

Math 170: Quiz 2

Sayan Mukherjee's discussion

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Problem 1. Find the following definite integral:

$$\int_{-4}^4 (x^{13} - x^7 + x^3) dx$$

Solution. As x^{13}, x^7, x^3 are all *odd* functions, $\int_{-4}^4 x^{13} dx = \int_{-4}^4 x^7 dx = \int_{-4}^4 x^3 dx = 0$, and therefore

$$\int_{-4}^4 (x^{13} - x^7 + x^3) dx = 0.$$

□

Alternate Solution. We know antiderivative of $x^{13} - x^7 + x^3$ is $\frac{x^{14}}{14} - \frac{x^8}{8} + \frac{x^4}{4}$. Thus,

$$\int_{-4}^4 (x^{13} - x^7 + x^3) dx = \left(\frac{4^{14}}{14} - \frac{4^8}{8} + \frac{4^4}{4} \right) - \left(\frac{(-4)^{14}}{14} - \frac{(-4)^8}{8} + \frac{(-4)^4}{4} \right).$$

As $(-4)^{14} = 4^{14}$ and $(-4)^8 = 4^8$ and $(-4)^4 = 4^4$, the individual terms cancel off to give 0.

□

Rubric.

- +4 for correct answer
- +1 for correct explanation (odd powers / odd function)

OR,

- +3 points for correct antiderivative
- +1 point for correct expression after plugging in
- +1 point for correct answer