

# FI – 3-point Gaussian Integration

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## Abstract

*FI is a program written in 1980 for the HP-41C programmable calculator to evaluate the definite integral between given limits of an arbitrary user-supplied function  $f(x)$  using the 3-point Gauss-Legendre quadrature formula applied over a number of subintervals. Three worked examples are included.*

**Keywords:** definite integration, Gauss-Legendre quadrature, programmable calculator, RPN, HP-41C, HP-41CV, HP-41CX, HP42S

## 1. Introduction

*FI* is a short (56 steps) RPN program that I wrote in 1980 for the *HP-41C* programmable calculator (will also run *as-is* in the *HP-41CV/CX* and the *HP42S*), which can evaluate the definite integral between specified limits of an arbitrary user-supplied function  $f(x)$  using the fast *3-point Gauss-Legendre* quadrature formula applied over a given number of subintervals. The method is as follows: we want to compute

$$I = \int_a^b f(x) \cdot dx$$

but first of all the change of variable  $x = \frac{1}{2}(b+a) + \frac{1}{2}(b-a)t$ ,  $dx = \frac{1}{2}(b-a) \cdot dt$  transforms the interval  $(a, b)$  into the interval  $(-1, 1)$ . The *3-point Gauss-Legendre* quadrature formula then gives:

$$\int_{-1}^1 f(x) \cdot dx = \frac{8}{9}f(0) + \frac{5}{9} \left( f\left(\sqrt{\frac{3}{5}}\right) + f\left(-\sqrt{\frac{3}{5}}\right) \right)$$

which is *exact* for polynomial  $f(x)$  up to the 5<sup>th</sup> degree, and a 5<sup>th</sup>-order approximation otherwise. See **Notes**.

## 2. Program Listing

01	◆LBL "FI"	15 RCL 01	29 RCL 03	43 XEQ IND 00	- 55 steps
02	"NAME?"	16 /	30 +	44 8	- requires at least SIZE 006
03	AON	17 STO 05	31 XEQ IND 00	45 *	- uses the Alpha register
04	PROMPT	18 2	32 5	46 ST- 02	- uses no flags and doesn't alter
05	AOFF	19 /	33 *	47 RCL 05	angular mode or display settings
06	ASTO 00	20 ST+ 04	34 ST- 02	48 ST+ 04	- to get * press the [x] key
07	"N?"	21 .6	35 RCL 04	49 DSE 01	- to get / press the [÷] key
08	PROMPT	22 SQRT	36 RCL 03	50 GTO 00 ▶	- the symbols ◆ and ▶ are purely
09	STO 01	23 *	37 -	51 RCL 02	cosmetic, to indicate branching
10	"a↑b?"	24 STO 03	38 XEQ IND 00	52 *	
11	PROMPT	25 CLX	39 5	53 18	
12	◆LBL "FIP"	26 STO 02	40 *	54 /	
13	STO 04	27 ◆LBL 00	41 ST- 02	55 END	
14	-	28 RCL 04	42 RCL 04		

### 3. Usage Instructions

The program can be used both interactively and programmatically, as follows:

- 1) **Interactively:** in **RUN** mode, call “**FI**” (*Function Integrator*). The program will prompt for the *name* of the program which defines  $f(x)$ , the required number of subintervals ( $n$ ) and the integration limits ( $a$ ,  $b$ ). Once provided, the program will proceed to compute the integral and return its value to the display.
- 2) **Programmatically:** your program must call “**FIP**” (*Function Integrator Programmable*), which assumes that the name of the program which defines  $f(x)$  is stored in register  $R_{00}$ , the number of subintervals ( $n$ , which should be an integer  $\geq 1$ ) is stored in register  $R_{01}$ , the lower limit ( $a$ ) is in stack register  $Y$  and the upper limit ( $b$ ) is in stack register  $X$ .

Upon returning control to your program, the computed value of the integral will be in stack register  $X$ . The name of your  $f(x)$  will remain unaltered in register  $R_{00}$  but the number of subintervals will be lost. No subroutine levels are used apart from calls to your  $f(x)$ .

In both cases you need to write a program to define  $f(x)$ , the equation to solve. It must be an independent program under its own *global label*, must assume that the argument  $x$  is in stack register  $X$  upon being called, and must return the computed value of  $f(x)$  in stack register  $X$  as well.

### 4. Examples

The following examples can be useful to check that the program is correctly entered and to understand its usage.

#### 4.1 Example 1

Evaluate the integral  $I = \int_{3.59}^{20.19} x^5 \cdot dx$

In **PRGM** Mode, enter the following 4-step program to define the function  $f(x)$  to be integrated:

```
01 ◀LBL "FX1"      02 5      03 Y↑X      04 END
```

In **RUN** Mode, proceed as follows to evaluate the integral using just one (sub)interval:

```
XEQ "FI"  NAME? "FX1" [R/S]  N? 1 [R/S]  a↑b? 3.59 [ENTER] 20.19 [R/S]  11288934.08
```

The theoretical value is  $(20.19^6 - 3.59^6)/6 = 11288934.08\dots$  so the computed value has all 10 digits correct. The reason for such accuracy despite the large integration interval and using just one (sub)interval is because the 3-point Gauss-Legendre quadrature formula is *exact* for polynomial functions up to the 5<sup>th</sup> degree, which  $x^5$  is.

#### 4.2 Example 2

Evaluate the integral  $I = \int_0^1 \frac{\sin(x)}{x} \cdot dx$

In **PRGM** Mode, enter the following 5-step program to define the function  $f(x)$  to be integrated:

```
01 ◀LBL "FX2"      02 SIN      03 LASTX      04 /      05 END
```

In **RUN** Mode (and **RAD**, **FIX** 9), proceed as follows to evaluate the integral using 1, 2 and 4 subinterval(s):

```

XEQ "FI"  NAME?  "FX2"  [R/S]  N?  1  [R/S]  a↑b?  0  [ENTER]  1  [R/S]  0.946083134  (339)
XEQ "FI"  NAME?  "FX2"  [R/S]  N?  2  [R/S]  a↑b?  0  [ENTER]  1  [R/S]  0.946083072  (717)
XEQ "FI"  NAME?  "FX2"  [R/S]  N?  4  [R/S]  a↑b?  0  [ENTER]  1  [R/S]  0.946083071  (706)

```

The exact value rounds to **0.9460830704** so the computed values have 6, 8 and ~10 correct digits, respectively.

### 4.3 Example 3

Write a program to compute the volume of the solid of revolution generated by *any* user-specified curve and in particular use it to find the volume of the solid of revolution obtained by the turn of the catenary

$$y = \frac{3e^{x/3} + 3e^{-x/3}}{2}$$

around the  $x$  axis between  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1.2$  (your program will call "FIP" (*Programmable*) to do the hard work.)

In **PRGM** Mode, enter the following 20-step generic program to compute said volume for any curve  $y=f(x)$ :

```

01  ◀LBL "VOL"      05  AOFF      09  2          13  XEQ "FIP"      17  ◀LBL "VAUX"
02  "NAME?"        06  ASTO 06    10  STO 01     14  PI           18  XEQ IND 06
03  AON           07  "VAUX"    11  "X1↑X2?"  15  *           19  X↑2
04  PROMPT       08  ASTO 00    12  PROMPT    16  RTN         20  END

```

Now, still in **PRGM** Mode, enter the following 10-step program to define the catenary's formula:

```

01  ◀LBL "CATEN"   03  /          05  ENTER↑     07  +           09  *
02  3              04  E↑X       06  1/X        08  1.5         10  END

```

In **RUN** Mode, proceed as follows to evaluate the volume asked for:

```

XEQ "VOL"  NAME?  "CATEN"  [R/S]  X1↑X2?  0  [ENTER]  1.2  [R/S]  35.79755410  (correct to ~9 places)

```

### Notes

1. Despite its very simple coefficients, this 3-point Gauss-Legendre quadrature formula gives 5<sup>th</sup>-order accuracy for arbitrary  $f(x)$  using just 3 evaluations per subinterval. This is much better than Simpson's Rule, which only gives 3<sup>rd</sup>-order accuracy.
2. Integrals which have singularities at one or both endpoints can also be computed, as  $f(x)$  is not evaluated there.
3. If you can use synthetic instructions, you may replace registers  $R_{03}$ ,  $R_{04}$  and  $R_{05}$  by registers  $M$ ,  $N$ , and  $O$  respectively (i.e.: STO 03 becomes STO M and so on), and insert step 55 CLA just before END to clear the Alpha register before the program ends. After this, program length will be 56 steps and min. SIZE 003, thus saving 3 numbered registers for other uses.
4. This program (FI, FIP) was duly submitted for inclusion in the PPC ROM but it wasn't accepted.

### References

Francis Scheid (1988). *Schaum's Outline of Theory and Problems of Numerical Analysis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*.

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