

Tips, Hints, and Tricks for Problem 4.6.

Identify two cases: the first for $l > l'$ and the second $l = l'$. For both, integrate by parts l times. In the $l > l'$ case, the remaining integral can be solved if you carefully consider differentiating the term $(x^2 - 1)^{l'}$ $l - l'$ times. The boundary terms in both cases can be easily evaluated by showing that you will always have a $(x^2 - 1)$ term left over after $l - n$ differentiations, where n is the n^{th} boundary term, with n ranging from 1 to l .

Regarding the $l = l'$ case, after dealing with the boundary terms after l IBPs (exactly the same as the $l > l'$ case), you are left with $\frac{(-1)^l}{(2^l l!)^2} \int_{-1}^{+1} (x^2 - 1)^l \left(\frac{d}{dx}\right)^{2l} (x^2 - 1)^l dx$. Doing that $2l$ differentiation of $(x^2 - 1)^l$ is straightforward, as is moving in the $(-1)^l$ term inside the integral to give $(1 - x^2)^l$. Next, make a substitution: $x = 2u - 1$. We want to recast the integral into the form of the beta function, $B(r, s)$:

$$B(r, s) = \int_0^1 x^{r-1} (1-x)^{s-1} dx = \frac{\Gamma(r) \Gamma(s)}{\Gamma(r+s)}, \quad (1)$$

where $\Gamma(x)$ is the gamma function.