

Some integration examples

Useful identities

$\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$	$\tan^2 x + 1 = \sec^2 x$
$\sin 2x = 2 \sin x \cos x$	$\cos 2x = 2 \cos^2 x - 1 = 1 - 2 \sin^2 x$
$\cos(a + b) + \cos(a - b) = 2 \cos a \cos b$	$\sin(a + b) + \sin(a - b) = 2 \sin a \cos b$
$\int \cos x dx = \sin x + C$	$\int \sin x dx = -\cos x + C$
$\int \sec^2 x dx = \tan x + C$	$\int \tan x dx = \ln \sec x + c$
$\cosh^2 x - \sinh^2 x = 1$	$1 - \tanh^2 x = \operatorname{sech}^2 x$
$\sinh 2x = 2 \sinh x \cosh x$	$\cosh 2x = 2 \cosh^2 x - 1 = 2 \sinh^2 x + 1$
$\int \cosh x dx = \sinh x + C$	$\int \sinh x dx = \cosh x + C$

Examples

1. Find $\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} 2 \sin^2 2x dx$.

We re-arrange the integrand using the formula $\cos 2x = 1 - 2 \sin^2 x$. This is because we can integrate a double angle directly.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} 2 \sin^2 2x dx &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} (1 - \cos 4x) dx \\ &= \left[x - \frac{\sin 4x}{4} \right]_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} \\ &= \frac{\pi}{4}. \end{aligned}$$

2. Find $\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^3 x dx$.

We re-arrange the integrand using the formula $\sin^2 x = 1 - \cos^2 x$.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^3 x dx &= \int \sin x (1 - \cos^2 x) dx \\ &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\sin x - \sin x \cos^2 x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Now we observe that $-\sin x$ is the derivative of $\cos x$ so that the second term is a sight integral of the form $\int f'(x)f^n(x)dx$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Thus } \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^3 x dx &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\sin x - \sin x \cos^2 x) dx \\ &= \left[-\cos x + \frac{\cos^3 x}{3} \right]_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \\ &= -\left(-1 + \frac{1}{3}\right) \\ &= \frac{2}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

3. Find $\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} 2 \tan^3 x dx$.

We re-arrange the integrand using the formula $\tan^2 x = \sec^2 x - 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} 2 \tan^3 x dx &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} (2 \tan x)(\sec^2 x - 1) dx \\ &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} (2 \tan x \sec^2 x - 2 \tan x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Now we observe that $\sec^2 x$ is the derivative of $\tan x$ so that the first term is a sight integral of the form $\int f'(x)f^n(x)dx$.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} 2 \tan^3 x dx &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} (2 \sec^2 x \tan x - 2 \tan x) dx \\ &= \left[\tan^2 x - 2 \ln |\sec x| \right]_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \\ &= 3 - 2 \ln 2. \end{aligned}$$

4. Find $\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} 2 \sin 2x \cos 3x dx$.

We re-arrange the integrand using the formula $\sin(a + b) + \sin(a - b) = 2 \sin a \cos b$.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} 2 \sin 2x \cos 3x dx &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} (\sin(5x) + \sin(-x)) dx \\ &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} (\sin(5x) - \sin(x)) dx \\ &= \left[\frac{-\cos(5x)}{5} + \cos x \right]_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \\ &= -\frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5} - 1 = \frac{-2}{5}. \end{aligned}$$

5. Find $\int 2\sqrt{x^2 - 1} dx$, for $x \geq 1$.

It is often a good idea to try the substitutions $x = \cos u$ or $x = \cosh u$ for integrals containing the terms $\sqrt{1 - x^2}$ or $\sqrt{x^2 - 1}$ respectively (where there is no factor x).

Since $x \geq 1$ let $x = \cosh u$. Then $\sqrt{x^2 - 1} = \sqrt{\cosh^2 u - 1} = \sqrt{\sinh^2 u} = \sinh u$ and $\frac{dx}{du} = \sinh u$.

$$\begin{aligned} \int 2\sqrt{x^2 - 1} dx &= \int 2 \sinh^2 u du \\ &= \int (\cosh 2u - 1) du \text{ using the 'double angle' formula} \\ &= \frac{\sinh 2u}{2} - u + C \\ &= \sinh u \cosh u - u + C \\ &= x\sqrt{x^2 - 1} - \cosh^{-1}(x) + C. \end{aligned}$$

Note that the integral is only defined if $x \leq -1$ or $x \geq 1$. In the former case we would let $x = -\cosh u$ and then proceed in the same way.