

2. [12 points] While working on their team homework, Alex and Chris find that they have evaluated the same integral—but that they each used a different method, and got different answers! Alex found

$$\int (2x - 1)(3 + x)^4 dx = (2x - 1) \left(\frac{1}{5}(3 + x)^5 \right) - \frac{1}{15}(3 + x)^6 + C.$$

while Chris had

$$\int (2x - 1)(3 + x)^4 dx = \frac{1}{3}(3 + x)^6 - \frac{7}{5}(3 + x)^5 + C,$$

- (a) [6 of 12 points] Considering the form of the solution that Alex found, what method is it most likely that Alex used? Use this method and verify that you obtain the same solution.

Solution:

We notice that the first term of Chris' solution, $(2x - 1)(\frac{1}{5}(3 + x)^5)$, is the product uv if $u = 2x - 1$ and $v' = (3 + x)^4$, so it looks as if this solution was obtained by using integration by parts. With these choices of u and v' , we have $u' = 2$ and $v = \frac{1}{5}(3 + x)^5$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \int (2x - 1)(3 + x)^4 dx &= (2x - 1) \left(\frac{1}{5}(3 + x)^5 \right) - \int \frac{2}{5}(3 + x)^5 dx \\ &= (2x - 1) \left(\frac{1}{5}(3 + x)^5 \right) - \frac{1}{15}(3 + x)^6 + C. \end{aligned}$$

- (b) [6 of 12 points] Considering the form of the solution that Chris found, what method is it most likely that Chris used? Use this method and verify that you obtain the same solution.

Solution:

We see only factors of $3 + x$ to various powers in the solution, which suggests that Alex may have used substitution with $w = 3 + x$. This works because then $dw = dx$ and $2x - 1 = 2w - 7$, so that

$$\begin{aligned} \int (2x - 1)(3 + x)^4 dx &= \int (2w - 7)w^4 dw = \int 2w^5 - 7w^4 dw \\ &= \frac{2}{6}w^6 - \frac{7}{5}w^5 + C = \frac{1}{3}(3 + x)^6 - \frac{7}{5}(3 + x)^5 + C. \end{aligned}$$