

[6.36] Integration may return 'undef' for identical integration limits

By definition,

$$\int_a^a f(x)dx = 0$$

for any a and $f(x)$. The TI-89/92+ evaluate such 'zero-width' integrals correctly with either $nInt()$ or $\int()$, unless $f(x)$ cannot be evaluated at a . For example, these functions all return zero:

$\int(1, x, \emptyset, \emptyset)$	or	$nInt(1, x, 0, 0)$
$\int(x, x, \emptyset, \emptyset)$	or	$nInt(x, x, 0, 0)$
$\int(\sin(x), x, \emptyset, \emptyset)$	or	$nInt(\sin(x), x, 0, 0)$

However, if $f(a)$ is undefined, then these expressions return *undef*:

$\int(1/x, x, \emptyset, \emptyset)$	or	$nInt(1, x, 0, 0)$
$\int(\sin(x), x, \emptyset, \emptyset)$	or	$nInt(1, x, 0, 0)$

If the integration limits are specified symbolically instead of numerically, then $\int()$ correctly returns zero, but $nInt()$ returns itself:

$\int(1/x, x, \emptyset, \emptyset)$	returns 0
$nInt(1/x, x, \emptyset, \emptyset)$	returns $nInt(1/x, x, \emptyset, \emptyset)$

This behavior is not a problem for manual calculations because you would never bother to evaluate an integral with identical limits. However, it could be a problem if you evaluate integrals within a program or function. If so, test the integration limits for equality before evaluating the integral. If they are equal, return zero. One method is

$$\text{when}(a=b, \emptyset, \int(1/x, x, a, b))$$