

Gaussian Integrals

For ($a > 0$)

$$\int_0^{\infty} x^{2n} e^{-ax^2} dx = \frac{(2n-1)!!}{2^{n+1} a^n} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, 3 \dots$$

$$\rightarrow (n=0): \int_0^{\infty} e^{-ax^2} dx = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}}$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} x^{2n+1} e^{-ax^2} dx = \frac{n!}{2a^{n+1}} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, 3 \dots$$

$$\rightarrow (n=0): \int_0^{\infty} x e^{-ax^2} dx = \frac{1}{2a}$$

Also

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^{2n} e^{-ax^2} dx = \frac{(2n-1)!!}{2^n a^n} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, 3 \dots$$

$$\rightarrow (n=0): \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ax^2} dx = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}}$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^{2n+1} e^{-ax^2} dx = 0 \quad (\text{odd function over symmetric limits})$$

Factorial Relations

The **double factorial** of a positive integer n is a generalization of $n!$ and is defined as:

$$n!! \equiv \begin{cases} n \cdot (n-2) \dots 5 \cdot 3 \cdot 1 & n > 0 \text{ odd} \\ n \cdot (n-2) \dots 6 \cdot 4 \cdot 2 & n > 0 \text{ even} \\ 1 & n = -1, 0. \end{cases}$$

Other useful relations:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} (2n+1)!! &= \frac{(2n+1)!}{2^n n!} \\ (2n)!! &= 2^n n! \\ (2n-1)!! &= \frac{(2n)!}{2^n n!} \end{aligned} \right\} n = 0, 1, 2 \dots$$