

Integration of some special trigonometric functions.

I. If n is an odd positive integer, the integrals $\int \sin^n x dx$ and $\int \cos^n x dx$ can be performed by substituting $\cos x = t$ and $\sin x = t$ respectively.

Example

Integrate $\int \sin^7 x dx$.

Solⁿ Here $I = \int \sin^6 x \sin x dx$.

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

Put $\cos x = t \quad \therefore -\sin x dx = dt$

$$\therefore I = - \int (1 - t^2)^3 dt$$

$$= - \int (1 - 3t^2 + 3t^4 - t^6) dt$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= -\int dt + 3\int t^2 dt - 3\int t^4 dt + \int t^6 dt \\
 &= -t + t^3 - \frac{3}{5} t^5 + \frac{t^7}{7} + C \\
 &= -\cos x + \cos^3 x - \frac{3}{5} \cos^5 x + \frac{\cos^7 x}{7} + C
 \end{aligned}$$

II If n is an even positive integer and small, the integrals $\int \sin^n x dx$ and $\int \cos^n x dx$ can be worked out by expressing the integrand in terms of multiple angles.

Example.

1 Integrate

$$\int \sin^4 x dx$$

Soln we have $\cos 2x = 1 - 2\sin^2 x$

$$\therefore \sin^2 x = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \cos 2x)$$

$$\therefore \sin^4 x = \frac{1}{4} (1 - 2\cos 2x + \cos^2 2x)$$

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$$\therefore I = \frac{1}{4} \int \left[\frac{3}{2} - 2 \cos 2x + \frac{\cos 4x}{2} \right] dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{3}{2} \int dx - \frac{1}{2} \int \cos 2x$$

$$+ \frac{1}{8} \int \cos 4x dx$$

$$= \frac{3}{8} x - \frac{1}{4} \sin 2x + \frac{1}{32} \sin 4x$$

+ C

where C is the constant of integration.