

Integrating Powers and Products of Trig functions

Review of Techniques

In all of the formulas below, m, n, k, and t are all positive integers .

I. Strategy for Integrating $\int (\sin^m x) (\cos^n x) dx$

A. If n is odd,

use $u = \sin x$, $du = \cos x dx$ and write all the $\cos^2 x$ factors as $(1 - \sin^2 x)$.

B. If m is odd,

use $u = \cos x$, $du = -\sin x dx$ and write all the $\sin^2 x$ factors as $(1 - \cos^2 x)$.

C. If both m and n are even, then

1) if $m = n$, use $\sin 2x = 2(\sin x)(\cos x)$ to simplify the integrand.

2) otherwise, write all the $\sin^2 x$ factors as $\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x\right)$,

and then write all the $\cos^2 x$ factors as $\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x\right)$.

Examples

Type I A:

$$\int (\sin^6 x) (\cos^3 x) dx = \int (\sin^6 x) (\cos^2 x) (\cos x) dx = \int (\sin^6 x) (1 - \sin^2 x) (\cos x) dx = \int u^6 (1 - u^2) du$$

Type I B:

$$\int (\sin^5 x) (\cos^2 x) dx = \int (\sin^4 x) (\cos^2 x) (\sin x) dx = \int (1 - \cos^2 x)^2 (\cos^2 x) (\sin x) dx = - \int (1 - u^2)^2 u^2 du$$

Type I C:

$$\int (\sin^4 x) (\cos^4 x) dx = \int (\sin x \cos x)^4 dx = \int \left(\frac{1}{2} \sin 2x\right)^4 dx = \frac{1}{16} \int (\sin^2 2x)^2 dx = \frac{1}{16} \int \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos 4x\right)^2 dx$$

II. Strategy for Integrating $\int (\tan^m x) (\sec^n x) dx$

A. If n is even,

use $u = \tan x$, $du = \sec^2 x dx$ and write all the other $\sec^2 x$ factors as $(1 + \tan^2 x)$.

B. If m is odd,

use $u = \sec x$, $du = (\sec x)(\tan x) dx$ and write all the $\tan^2 x$ factors as $(\sec^2 x - 1)$.

C. Otherwise, try using trig identities, integration by parts, etc.

--- Nothing is definite here.

Examples

Type II A:

$$\int (\tan^8 x) (\sec^4 x) dx = \int (\sec^2 x) (\tan^8 x) (\sec^2 x) dx = \int (\tan^2 x + 1) (\tan^8 x) (\sec^2 x) dx = \int (u^2 + 1) u^8 du$$

Type II B:

$$\int (\tan^3 x) (\sec^7 x) dx = \int (\sec^6 x) (\tan^2 x) (\sec x \tan x) dx = \int (\sec^6 x) (\sec^2 x - 1) (\sec x \tan x) dx = \int u^6 (u^2 - 1) du$$

Type II C:

$$\int (\sec^7 x) (\tan^4 x) dx = \int (\sec^7 x) (\tan^2 x)^2 dx = \int (\sec^7 x) (\sec^2 x - 1)^2 dx =$$

$$\int (\sec^7 x) (1 - 2\sec^2 x + \sec^4 x) dx = \int \sec^7 x dx - 2 \int \sec^9 x dx + \int \sec^{11} x dx$$

From this point, one can apply the techniques for integrating single powers of trig functions (Integrals of Type III).

III. Strategy for Integrating:

A. $\int \sin^m x dx$, **B.** $\int \cos^n x dx$, **C.** $\int \tan^k x dx$, **D.** $\int \sec^t x dx$

A. If m is odd, use the methods for Type I B.

If m is even, write all the $\sin^2 x$ factors as $\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x \right)$.

B. If n is odd, use the methods for Type I A.

If n is even, write all the $\cos^2 x$ factors as $\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x \right)$.

C. If k is odd, then save one ($\tan x$) factor and write all the $\tan^2 x$ factors as $(\sec^2 x - 1)$, and then use the methods for Type II B.

If k is even, then use the reduction formula:

$$\int \tan^k x dx = \frac{1}{k-1} \tan^{k-1} x - \int \tan^{k-2} x dx$$

D. If t is even, then use the methods for Type II A.

If t is odd, then use the reduction formula:

$$\int \sec^t x dx = \frac{1}{t-1} \tan x \sec^{t-2} x + \frac{t-2}{t-1} \int \sec^{t-2} x dx$$

The following two integrals are also used in the above methods:

$$\int \tan x dx = \ln |\sec x| + C \quad \text{and} \quad \int \sec x dx = \ln |\sec x + \tan x| + C$$

They are derived as follows:

$$\int \tan x dx = \int \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} dx = - \int \frac{1}{u} du = -\ln |u| + C = \ln |\cos x|^{-1} + C = \ln |\sec x| + C$$

$$\int \sec x dx = \int \sec x \left(\frac{\sec x + \tan x}{\sec x + \tan x} \right) dx = \int \left(\frac{\sec x \tan x + \sec^2 x}{\sec x + \tan x} \right) dx = \int \frac{1}{u} du = \ln |\sec x + \tan x| + C$$

Useful Trigonometric Identities:

The Pythagorean Identity:

$$\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x = 1 , \quad \text{which implies: } \cos^2 x = 1 - \sin^2 x , \quad \sin^2 x = 1 - \cos^2 x$$

The Double Angle Formulas (derived from the sum-of-angle formulas):

$$\sin 2x = 2 \sin x \cos x$$

$$\cos 2x = \cos^2 x - \sin^2 x , \quad \text{which implies: } \cos 2x = 1 - 2 \sin^2 x , \text{ and } \cos 2x = 2 \cos^2 x - 1$$

The $\sec^2 x$ and $\tan^2 x$ Formulas:

$$\sec^2 x = 1 + \tan^2 x \quad \text{and} \quad \tan^2 x = \sec^2 x - 1$$

The very useful $\cos^2 x$ and $\sin^2 x$ Formulas:

$$\cos^2 x = \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x \right) \quad \text{and} \quad \sin^2 x = \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x \right)$$

Derivations:

Divide both sides of $\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x = 1$ **by** $\cos^2 x$; **Result:** $1 + \tan^2 x = \sec^2 x$

This immediately gives $\sec^2 x = 1 + \tan^2 x$ **and** $\tan^2 x = \sec^2 x - 1$.

To both sides of $\cos 2x = 2 \cos^2 x - 1$, **add 1** ; **Result:** $2 \cos^2 x = 1 + \cos 2x$

Now, multiply by $\frac{1}{2}$; Result: $\cos^2 x = \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x \right)$

To both sides of $\cos 2x = 1 - 2 \sin^2 x$,

add $2 \sin^2 x$ and subtract $\cos 2x$; Result: $2 \sin^2 x = 1 - \cos 2x$

Now, multiply by $\frac{1}{2}$; Result: $\sin^2 x = \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x \right)$