

Integration by Parts

(covers Stewart 7.1)

Let's derive what's called the Integration by Parts formula:

$$\frac{d}{dx}[f(x)g(x)] = f(x)g'(x) + g(x)f'(x) \quad (\text{Product Rule for derivatives})$$

$$f(x)g(x) = \int [f(x)g'(x) + g(x)f'(x)] dx$$

$$\int [f(x)g'(x) + g(x)f'(x)] dx = f(x)g(x)$$

$$\int f(x)g'(x) dx + \int g(x)f'(x) dx = f(x)g(x)$$

$$\int f(x)g'(x) dx = f(x)g(x) - \int g(x)f'(x) dx$$

Rewrite using $u = f(x)$ and $v = g(x)$, so that $du = f'(x) dx$ and $dv = g'(x) dx$ to get the **Integration by Parts formula**:

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

Let's see how to use it...

Ex 1.

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \underbrace{x}_u \underbrace{\sin x dx}_{dv} \\ &= \underbrace{(x)}_u \underbrace{(-\cos x)}_v - \int \underbrace{(-\cos x)}_v \underbrace{dx}_{du} \\ &= -x \cos x + \int \cos x dx \\ &= \boxed{-x \cos x + \sin x + C} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= x & dv &= \sin x dx \\ du &= dx & v &= -\cos x \end{aligned}$$

Check:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(-x \cos x + \sin x) &= -x \cdot (-\sin x) + \cancel{(-1) \cos x} + \cancel{\cos x} \\ &= x \sin x \end{aligned}$$

Note that if we had chosen u and dv differently, it wouldn't work:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \underbrace{(\sin x)}_u \cdot \underbrace{x dx}_{dv} \\ &= (\sin x) \frac{x^2}{2} - \int \frac{x^2}{2} \cos x dx \\ & \quad \text{Harder to do} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= \sin x & dv &= x dx \\ du &= \cos x dx & v &= \frac{x^2}{2} \end{aligned}$$

The goal is to turn an integral $\int u dv$ that you *can't* do into an integral $\int v du$ that you *can* do.

Ex 2.

$$\int \ln x dx$$

Ex 3.

$$\int x^2 e^x dx$$

Here's a quick way to do integration by parts multiple times, called **tabular integration**:

Ex 4.

$$\int x^2 e^x dx$$

Ex 5.

$$\int x^3 \sin 2x \, dx$$

Sometimes when doing integration by parts, you'll get back to the original integral.

Ex 6.

$$\int e^x \cos x \, dx$$