

Patterns in integrals

- a. Use a computer algebra system to evaluate the following integrals. (I used MAPLE)

$$\int x \cdot e^x dx = (x - 1) e^x$$

$$\int x^2 \cdot e^x dx = (2 - 2x + x^2) e^x$$

$$\int x^3 \cdot e^x dx = (-6 + 6x - 3x^2 + x^3) e^x$$

$$\int x^4 \cdot e^x dx = (24 - 24x + 12x^2 - 4x^3 + x^4) e^x$$

$$\int x^5 \cdot e^x dx = (-120 + 120x - 60x^2 + 20x^3 - 5x^4 + x^5) e^x$$

- b. Based on your pattern in part a, guess the value of $\int x^6 e^x dx$. Then use your CAS to check your guess.

This was my guess: $e^x(x^6 - 6x^5 + 30x^4 - 120x^3 + 360x^2 - 720x + 720)$

When I check my CAS I got:

$\int x^6 \cdot e^x dx = (720 - 720x + 360x^2 - 120x^3 + 30x^4 - 6x^5 + x^6) e^x$ which I guessed correctly. The pattern was simple to recognize and guessing the answer was not a problem.

- c. Based on the patterns in a and b, make a conjecture as to the value of the integral $\int x^n e^x dx$ when n is a positive integer. Now this is my problem, this is what I came up with and where im stuck because I know its not correct.

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \frac{n!}{i!} x^i e^x$$

- d. Use a mathematical induction to prove the conjecture you made in part c.