

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \int_2^3 \frac{1}{dx} dy$$

## INDEFINITE INTEGRALS AND ANTIDERIVATIVES OF SOME ALGEBRAIC FUNCTIONS

Prepared by Ingrid Stewart, Ph.D., College of Southern Nevada  
Please Send Questions and Comments to [ingrid.stewart@csn.edu](mailto:ingrid.stewart@csn.edu). Thank you!

Through the *Fundamental Theorem of Calculus*, we discovered a close connection between *definite integrals* and *differentiation*.

That is, we can evaluate the *definite integral*

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \lim_{\|P\| \rightarrow 0} \sum_{i=1}^n f(c_i) \Delta x_i$$

of the function  $f$

by calculating  $F(b) - F(a)$ , where  $F$  is the **antiderivative** of the function  $f$ , such that  $F'(x) = f(x)$ .

In this and the next few units, we will practice finding *families of antiderivatives*  $F$  of given functions  $f$ , so that we can use the *Fundamental Theorem of Calculus* to evaluate *definite integrals*.

### Notation and Vocabulary

1. The symbol  $\int f(x) dx$  is used to denote the *families of antiderivatives*  $F$  of  $f$ .

That is,

$$\int f(x) dx = F(x) + C$$

we write

2. We call  $\int f(x) dx$  the **indefinite integral** of  $f$ . This symbol asks us to find the antiderivative of  $f$ , that is,  $F(x) + C$ . We pronounce it as *the integral of  $f(x)$  with respect to  $x$* .

3. Just like for the *definite integral*, we call the evaluation of  $\int f(x) dx$  **integration** and  $f(x)$  the **integrand**.  $C$  is called the **constant of integration**.

For example,

$F(x) = x^2 + C$  is a family of antiderivatives of  $f(x) = 2x$  because  $F'(x) = 2x = f(x)$ .

$$\int 2x \, dx = x^2 + C$$

This is written as an *indefinite integral* as

**NOTE: The *indefinite integral* represents a family of antiderivatives whereas the *definite integral* represents a real number!**

$$\int_2^3 2x \, dx$$

For instance, if we write  $\int_2^3 2x \, dx$ , then we are asked to evaluate a *definite integral* in the interval  $[2, 3]$ . That is, we are finding a limit which is a real number!

This limit is calculated using the *Fundamental Theorem of Calculus* with  $F(x) = x^2 + C$ ,  $F(b) = 3^2$ , and  $F(a) = 2^2$ .

$$\int_2^3 2x \, dx = x^2 \Big|_2^3 = 3^2 - 2^2 = 5$$

That is,

**Please note that the *constant of integration C* is not needed in the evaluation of the definite integral since it subtracts out EVERY time during the  $F(b) - F(a)$  calculation! Try it with the constant of integration and see for yourself!**

### Some Basic Integration Formulas (Rules for finding Antiderivatives)

1.  $\int x^n \, dx = \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} + C$ , for all real numbers  $n$  except  $n \neq -1$

NOTE: We will integrate  $x^{-1}$  in the next unit!

Examples:

$$\begin{aligned} \int x^5 \, dx &= \frac{x^{5+1}}{5+1} + C \\ &= \frac{1}{6} x^6 + C \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int x^{3/2} \, dx &= \frac{x^{3/2+1}}{\frac{3}{2}+1} + C \\ &= \frac{x^{5/2}}{\frac{5}{2}} + C \\ &= \frac{2}{5} x^{5/2} + C \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\int x^{-3} dx &= \frac{x^{-3+1}}{-3+1} + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}x^{-2} + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{2x^2} + C\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\int x dx &= \frac{x^{1+1}}{1+1} + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}x^2 + C\end{aligned}$$

2.  $\int k dx = kx + C$ , where  $k$  is any real number

Examples:

a.  $\int 2 dx = 2x + C$

b.  $\int -\frac{1}{3} dx = -\frac{1}{3}x + C$

c.  $\int dx = x + C$

### Properties of the Indefinite Integral

1.  $\int [f(x) \pm g(x)] dx = \int f(x) dx \pm \int g(x) dx$

Example:

Let  $f(x) = x^5$  and  $g(x) = 2$  then we can write

$$\begin{aligned}\int (x^5 + 2) dx &= \int x^5 dx + \int 2 dx \\ &= \frac{x^{5+1}}{5+1} + C_1 + 2x + C_2 \\ &= \frac{1}{6}x^6 + 2x + (C_1 + C_2)\end{aligned}$$

NOTE: Assuming that  $C_1 + C_2$  equals some value  $C$ , it is standard procedure to write

$$\begin{aligned}\int (x^5 + 2) dx &= \frac{x^{5+1}}{5+1} + 2x + C \\ &= \frac{1}{6} x^6 + 2x + C\end{aligned}$$

$$\int kf(x) dx = k \int f(x) dx$$

2. , where  $k$  is any real number

Example:

Let  $f(x) = x^5$  and  $k = -\frac{1}{3}$  then we can write

$$\begin{aligned}\int -\frac{1}{3} x^5 dx &= -\frac{1}{3} \int x^5 dx \\ &= -\frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{x^{5+1}}{5+1} + C_1 \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{6} x^6 - \frac{1}{3} C_1 \\ &= -\frac{1}{18} x^6 - \frac{1}{3} C_1\end{aligned}$$

NOTE: Assuming that  $-\frac{1}{3} C_1$  equals some value  $C$ , it is standard procedure to write

$$\begin{aligned}\int -\frac{1}{3} x^5 dx &= -\frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{x^{5+1}}{5+1} \right) + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{6} x^6 + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{18} x^6 + C\end{aligned}$$

### Procedures for Fitting Some Integrands to the Basic Integration Formulas

a. change radicals to exponential form

$$\begin{aligned}\int \sqrt[3]{x^2} dx &= \int x^{2/3} dx \\ &= \frac{x^{2/3+1}}{\frac{2}{3}+1} + C \\ &= \frac{3}{5} x^{5/3} + C\end{aligned}$$

b. expand products

$$\begin{aligned}\int (2x + 3)^2 dx &= \int (4x^2 + 12x + 9) dx \\ &= 4 \left( \frac{x^{2+1}}{2+1} \right) + 12 \left( \frac{x^{1+1}}{1+1} \right) + 9x + C \\ &= \frac{4}{3} x^3 + 6x^2 + 9x + C\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\int x^{1/2} (x - 5) dx &= \int (x^{3/2} - 5x^{1/2}) dx \\ &= \left( \frac{x^{3/2+1}}{\frac{3}{2}+1} \right) - 5 \left( \frac{x^{1/2+1}}{\frac{1}{2}+1} \right) + C \\ &= \frac{2}{5} x^{5/2} - \frac{10}{3} x^{3/2} + C\end{aligned}$$

c. rewrite rational expressions as products

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{7}{x^2} dx &= \int 7x^{-2} dx \\ &= 7 \left( \frac{x^{-2+1}}{-2+1} \right) + C \\ &= -7x^{-1} + C \\ &= -\frac{7}{x} + C\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{x^4 - 2x^2 + 1}{x^2} dx &= \int (x^4 - 2x^2 + 1)x^{-2} dx \\ &= \int (x^2 - 2 + x^{-2}) dx \\ &= \left( \frac{x^{2+1}}{2+1} \right) - 2x + \left( \frac{x^{-2+1}}{-2+1} \right) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{3} x^3 - 2x - x^{-1} + C \\ &= \frac{1}{3} x^3 - 2x - \frac{1}{x} + C\end{aligned}$$

d. use factoring or long division

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} dx &= \int \frac{(x - 3)(x + 3)}{x - 3} dx \\ &= \int (x + 3) dx \\ &= \left( \frac{x^{1+1}}{1+1} \right) + 3x + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2} x^2 + 3x + C\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{x^3 + 4x^2 + 2x - 1}{x + 1} dx &= \int (x^2 + 3x - 1) dx \\ &= \left( \frac{x^{2+1}}{2+1} \right) + 3 \left( \frac{x^{1+1}}{1+1} \right) - x + C \\ &= \frac{1}{3} x^3 + \frac{3}{2} x^2 - x + C\end{aligned}$$

Please note

$$\begin{array}{r} \phantom{x+1} \overline{) x^3 + 4x^2 + 2x - 1} \\ \underline{-(x^3 + x^2)} \phantom{-1} \\ \phantom{x+1} 3x^2 + 2x \phantom{-1} \\ \underline{-(3x^2 + 3x)} \phantom{-1} \\ \phantom{x+1} \phantom{3x^2} -x - 1 \\ \underline{-(-x - 1)} \\ \phantom{x+1} \phantom{3x^2} \phantom{-x} 0 \end{array}$$

---

## Problem 1:

Integrate  $\int (4x^2 - 8x + 1) dx$ . Note that "integrate" actually means to find the antiderivative for the function  $f(x) = 4x^2 - 8x + 1$  !!!

$$\begin{aligned}\int (4x^2 - 8x + 1) dx &= 4 \left( \frac{x^{2+1}}{2+1} \right) - 8 \left( \frac{x^{1+1}}{1+1} \right) + x + C \\ &= \frac{4}{3} x^3 - 4x^2 + x + C\end{aligned}$$

$$F(x) = \frac{4}{3} x^3 - 4x^2 + x + C$$

Therefore, the antiderivative is

To illustrate that differentiation and integration are inverse processes, let's find the derivative of  $F(x)$ .

$$\text{That is, } F'(x) = \frac{4}{3}(3x^2) - 4(2x) + 1$$

$$\text{and } F'(x) = 4x^2 - 8x + 1$$

We can clearly see that  $F'(x)$  is equal to the given integrand !!!

## Problem 2:

Evaluate  $\int \left( \frac{4}{z^6} - \frac{7}{z^4} + z \right) dz$ . Note that "evaluate" actually means to find the antiderivative for the function  $f(x) = \frac{4}{z^6} - \frac{7}{z^4} + z$  !!!

$$\begin{aligned}\int \left( \frac{4}{z^6} - \frac{7}{z^4} + z \right) dz &= \int (4z^{-6} - 7z^{-4} + z) dz \\ &= 4 \left( \frac{z^{-6+1}}{-6+1} \right) - 7 \left( \frac{z^{-4+1}}{-4+1} \right) + \left( \frac{z^{1+1}}{1+1} \right) + C \\ &= -\frac{4}{5} z^{-5} + \frac{7}{3} z^{-3} + \frac{1}{2} z^2 + C \\ &= -\frac{4}{5z^5} + \frac{7}{3z^3} + \frac{1}{2} z^2 + C\end{aligned}$$

$$F(z) = -\frac{4}{5z^5} + \frac{7}{3z^3} + \frac{1}{2} z^2 + C$$

Therefore, the antiderivative is

### Problem 3:

Evaluate  $\int (\sqrt{u^3} - \sqrt[5]{u} + 6) du$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\int (\sqrt{u^3} - \sqrt[5]{u} + 6) du &= \int (u^{3/2} - u^{1/5} + 6) du \\ &= \frac{u^{3/2+1}}{\frac{3}{2}+1} - \frac{u^{1/5+1}}{\frac{1}{5}+1} + 6u + C \\ &= \frac{2}{5} u^{5/2} - \frac{5}{6} u^{6/5} + 6u + C\end{aligned}$$

$$F(u) = \frac{2}{5} u^{5/2} - \frac{5}{6} u^{6/5} + 6u + C$$

Therefore, the antiderivative is

### Problem 4:

Evaluate  $\int \left(x - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 dx$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\int \left(x - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 dx &= \int \left(x^2 - 2 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right) dx \\ &= \int (x^2 - 2 + x^{-2}) dx \\ &= \left(\frac{x^{2+1}}{2+1}\right) - 2x + \left(\frac{x^{-2+1}}{-2+1}\right) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{3} x^3 - 2x - x^{-1} + C \\ &= \frac{1}{3} x^3 - 2x - \frac{1}{x} + C\end{aligned}$$

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{3} x^3 - 2x - \frac{1}{x} + C$$

Therefore, the antiderivative is

### Problem 5:

Evaluate  $\int (2x - 5)(3x + 1) dx$

$$\begin{aligned}\int (2x - 5)(3x + 1) dx &= \int (6x^2 - 13x - 5) dx \\ &= 6 \left( \frac{x^{2+1}}{2+1} \right) - 13 \left( \frac{x^{1+1}}{1+1} \right) - 5x + C \\ &= 2x^3 - \frac{13}{2}x^2 - 5x + C\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the antiderivative is  $F(x) = 2x^3 - \frac{13}{2}x^2 - 5x + C$

### Problem 6:

Evaluate  $\int \frac{2x^2 - x + 3}{\sqrt{x}} dx$

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{2x^2 - x + 3}{\sqrt{x}} dx &= \int (2x^2 - x + 3)x^{-1/2} dx \\ &= \int (2x^{3/2} - x^{1/2} + 3x^{-1/2}) dx \\ &= 2 \left( \frac{x^{3/2+1}}{\frac{3}{2}+1} \right) - \left( \frac{x^{1/2+1}}{\frac{1}{2}+1} \right) + 3 \left( \frac{x^{-1/2+1}}{-\frac{1}{2}+1} \right) + C \\ &= \frac{4}{5}x^{5/2} - \frac{2}{3}x^{3/2} + 6x^{1/2} + C\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the antiderivative is  $F(x) = \frac{4}{5}x^{5/2} - \frac{2}{3}x^{3/2} + 6x^{1/2} + C$

### Problem 7:

Solve the differential equation  $f'(x) = 9x^2 + x - 8$  subject to the initial condition  $f(0) = 2$ .

This means that we must find the antiderivative  $f(x)$  of the function  $f'(x)$  AND the value of its constant of integration  $C$ .

NOTE: Given the initial condition we can actually find the value of  $C$ !!!

$$f(x) = \int (9x^2 + x - 8) dx = 9 \left( \frac{x^{2+1}}{2+1} \right) + \left( \frac{x^{1+1}}{1+1} \right) - 8x + C$$

$$= 3x^3 + \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 8x + C$$

Since  $f(x) = 3x^3 + \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 8x + C$ , we can now use the initial condition  $f(0) = 2$  to determine the value of the constant of integration.

That is,  $f(0) = 3(0)^3 + \frac{1}{2}(0)^2 - 8(0) + C = 2$  and we find that  $C = 2$ .

Therefore, the solution to the differential equation  $f'(x) = 9x^2 + x - 8$  is  
 $f(x) = 3x^3 + \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 8x + 2$

### Problem 8:

Solve the differential equation  $f''(x) = 6x - 4$  subject to the initial conditions  $f'(2) = 5$  and  $f(2) = 4$ .

This also means that we must find the antiderivative  $f(x)$  AND the value of its constant of integration  $C$ .

Since a second derivative is given, we first have to find  $f'(x)$  AND the value of its constant of integration by finding the antiderivative of  $f''(x) = 6x - 4$  and using the initial condition  $f'(2) = 5$ .

$$f'(x) = \int (6x - 4) dx = 6 \left( \frac{x^{1+1}}{1+1} \right) - 4x + C$$

$$= 3x^2 - 4x + C$$

Since  $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 4x + C$ , we use the initial condition  $f'(2) = 5$  to determine the value of its constant of integration.

That is,  $f'(2) = 3(2)^2 - 4(2) + C = 5$ .

We find that  $C = 1$ , therefore,  $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 4x + 1$ .

Next we have to find  $f(x)$  AND the value of its constant of integration by finding the antiderivative of  $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 4x + 1$ .

$$f(x) = \int (3x^2 - 4x + 1) dx = 3 \left( \frac{x^{2+1}}{2+1} \right) - 4 \left( \frac{x^{1+1}}{1+1} \right) + x + C$$

$$= x^3 - 2x^2 + x + C$$

Since  $f(x) = x^3 - 2x^2 + x + C$ , we use the initial condition  $f(2) = 4$  to determine the value of its constant of integration.

That is,  $f(2) = (2)^3 - 2(2)^2 + 2 + C = 4$  and we find that  $C = 2$ .

Therefore, the solution to the differential equation  $f''(x) = 6x - 4$  is  $f(x) = x^3 - 2x^2 + x + 2$ .