

Warm-up Problems - January 20, 2006

Solutions

1. Are the following “integral computations” correct? If not, why not and what is the correct integral?

(a) $\int x^3 dx = \frac{x^4}{4} + C$

Solution: This is correct, this is the power rule.

(b) $\int 3^x dx = \frac{3^{x+1}}{x+1} + C$

Solution: This is not correct the power rule does not work when x is in the exponent.

$$\int 3^x dx = \frac{1}{\ln 3} 3^x + C$$

(c) $\int \ln x dx = \frac{1}{x} + C$

Solution: Not correct! $\int \ln x dx$ is a bit difficult and we will see this when we learn integration by parts.

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

Solution: Not correct, it is not correct to take the integral of a product like this! The correct integral would be:

$$\int x^3(x^2 + 1) dx = \int (x^5 + x^3) dx = \frac{x^6}{6} + \frac{x^4}{4} + C$$

Lecture Problems

2. (a) Compute the integral using the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus:

$$\int_4^8 \sqrt{2x-7} \, dx$$

Solution:

$$\int_4^8 \sqrt{2x-7} \, dx = \frac{1}{3}(2x-7)^{3/2} \Big|_4^8 = \frac{26}{3}$$

- (b) Compute an approximation for the previous integral using a left hand sum with 3 rectangles.

Solution: In this case, we divide the interval $[4, 8]$ into 3 subintervals:

$[4, 16/3]$, $[16/3, 20/3]$, $[20/3, 8]$. The left hand sum is then:

$$\begin{aligned} L_3 &= f(4) \left(\frac{4}{3} \right) + f(16/3) \left(\frac{4}{3} \right) + f(20/3) \left(\frac{4}{3} \right) \\ &= \sqrt{2(4)-7} \left(\frac{4}{3} \right) + \sqrt{2(16/3)-7} \left(\frac{4}{3} \right) + \sqrt{2(20/3)-7} \left(\frac{4}{3} \right) \\ &\approx 8.709957104 \end{aligned}$$