

If you use the max-min inequality to find upper and lower bounds for integrals you find

$$0.5 \leq \int_0^1 1/(1+x^2) \leq 1.$$

Use the fact that you can break the interval  $[0, 1]$  into the two parts  $[0, 0.5]$  and  $[0.5, 1]$  to find an improved estimate

$$???? \leq \int_0^1 1/(1+x^2) \leq ????$$

**Solution.** The function  $f = 1/(1+x^2)$  is monotonic decreasing on  $[0, 1]$ .

*max*  $f = 1$  on the interval  $[0, 0.5]$

*min*  $f = 4/5$  on the interval  $[0, 0.5]$ .

The min-max inequality on  $[0, 0.5]$  gives

$$2/5 \leq \int_0^{0.5} 1/(1+x^2) \leq 1/2.$$

*max*  $f = 4/5$  on the interval  $[0.5, 1]$

*min*  $f = 1/2$  on the interval  $[0.5, 1]$ .

The min-max inequality on  $[0.5, 1]$  gives

$$1/4 \leq \int_{0.5}^1 1/(1+x^2) \leq 2/5.$$

Putting together

$$13/20 = 2/5 + 1/4 \leq \int_0^{0.5} 1/(1+x^2) dx + \int_{0.5}^1 1/(1+x^2) dx = \int_0^1 1/(1+x^2) dx \leq 1/2 + 2/5 = 9/10. \blacksquare$$