

## Serie 1 - preliminary exercises

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**What's needed:** Integration by parts, partial fraction decomposition, polynomial division, linear differential equations, trigonometric formulas.  
The techniques needed to solve these exercises are considered as a basic requirement for the whole course.

1. Compute the following primitive integrals using partial integration.

a)  $\int \cos(2x) \cos(x) dx$

b)  $\int \sin^2(x) dx$

c)  $\int \sin(nx) \sin(mx) dx, \quad n \neq m, \quad n, m \neq 0$

*Note:* it may be necessary to integrate by parts more than once.

2. Find the primitive functions of the followings.

a)  $\frac{2x^2 + 3}{x(x-1)^2}$

b)  $\frac{x^5 + 2}{x^2 - 1}$

c)  $\frac{1}{1 + x^3}$

*Hint:* it may be useful to find an alternate expression of these functions first.

3. Solve the following linear differential equations:

a)  $y''(t) + y'(t) - 6y(t) = 0$

b)  $4y''(t) + 12y'(t) + 9y(t) = 0$

c)  $y''(t) - 6y'(t) + 13y(t) = 0$

4. a) With the help of trigonometric addition formulas, verify that the following identity is true

$$\cos(\alpha x) \cos(\beta x) = \frac{1}{2} (\cos((\alpha + \beta)x) + \cos((\alpha - \beta)x)), \quad \text{for } \alpha, \beta, x \in \mathbb{R}$$

b) Find similar expressions for  $\sin(\alpha x) \sin(\beta x)$  and  $\sin(\alpha x) \cos(\beta x)$ .

c) Prove for  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  the orthogonality relation

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(nx) \cos(mx) dx = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n \neq m \\ \pi, & \text{if } n = m \text{ and } n, m \neq 0 \\ 2\pi, & \text{if } n = m = 0. \end{cases}$$

5. (Bonus exercise) Solutions of this exercise may not be provided in full but just sketched or some strong hints will be given.

a) Find a primitive of the secant function:

$$\int \sec(x) dx,$$

remember that  $\sec(x) = 1/\cos(x)$ .

b) Prove that<sup>1</sup>

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^4(1-x)^4}{1+x^2} dx = \frac{22}{7} - \pi.$$

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<sup>1</sup>*Historical fact:* Because the function we are integrating is a positive function, we get that  $22/7 > \pi$ . This was not obvious at all in the antiquity (indeed, looking at the expansion in decimals, these two numbers are very close:  $22/7 = 3,142857, \pi = 3,141592\dots$ ). In fact its first mathematical proof was shown by Archimedes, who certainly didn't know what a primitive of a function was, but certainly was a skilled mathematician.

c) The Gamma function is the function

$$\Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^{+\infty} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x} dx, \quad \alpha > 0.$$

First, one should note that the function is well defined, that is the integral actually converges for each value of  $\alpha > 0$ .

(i) Prove that for each  $\alpha > 0$  the following recursion formula holds:

$$\Gamma(\alpha + 1) = \alpha\Gamma(\alpha)$$

(ii) Compute explicitly  $\Gamma(1) = 1$ .

(iii) Deduce from (i) and (ii) that for integer numbers  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$$\Gamma(n + 1) = n!$$

Therefore the Gamma function is a possible extension of the factorial function to all positive real numbers.