

Integrating trigonometric functions

Here are the most basic trigonometric identities

$$\begin{aligned}\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x &= 1 \text{ (Pythagorean identity)} \\ \sin(x + y) &= \sin x \cos y + \cos x \sin y \\ \cos(x + y) &= \cos x \cos y - \sin x \sin y.\end{aligned}$$

From these follow

$$\begin{aligned}\tan^2 x + 1 &= \sec^2 x \\ 1 + \cot^2 x &= \csc^2 x \\ \sin(2x) &= 2 \sin x \cos x \\ \cos(2x) &= \cos^2 x - \sin^2 x.\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\cos^2 x = \frac{1 + \cos(2x)}{2}, \quad \sin^2 x = \frac{1 - \cos(2x)}{2}.$$

We can use these along with our other integration techniques to integrate new functions. [Appendix C of the text contains a review of trigonometry.]

1. Integrate $\int \sin x \cos x \, dx$ two ways, with a substitution and with a trig identity. Here are

three ways: Let $u = \sin x$, $du = \cos x \, dx$ to get

$$\int \sin x \cos x \, dx = \int u \, du = u^2/2 + C = \sin^2 x/2 + C.$$

Let $u = \cos x$, $du = -\sin x \, dx$ to get

$$\int \sin x \cos x \, dx = -\int u \, du = -u^2/2 + C = -\cos^2 x/2 + C.$$

Use $\sin(2x) = 2 \sin x \cos x$ to get

$$\int \sin x \cos x \, dx = \frac{1}{2} \int \sin(2x) \, dx = -\cos(2x)/4 + C.$$

Exercise: Use trig identities to show that these answers are all equivalent (i.e. differ by a constant).

2. $\int \cos^5 x \sin^4 x \, dx$

Let $u = \sin x$, $du = \cos x \, dx$ and use $\cos^2 x - 1 = \sin^2 x$ to get

$$\begin{aligned}\int \cos^5 x \sin^4 x \, dx &= \int (\cos^2)^2 x \sin^4 x \cos x \, dx = \int (1 - \sin^2 x)^2 \sin^4 x \cos x \, dx \\ &= \int (1 - u^2)^2 u^4 \, du = \int (u^4 - 2u^6 + u^8) \, du = \sin^5 x/5 - 2 \sin^7 x/7 + \sin^9 x/9 + C.\end{aligned}$$

3. $\int \sin^3 x \, dx$

We have (with $u = \cos x$, $du = -\sin x \, dx$)

$$\int \sin^3 x \, dx = \int (1 - \cos^2 x) \sin x \, dx = - \int (1 - u^2) du = u - u^3/3 + C = \cos x - \cos^3 x/3 + C.$$

4. $\int \sec^4 x \tan^3 x \, dx$

With $u = \sec x$, $du = \sec x \tan x \, dx$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sec^4 x \tan^3 x \, dx &= \int \sec^3 x \tan^2 x \sec x \tan x \, dx = \int \sec^3 x (\sec^2 x - 1) \sec x \tan x \, dx \\ &= \int u^3 (u^2 - 1) du = u^6/6 - u^4/4 + C = \sec^6 x/6 - \sec^4 x/4 + C. \end{aligned}$$

5. $\int \sec^2 x \tan^3 x \, dx$ (problem differs from the handout in class)

With $u = \tan x$, $du = \sec^2 x \, dx$, we get

$$\int \sec^2 x \tan^3 x \, dx = \int u^3 \, du = u^4/4 + C = \tan^4 x/4 + C.$$

6. $\int \cot^3 x \csc^3 x \, dx$ (problem differs from the handout in class)

With $u = \csc x$, $du = -\csc x \cot x \, dx$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int \cot^3 x \csc^3 x \, dx &= \int \cot^2 x \csc^2 x \csc x \cot x \, dx = \int (\csc^2 x - 1) \csc^2 x \csc x \cot x \, dx \\ &= - \int (u^2 - 1) u^2 du = -u^5/5 + u^3/3 + C = -\csc^5 x/5 + \csc^3 x/3 + C. \end{aligned}$$