral diverges as well. In summary

$$\int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x^p} = \begin{cases} \infty & p \geq 1 \\ \frac{1}{1-p} & p < 1 \end{cases}.$$

3. For instance, we can compare $\frac{1}{1+x^3} \leq \frac{1}{x^3}$ on $[1, \infty)$ so that

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{1+x^3} = \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{1+x^3} + \int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{1+x^3} \leq \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{1+x^3} + \int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{x^3} < \infty.$$

As for the actual value, we use partial fractions:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{1+x^3} &= \frac{A}{x+1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2-x+1}, \\ 1 &= (A+B)x^2 + (-A+B+C)x + (A+C), \\ A &= \frac{1}{3}, \quad B = -\frac{1}{3}, \quad C = \frac{2}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence the improper integral is

$$\begin{aligned} &\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3} \int_0^t \left(\frac{1}{x+1} + \frac{-x+2}{x^2-x+1} \right) dx \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3} \ln|t+1| + \frac{1}{6} \int_0^t \frac{-2x+1}{x^2-x+1} dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \frac{dx}{x^2-x+1} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3} \ln|t+1| - \frac{1}{6} \ln|t^2-t+1| + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \frac{dx}{(x-1/2)^2+3/4} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3} \ln|t+1| - \frac{1}{6} \ln|t^2-t+1| + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \arctan\left(\frac{2t-1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \arctan(-1/\sqrt{3}) \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{3}} + \frac{\pi}{6\sqrt{3}} + \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3} \ln \left| \frac{t+1}{\sqrt{t^2-t+1}} \right| = \frac{2\pi}{3\sqrt{3}}. \end{aligned}$$

In the last line we are using the limit

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t+1}{\sqrt{t^2-t+1}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1+1/t}{\sqrt{1-1/t+1/t^2}} = 1.$$

4. The integral is (with $x = 2 \tan \theta$ integrating the first summand)

$$\begin{aligned} &\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^{\arctan(t/2)} \sec \theta \, d\theta - C \ln|t+2| + C \ln 2 \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \ln |\sec(\arctan(t/2)) + \tan(\arctan(t/2))| - C \ln|t+2| + C \ln 2 \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \ln \left| \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{t^2+4} + t/2 \right| - C \ln|t+2| + C \ln 2 = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \ln \left| \frac{\sqrt{t^2+4} + t}{2(t+2)^C} \right| + C \ln 2. \end{aligned}$$

Now we see that $C = 1$ is the only possibility, else $\frac{\sqrt{t^2+4} + t}{2(t+2)^C}$ goes to 0 or ∞ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and the logarithm will diverge. For $C = 1$, the value of the integral is $\ln 2$.