

University of Strathclyde
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
MM102: Applications of Calculus
Lecture Notes for Week 2

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1.4 Integration of Trigonometric Functions

In this section we consider some strategies how one can integrate functions that involve trigonometric functions.

$$\int \sin^m x \cdot \cos^n x \, dx \quad \text{where } m \text{ or } n \text{ or both are odd non-negative integers.}$$

- (a) If m is odd, substitute $u = \cos x$ and use $\sin^2 x = 1 - \cos^2 x$ to replace $(\sin x)^{m-1}$; the remaining $\sin x$ is used for the substitution of the differential.
- (b) If n is odd, substitute $u = \sin x$ and proceed in a similar way as in (a).
- (c) If both n and m are even, use either (a) or (b).

In other words: if at least one power of $\sin x$, $\cos x$ is odd, substitute for the other trigonometric function.

Examples 1.6.

- (i) Evaluate

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

Since the integrand contains an odd power of $\cos x$, we use the substitution

$$u = \sin x, \quad du = \cos x \, dx.$$

Hence

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

(ii) Evaluate

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \sin^3 x \cdot \cos^9 x \, dx.$$

Solution in video

(iii) Evaluate

$$\int \sin^5(2x) \, dx.$$

Solution in video

$$\int \sin^m x \cdot \cos^n x \, dx \quad \text{where } m \text{ and } n \text{ are even non-negative integers.}$$

(a) Replace $\sin^2 x$ and $\cos^2 x$ using the double angle formulae

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

(b) Continue using this or the previous technique until the integral can be evaluated.

Examples 1.7.

(i) Evaluate $\int \sin^2 x \, dx$.

With the double-angle formula we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int \sin^2 x \, dx &= \int \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos(2x)) \, dx = \frac{1}{2} \left(x - \frac{1}{2} \sin(2x) \right) + C \\
 &= \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{4} \sin(2x) + C.
 \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Evaluate the following integral

$$\int_0^{\pi} \sin^2 x \cdot \cos^2 x \, dx.$$

In this example we have to apply the double angle formulae a couple of times:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\pi} \sin^2 x \cdot \cos^2 x \, dx &= \int_0^{\pi} \frac{1}{4} (1 - \cos(2x)) (1 + \cos(2x)) \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_0^{\pi} (1 - \cos^2(2x)) \, dx && \text{(using } (a+b)(a-b) = a^2 - b^2 \text{)} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_0^{\pi} \sin^2(2x) \, dx && \text{(using } \cos^2(2x) + \sin^2(2x) = 1 \text{)} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_0^{\pi} \frac{1}{2} (1 - \cos(4x)) \, dx && \text{(using the double angle formula again)} \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \left[x - \frac{1}{4} \sin(4x) \right]_0^{\pi} \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \left(\pi - \frac{1}{4} \sin(4\pi) - \left(0 - \frac{1}{4} \sin 0 \right) \right) = \frac{\pi}{8}. \end{aligned}$$

(iii) Evaluate the definite integral

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2 x \, dx.$$

Solution in video

(iv) Evaluate the following integral

$$\int \sin^6 x \, dx.$$

Solution in video

Integrals involving

$$\sin(mx) \cdot \cos(nx), \quad \sin(mx) \cdot \sin(nx) \quad \text{or} \quad \cos(mx) \cdot \cos(nx)$$

Use one of the following formulae

$$\sin \alpha \cdot \cos \beta = \frac{1}{2} [\sin(\alpha - \beta) + \sin(\alpha + \beta)],$$

$$\sin \alpha \cdot \sin \beta = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(\alpha - \beta) - \cos(\alpha + \beta)],$$

$$\cos \alpha \cdot \cos \beta = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(\alpha - \beta) + \cos(\alpha + \beta)].$$

Examples 1.8.

(i) Evaluate the following integral

$$\int \sin(3x) \cdot \cos(4x) \, dx.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sin(3x) \cdot \cos(4x) \, dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int (\sin(3x - 4x) + \sin(3x + 4x)) \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int (-\sin x + \sin 7x) \, dx = \frac{1}{2} \cos x - \frac{1}{14} \cos 7x + C. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Evaluate

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \cos(2x) \cdot \cos x \, dx.$$

Solution in video

Other integrals involving $\sin x$ and $\cos x$

If the integrand is a rational function of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$, one can use the following substitution:

$$t = \tan \frac{x}{2}, \quad dx = \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt,$$

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

which leads to a rational integrand in t .

Let us see why for the substitution $t = \tan \frac{x}{2}$ the other three formulae above are valid.

If $x \in (-\pi, \pi)$, we can reformulate the relation $t = \tan \frac{x}{2}$ as

$$x = 2 \arctan t.$$

(Otherwise, we just have to add a constant on the right-hand side.) From this we obtain

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 2 \frac{1}{1+t^2} \implies dx = \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt.$$

Let us find a relation between t and $\cos x$:

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

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} t^2 + t^2 \cos x &= 1 - \cos x &\iff t^2 \cos x + \cos x &= 1 - t^2 \\ &&\iff (t^2 + 1) \cos x &= 1 - t^2 \\ &&\iff \cos x &= \frac{1 - t^2}{1 + t^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we can also express $\sin x$ in terms of t :

$$\begin{aligned} \sin x &= \pm \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 x} = \pm \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{1 - t^2}{1 + t^2} \right)^2} = \pm \sqrt{1 - \frac{1 - 2t^2 + t^4}{(1 + t^2)^2}} \\ &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 + 2t^2 + t^4 - (1 - 2t^2 + t^4)}{(1 + t^2)^2}} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{4t^2}{(1 + t^2)^2}} = \frac{2t}{1 + t^2} \end{aligned}$$

where the plus signs have to be chosen for $x \in [0, \pi)$ and the minus signs for $x \in (-\pi, 0)$.

Examples 1.9.

- (i) Use the substitution $t = \tan \frac{x}{2}$ to evaluate the integral

$$\int \frac{1}{\sin x} dx.$$

With the formulae from above we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{\sin x} dx &= \int \frac{1}{\frac{2t}{1+t^2}} \cdot \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt \\ &= \int \frac{1}{t} dt = \ln |t| + C = \ln \left| \tan \frac{x}{2} \right| + C. \end{aligned}$$

- (ii) Use the substitution $t = \tan \frac{x}{2}$ to evaluate the integral

$$\int \frac{1}{1 + 2 \cos x} dx.$$

Solution in video

$$\int e^{ax} \cos(mx) dx, \quad \int e^{ax} \sin(mx) dx$$

1. Set I to be the integral.
2. Use integration by parts twice. Either differentiate e^{ax} in both steps or integrate e^{ax} in both steps, but do not mix.
3. The right-hand side now involves I . Solve the equation for I .

Example 1.10.

Evaluate the following integral

$$\int e^{-2x} \cos(3x) dx.$$

Solution in video

1.5 Integrals Involving Square Roots

Integrals involving $\sqrt{ax + b}$

Use the substitution $u = \sqrt{ax + b}$.

Solve this equation for x and differentiate with respect to u to obtain the connection between dx and du .

Sometimes one can also use the substitution $u = ax + b$, but there are cases where it doesn't help; see Example 1.11 (ii).

Examples 1.11.

(i) Evaluate the following integral

$$\int (x + 2)\sqrt{2x + 1} \, dx.$$

We use the substitution

$$u = \sqrt{2x + 1}, \quad \implies \quad x = \frac{1}{2}(u^2 - 1).$$

$$\implies \quad \frac{dx}{du} = u \quad \implies \quad dx = u \, du.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \int (x + 2)\sqrt{2x + 1} \, dx &= \int \left(\frac{1}{2}(u^2 - 1) + 2 \right) u \cdot u \, du = \frac{1}{2} \int (u^2 + 3)u^2 \, du \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int (u^4 + 3u^2) \, du = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{5}u^5 + u^3 \right) + C = \frac{1}{10}(2x + 1)^{5/2} + \frac{1}{2}(2x + 1)^{3/2} + C. \end{aligned}$$

Alternative Solution: With the substitution

$$u = 2x + 1, \quad x = \frac{1}{2}(u - 1), \quad du = 2 \, dx$$

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int (x + 2)\sqrt{2x + 1} \, dx &= \int \left(\frac{1}{2}(u - 1) + 2 \right) \sqrt{u} \frac{1}{2} \, du \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int (u + 3)u^{1/2} \, du = \frac{1}{4} \int \left(u^{3/2} + 3u^{1/2} \right) \, du \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{2}{5}u^{5/2} + 3 \cdot \frac{2}{3}u^{3/2} \right) + C = \frac{1}{10}u^{5/2} + \frac{1}{2}u^{3/2} + C \\ &= \frac{1}{10}(2x + 1)^{5/2} + \frac{1}{2}(2x + 1)^{3/2} + C. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Evaluate the following integral

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{x+1}}{x} dx.$$

Solution in video

Integrals involving $\sqrt{Ax^2 + Bx + C}$

By completing the square one can write $Ax^2 + Bx + C$ as

$$(bx + c)^2 + a^2, \quad (bx + c)^2 - a^2 \quad \text{or} \quad a^2 - (bx + c)^2.$$

(Two minus signs cannot occur unless the expression under the square root is negative for all x .) We can assume that $a \neq 0$ because otherwise, the expression under the square root is a perfect square. Without loss of generality we assume that $a > 0$. We can also assume that $b \neq 0$ because otherwise, the expression under the square root is a constant. Again without loss of generality we assume that $b > 0$.

In all three cases we set $bx + c$ equal to a times some trigonometric function of u .

Integrals involving $\sqrt{Ax^2 + Bx + C}$

1. By completing the square, express $Ax^2 + Bx + C$ in the form $\pm(bx + c)^2 \pm a^2$ with $a > 0$ and $b > 0$.
2. Make the following substitution according to the signs:
 - (i) $\sqrt{(bx + c)^2 + a^2}$: $bx + c = a \tan u$
 - (ii) $\sqrt{(bx + c)^2 - a^2}$: $bx + c = a \sec u$
 - (iii) $\sqrt{a^2 - (bx + c)^2}$: $bx + c = a \sin u$
3. Use the trigonometric identities

$$\cos^2 u + \sin^2 u = 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \tan^2 u + 1 = \sec^2 u$$

to write the expression under the square root as a complete square.

Remark 1.4.

- In the special case when $b = 1, c = 0$ we have the following substitutions:

$$\sqrt{x^2 + a^2} : x = a \tan u;$$

$$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} : x = a \sec u;$$

$$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2} : x = a \sin u.$$

- In case (i) one takes

$$u \in \left(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \quad \text{so that} \quad u = \arctan \frac{bx + c}{a};$$

for such u one has $\sec u > 0$.

In case (ii) one usually takes

$$u \in \left[0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \quad \text{when } bx + c \geq a$$

and

$$u \in \left[\pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}\right) \quad \text{when } bx + c \leq -a;$$

in both cases one has $\tan u \geq 0$.

In case (iii) one takes

$$u \in \left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right] \quad \text{so that} \quad u = \arcsin \frac{bx + c}{a};$$

for such u one has $\cos u \geq 0$.

- Sometimes it is better to use the substitutions

$$bx + c = a \sinh u \quad \text{in case (i)}$$

and

$$bx + c = a \cosh u \quad \text{in case (ii)}.$$

Example 1.12.

Let us consider a couple of examples that show which substitution should be used.

- Integrand contains $\sqrt{3^2 - (2x + 5)^2}$:
use the substitution $2x + 5 = 3 \sin u$.
- Integrand contains $\sqrt{(2x - 3)^2 + 4^2}$:
use the substitution $2x - 3 = 4 \tan u$.
- Integrand contains $\sqrt{(6x + 1)^2 - 5^2}$:
use the substitution $6x + 1 = 5 \sec u$.
- Integrand contains $\sqrt{9x^2 + 4} = \sqrt{(3x)^2 + 2^2}$:
use the substitution $3x = 2 \tan u$.
- Integrand contains $\sqrt{1 - (2x)^2}$:
use the substitution $2x = \sin u$.
- Integrand contains $\sqrt{x^2 - 4^2}$:
use the substitution $x = 4 \sec u$.

Examples 1.13.

(i) Let $r > 0$ be a positive constant and evaluate the definite integral

$$\int_{-r}^r \sqrt{r^2 - x^2} \, dx.$$

We can use the substitution

$$x = r \sin u \quad (u \in \left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]),$$

$$\frac{dx}{du} = r \cos u \quad \implies \quad dx = r \cos u \, du,$$

$$u = \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{r}\right),$$

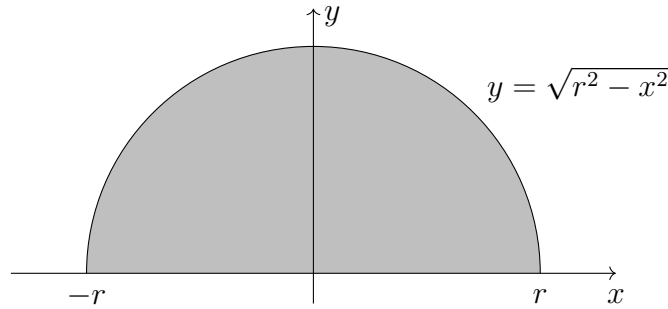
$$x = -r \quad \implies \quad u = \arcsin(-1) = -\frac{\pi}{2},$$

$$x = r \quad \implies \quad u = \arcsin(1) = \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-r}^r \sqrt{r^2 - x^2} \, dx &= \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \sqrt{r^2 - (r \sin u)^2} \cdot r \cos u \, du \\ &= r \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \sqrt{r^2(1 - \sin^2 u)} \cdot \cos u \, du \\ &= r \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \sqrt{r^2 \cos^2 u} \cdot \cos u \, du = r^2 \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \cos^2 u \, du \\ &= 2r^2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \cos^2 u \, du \quad (\text{since the integrand is even}) \\ &= 2r^2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos(2u)) \, du \\ &= r^2 \left[u + \frac{1}{2} \sin(2u) \right]_0^{\pi/2} = r^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sin \pi - 0 \right) \\ &= \frac{r^2 \pi}{2} \end{aligned}$$

The graph of the integrand is the upper half of the circle $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$.



The area under this curve is exactly half the area of the disc with radius r .

(ii) Evaluate the following integral

$$\int \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 - 4x - 5}} dx.$$

First we have to complete the square for the expression under the square root:

$$x^2 - 4x - 5 = (x - 2)^2 - 2^2 - 5 = (x - 2)^2 - 9 = (x - 2)^2 - 3^2.$$

We use the following substitution

$$\begin{aligned} x - 2 &= 3 \sec u \\ \implies x &= 3 \sec u + 2 \\ \implies \frac{dx}{du} &= 3 \sec u \cdot \tan u \\ \implies dx &= 3 \sec u \cdot \tan u \, du. \end{aligned}$$

The square root can be written as

$$\sqrt{x^2 - 4x - 5} = \sqrt{9 \sec^2 u - 9} = \sqrt{9(\sec^2 u - 1)} = \sqrt{9 \tan^2 u} = 3 \tan u,$$

where we used the fact that we can choose u in an interval such that $\tan u \geq 0$; see Remark 1.4. Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 - 4x - 5}} dx &= \int \frac{3 \sec u + 2}{3 \tan u} 3 \sec u \cdot \tan u \, du \\ &= \int (3 \sec u + 2) \sec u \, du = \int (3 \sec^2 u + 2 \sec u) \, du \\ &= 3 \tan u + 2 \ln |\sec u + \tan u| + C \\ &= 3 \sqrt{\sec^2 u - 1} + 2 \ln |\sec u + \sqrt{\sec^2 u - 1}| + C \\ &= 3 \sqrt{\left(\frac{x-2}{3}\right)^2 - 1} + 2 \ln \left| \frac{x-2}{3} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{x-2}{3}\right)^2 - 1} \right| + C. \end{aligned}$$

One can simplify this expression as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 3\sqrt{\frac{(x-2)^2-9}{9}} + 2\ln\left|\frac{x-2}{3} + \sqrt{\frac{(x-2)^2-9}{9}}\right| + C \\
 &= \sqrt{(x-2)^2-9} + 2\ln\left|\frac{1}{3}\left(x-2 + \sqrt{(x-2)^2-9}\right)\right| + C \\
 &= \sqrt{x^2-4x-5} + 2\ln\frac{1}{3} + 2\ln\left|x-2 + \sqrt{x^2-4x-5}\right| + C \\
 &= \sqrt{x^2-4x-5} + 2\ln\left|x-2 + \sqrt{x^2-4x-5}\right| + C'
 \end{aligned}$$

with a new constant $C' = C - 2\ln 3$.

(iii) Evaluate the following integral

$$\int \sqrt{9-4x^2} \, dx.$$

Solution in video

(iv) Evaluate the definite integral

$$\int_0^2 \frac{dx}{(x^2+2x+4)^{3/2}}.$$

Solution in video