

Technique for Solving Some Type of Improper Integral

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ABSTRACT

This paper uses the mathematical software Maple as a problem-solving tool to study some type of improper integral. We use an important method in advanced calculus: differentiation with respect to a parameter, to find the infinite series form of this type of improper integral. The research method used in this paper is to get the answers through manual calculation, and then use Maple to verify the answers. This research way not only allows us to find the calculation errors, but also help us to amend the original thinking direction, because we can verify the correctness of our theory from the consistency of manual and Maple calculations.

Keywords: Improper Integral, Differentiation with Respect to a Parameter, Infinite Series Form, Maple

I. INTRODUCTION

This article describes how to use Maple to do mathematical research. The superiority of Maple lies in its simple instructions and ease of use, which enable beginners to learn the operating techniques in a short period. In addition, through the numerical and symbolic computations performed by Maple, the logic of thinking can be converted into a series of instructions. The computation results of Maple can be used to modify previous thinking directions, thereby forming direct and constructive feedback that can aid in improving understanding of problems and cultivating research interests. Inquiring through an online support system provided by Maple or browsing the Maple website (www.maplesoft.com) can facilitate further understanding of Maple and might provide unexpected insights. For the instructions and operations of Maple, we can refer to [1-5].

In advanced calculus and engineering mathematics courses, the study of the improper integral problem is an important issue. Yu [6-25], Yu and Chen [26], Yu and Sheu [27] used complex power series method, integration term by term theorem, differentiation with respect to a parameter, Parseval's theorem, area mean

value theorem, and generalized Cauchy integral formula to solve some types of integrals. This paper considers the following some type of improper integral :

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^a - \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{1}{(m-k)!} a^{m-k} (\ln x)^{m-k}}{(\ln x)^m} dx, \quad (1)$$

where a is a real number, and m is a positive integer such that $-1 < a \leq 1$ or $a = -1$ and $m \geq 2$. The infinite series form of this type of improper integral can be determined by an important method in advanced calculus: differentiation with respect to a parameter, that is the major result of this article: Theorem K. Moreover, some examples are used to do calculation practically, and the research method adopted in this paper is to obtain the answers through manual calculation, and then use Maple to verify the answers. Such a way of research not only allows us to find the calculation errors, but also help us to amend the original thinking direction, because we can verify the correctness of our theory from the consistency of manual and Maple calculations.

II. METHODS AND MATERIAL

First, we introduce the notations and theorems used in this paper.

2.1. Notations:

The p -times derivative of function $f(x)$ is denoted as $f^{(p)}(x)$, where p is a positive integer.

2.2. Theorems:

2.2.1. Differentiation with respect to a parameter ([28, p405]):

Suppose that I_1, I_2 are real intervals, and assume that two variables function $f(x, y)$ and its first order partial derivative with respect to y , $f_y(x, y)$ are all defined on $I_1 \times I_2$. If the following two conditions are satisfied:

(i) For all $y \in I_2$, Lebesgue integrals $\int_{I_1} f(x, y)dx$ and $\int_{I_1} f_y(x, y)dx$ are all exist, (ii) $f_y(x, y)$ is a continuous function defined on $I_1 \times I_2$ such that $\int_{I_1} f_y(x, y)dx$ is uniformly convergent on I_2 . Then $F(y) = \int_{I_1} f(x, y)dx$ is differentiable on I_2 , and its derivative $\frac{d}{dy} F(y) = \int_{I_1} f_y(x, y)dx$.

2.2.2. Abel limit theorem ([29, p245]) :

Assume that $r > 0$ and c_n are all real numbers for all non-negative integers n . Let $F(a) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n a^n$, where

$-r < a < r$. If $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n r^n$ exists, then $\lim_{a \rightarrow r^-} F(a)$ exists

and $\lim_{a \rightarrow r^-} F(a) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n r^n$.

The following theorem is the main result in this paper, we obtain the infinite series form of the improper integral (1).

Theorem K : Suppose that a is a real number, and m is a positive integer such that $-1 < a \leq 1$ or $a = -1$ and $m \geq 2$, then

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^a - \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{1}{(m-k)!} a^{m-k} (\ln x)^{m-k}}{(\ln x)^m} dx$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{(n+1)(n+2) \cdots (n+m)} a^{n+m}. \quad (2)$$

Proof Since $\int_0^1 x^a dx = \frac{1}{a+1}$ is uniformly convergent, it follows from differentiation with respect to a parameter that

$$\frac{d}{da} \left(\int_0^1 \frac{x^a - 1}{\ln x} dx \right) = \int_0^1 x^a dx. \quad (3)$$

Since $\int_0^1 \frac{x^a - 1}{\ln x} dx$ is also uniformly convergent, then again by differentiation with respect to a parameter, we obtain

$$\frac{d}{da} \left(\int_0^1 \frac{x^a - a \ln x - 1}{(\ln x)^2} dx \right) = \int_0^1 \frac{x^a - 1}{\ln x} dx. \quad (4)$$

And so on, we get

$$F(a) = \int_0^1 \frac{x^a - \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{1}{(m-k)!} a^{m-k} (\ln x)^{m-k}}{(\ln x)^m} dx$$

satisfies the following ordinary differential equation:

$$\begin{cases} F^{(m)}(a) = \frac{1}{a+1} \\ F(0) = F'(0) = F''(0) = \cdots = F^{(m-1)}(0) = 0 \end{cases}. \quad (5)$$

Case 1. If $-1 < a < 1$. Since $\frac{1}{a+1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n a^n$, it follows that

$$F(a) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{(n+1)(n+2) \cdots (n+m)} a^{n+m}.$$

Case 2. If $a = 1$. Since the infinite series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{(n+1)(n+2) \cdots (n+m)} \quad (6)$$

exists, then by Abel limit theorem, the desire result holds.

Case 3. If $a = -1$ and $m \geq 2$. Since

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n+1)(n+2) \cdots (n+m)} \quad (7)$$

exists, it also follows from Abel limit theorem that the desire result holds. q.e.d.

III. EXAMPLES

In the following, for the improper integral problem discussed in this paper, a few examples are proposed to do calculation practically, and we use Maple to calculate the approximations of these improper integrals and their infinite series forms to verify our answers.

Example 3.1. By Theorem K, we have

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^{1/3} - \frac{1}{3} \ln x - 1}{(\ln x)^2} dx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(n+1)(n+2)} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{n+2}. \quad (8)$$

Next, we employ Maple to verify the correctness of Eq. (8):

```
>evalf(int((x^(1/3)-ln(x)/3-1)/(ln(x))^2,x=0..1),14);
0.0502427632691
```

```
>evalf(sum((-1)^n*(1/3)^(n+2)/((n+1)*(n+2)),n=0..infinity),14);
0.05024276326901
```

Example 3.2. Using Theorem K yields

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^{-1/4} - \frac{1}{32} (\ln x)^2 + \frac{1}{4} \ln x - 1}{(\ln x)^3} dx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)} \left(\frac{-1}{4}\right)^{n+3} = - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)} \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{n+3}. \quad (9)$$

We also use Maple to verify the correctness of Eq. (9).

```
>evalf(int((x^(-1/4)-(ln(x))^2/32+ln(x)/4-1)/(ln(x))^3,x=0..1),14);
-0.00278558287707
```

```
>evalf(-sum((1/4)^(n+3)/((n+1)*(n+2)*(n+3)),n=0..infinity),14);
-0.002785582877063
```

Example 3.3. By Theorem K, we have

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^{1/\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{96} (\ln x)^4 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{24} (\ln x)^3 - \frac{1}{4} (\ln x)^2 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \ln x - 1}{(\ln x)^5} dx$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)(n+4)(n+5)} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{n+5}. \quad (10)$$

Below we use Maple to verify the answer:

```
>evalf(int((x^(1/sqrt(2))-(ln(x))^4/96-(ln(x))^3*sqrt(2)/24-(ln(x))^2/4-ln(x)*sqrt(2)/2-1)/(ln(x))^5,x=0..1),14);
0.0013274751954515
```

```
>evalf(sum((-1)^n*(1/sqrt(2))^(n+5)/((n+1)*(n+2)*(n+3)*(n+4)*(n+5)),n=0..infinity),15);
0.0013274751954588
```

IV. CONCLUSION

From above, we see that theorem K is the main theoretical basis for solving the improper integral problem discussed in this article. On the other hand, we know that Maple plays an important role in problem-solving. Moreover, we can also use Maple to design some improper integral problems, and try to find the solutions of these problems. So, Maple can give us the inspiration to solve the problems.

V. REFERENCES

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