

§8.2 - Integration by Parts

Integration by parts is a very powerful integration technique. It's based on the product rule for differentiation.

$$\frac{d}{dx}[uv] = u \, dv + v \, du$$

Integrating both sides of the equation above:

$$uv = \int u \, dv + \int v \, du$$

Solving for the first integral on the right:

$$\int u \, dv = uv - \int v \, du$$

Example 1

Evaluate the following integral:

$$\int xe^{-x} \, dx$$

Let

$$u = x \text{ and } dv = e^{-x} \, dx$$

Then

$$du = dx \text{ and } v = -e^{-x}$$

So,

$$\int u \, dv = uv - \int v \, du$$

$$\int xe^{-x} \, dx = -xe^{-x} - \int -e^{-x} \, dx = -xe^{-x} - e^{-x} + C$$

We can check our result by taking its derivative:

$$\frac{d}{dx}[-xe^{-x} - e^{-x} + C] = -e^{-x} + xe^{-x} + e^{-x} = xe^{-x}$$

Example 2

Evaluate the following integral:

$$\int \ln x \, dx$$

Let $u = \ln x$ and $dv = dx$. Then $du = (1/x) dx$ and $v = x$.

$$\int u \, dv = uv - \int v \, du$$

$$\int \ln x \, dx = x \ln x - \int x \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) dx = x \ln x - x + C$$

Example 3

Evaluate the following integral:

$$\int x \ln x \, dx$$

Example 4

Evaluate the following integral:

$$\int x^2 \ln x \, dx$$

Example 5

Evaluate the following integral:

$$\int \arcsin x \, dx$$

Integrals that Cycle

Example 6

Evaluate the following integral:

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

Example 7

Evaluate the following integral:

$$\int e^{-x}\sin x\,dx$$