

Integrals of Exponentials and Logs

Part 1: The rules

Recall that $\frac{d}{dx} e^{u(x)} = u'(x) \cdot e^{u(x)}$. So:

Integral of an exponential

$$\int u'(x) \cdot e^{u(x)} dx = e^{u(x)} + C$$

And recall that $\frac{d}{dx} \ln(u(x)) = \frac{u'(x)}{u(x)}$. So:

Integral of a logarithm

$$\int \frac{u'(x)}{u(x)} dx = \ln |u(x)| + C$$

Question: Why is there an absolute value?

Part 2: Examples

Example 1: $\int 4 e^x dx$

Example 2: $\int 250 e^{-\frac{1}{2}x} dx$

Example 3: $\int \frac{x^3 dx}{e^4 x^4}$

Example 4: $\int \frac{3x^2}{x^3+4} dx$

Example 5: $\int \frac{x^2 dx}{x^3-9}$

Example 6: $\int \frac{2x^3+x}{x^4+x^2} dx$

Not every example will clearly lead to the natural logarithm. Some examples involve creativity. One of these creative approaches is to use polynomial long division.

Example 7: $\int \frac{x^3 - x^2 + 1}{x - 1} dx$

Example 8: $\int \frac{x^4 - 2x^2 + x}{x^2 - 2} dx$

Part 3: Review problems

Example 9: $\int \left(3x^8 + \frac{4}{x^8} - \frac{5}{\sqrt[5]{x}} \right) dx$

Example 10: $\int \frac{5x^3 dx}{(x^4 - 8)^3}$

Example 11: $\int \frac{x^2 + 1}{\sqrt{x^3 + 3x + 10}} dx$

Example 12: $\int \left(x e^{3x^2} - \frac{5}{x^3} \right) dx$

Example 13: $\int \frac{x+2}{x^2+4x-9} dx$

Example 13: $\int \frac{x^4-2x^2+x}{x^2-2} dx$