

6. (20 points) The quantity $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(a^2+x)(b^2+x)(c^2+x)}}$ roughly models the resistance that football-shaped plankton encounter when falling through water. Note that $a = 1$, $b = 2$, and $c = 3$ are constants that describe the dimensions of the plankton.

Find a value of M for which $\int_1^M \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(a^2+x)(b^2+x)(c^2+x)}}$ differs from the original model of resistance by at most 0.001. *Hint:* make use of the integral $\int_M^{\infty} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(a^2+x)(b^2+x)(c^2+x)}}$ and the comparison test.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We want } & \int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(a^2+x)(b^2+x)(c^2+x)}} - \int_1^M \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(a^2+x)(b^2+x)(c^2+x)}} \\ & = \int_M^{\infty} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(a^2+x)(b^2+x)(c^2+x)}} < 0.001 \end{aligned}$$

We observe that $\int_M^{\infty} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(a^2+x)(b^2+x)(c^2+x)}} < \int_M^{\infty} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(x)(x)(x)}} = \int_M^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^{\frac{3}{2}}} dx$ since a^2 , b^2 , and c^2 are all positive constants. So if $\int_M^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^{\frac{3}{2}}} dx < 0.001$ then $\int_M^{\infty} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(a^2+x)(b^2+x)(c^2+x)}} < 0.001$.

Convert to a proper integral and solve:

$$\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_M^b x^{-\frac{3}{2}} dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} -2x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \Big|_M^b = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{-2}{\sqrt{b}} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{M}} \right) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{M}} < 0.001.$$

$$\text{Algebra yields } M > \left(\frac{2}{0.001} \right)^2 = 4,000,000$$