

1. Compute the following integrals

(a) $\int \frac{x^3 - 4x + 7}{x^2 + 2x - 3} dx$

Use polynomial division to rewrite as

$$= \int x - 2 + \frac{3x + 13}{x^2 + 2x - 3} dx = \int x - 2 + \underbrace{\frac{2x + 13}{(x + 3)(x - 1)}}_{(i)} dx.$$

We compute (i) using partial fractions

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

(b) $\int \frac{\ln x}{x} dx.$

Oops. I thought this would be harder. It is actually too easy to be good practice. Let $u = \ln x$ then the integral becomes

$$\int u du = \frac{1}{2} \ln(x)^2 + C.$$

2. A spring has natural length 30cm. It requires 2J of work to stretch it from 40 cm to 45 cm. How far beyond its natural length will a force of 64 N keep the spring stretched? *Remember Newtons are measured in meters.*

We know that for a spring with natural length L and spring constant K that

$$\text{work to stretch from } a \text{ to } b = \int_{a-L}^{b-L} Kx dx.$$

So, in this problem we know that

$$2 = \int_{.10}^{.15} Kx dx = .003125K \implies K = 640.$$

Now if we apply 64 N of force, we know from Hooke's law that

$$\text{force to stretch } x \text{ meters beyond natural length} = Kx.$$

Solving $64 = 640x$ gives $x = .1 = 10$ cm.

3. Is $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{x}{\sqrt{2} + x^4} dx$ convergent or divergent? If it converges compute its value.

In class I rushed it. Let's do this carefully. First we compute the indefinite integral by making the substitutions $u = x^2$ and $t = \frac{u}{\sqrt[4]{2}}$.

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{x}{\sqrt{2} + x^4} dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} + u^2} du \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \int \frac{1}{1 + \frac{u^2}{\sqrt{2}}} du \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \int \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{u}{\sqrt[4]{2}}\right)^2} du \\ &= \frac{\sqrt[4]{2}}{2\sqrt{2}} \int \frac{1}{1 + t^2} dt \\ &= \frac{\sqrt[4]{2}}{2\sqrt{2}} \arctan t \\ &= \frac{\sqrt[4]{2}}{2\sqrt{2}} \arctan \left(\frac{x^2}{\sqrt[4]{2}} \right).\end{aligned}$$

Now that that's out of the way let's take some limits.

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{x}{\sqrt{2} + x^4} dx &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[4]{2}}{2\sqrt{2}} \arctan \left(\frac{b^2}{\sqrt[4]{2}} \right) - \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[4]{2}}{2\sqrt{2}} \arctan \left(\frac{a^2}{\sqrt[4]{2}} \right) \\ &= \frac{\sqrt[4]{2}}{2\sqrt{2}} \left[\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{2} \right] \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$