

## Integration by successive reduction

**1Exam:** Find the reduction formula for  $I_n = \int x^n e^{ax} dx$  hence find  $\int x^3 e^{ax} dx$

**Soln.** 
$$I_n = \int x^n e^{ax} dx = x^n \frac{e^{ax}}{a} - \int nx^{n-1} \frac{e^{ax}}{a} dx$$

$$= x^n \frac{e^{ax}}{a} - \frac{n}{a} \int x^{n-1} e^{ax} dx = x^n \frac{e^{ax}}{a} - \frac{n}{a} I_{n-1}$$

$$I_n = x^n \frac{e^{ax}}{a} - \frac{n}{a} I_{n-1}$$

**2<sup>nd</sup> part**

$$I_3 = \int x^3 e^{ax} dx = x^3 \frac{e^{ax}}{a} - \frac{3}{a} I_2$$

$$= x^3 \frac{e^{ax}}{a} - \frac{3}{a} \left( x^2 \frac{e^{ax}}{a} - \frac{2}{a} I_1 \right) = \frac{x^3 e^{ax}}{a} - \frac{3x^2 e^{ax}}{a^2} + \frac{6}{a^2} I_1$$

$$= \frac{x^3 e^{ax}}{a} - \frac{3x^2 e^{ax}}{a^2} + \frac{6}{a^2} \left( x \frac{e^{ax}}{a} - \frac{1}{a} I_0 \right)$$

$$= \frac{x^3 e^{ax}}{a} - \frac{3x^2 e^{ax}}{a^2} + \frac{6}{a^3} x e^{ax} - \frac{6}{a^3} \int e^{ax} dx$$

$$= \frac{x^3 e^{ax}}{a} - \frac{3x^2 e^{ax}}{a^2} + \frac{6x e^{ax}}{a^3} - \frac{6e^{ax}}{a^4} + c$$

**2Example:** Find the reduction formula for  $I_n = \int \tan^n x dx$  hence find  $\int \tan^6 x dx$

**Soln.**

$$I_n = \int \tan^n x dx = \int \tan^{n-2} x \tan^2 x dx$$

$$= \int \tan^{n-2} x (\sec^2 x - 1) dx$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \int \tan^{n-2} x \sec^2 x \, dx - \int \tan^{n-2} x \, dx \\
&= \int \tan^{n-2} x \, d(\tan x) = \frac{\tan^{n-1} x}{n-1} - I_{n-2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$I_n = \frac{\tan^{n-1} x}{n-1} - I_{n-2}$$

2<sup>nd</sup>

$$I_6 = \int \tan^6 x \, dx = \frac{\tan^5 x}{5} - I_4$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{\tan^5 x}{5} - \left[ \frac{\tan^3 x}{3} - I_2 \right] = \frac{\tan^5 x}{5} - \frac{\tan^3 x}{3} + \tan x - I_0 \\
&= \frac{\tan^5 x}{5} - \frac{\tan^3 x}{3} + \tan x - x + c
\end{aligned}$$

**3Example:** Find the reduction formula for  $I_n = \int \sin^n x \, dx$  hence find  $\int \sin^4 x \, dx$

Soln:

$$\begin{aligned}
I_n &= \int \sin^n x \, dx = \int \sin^{n-1} x \sin x \, dx \\
&= \sin^{n-1} x (-\cos x) - \int (n-1) \sin^{n-2} x \cos x (-\cos x) \, dx \\
&= -\sin^{n-1} x \cos x + (n-1) \int \sin^{n-2} x (1 - \sin^2 x) \, dx \\
&= -\sin^{n-1} x \cos x + (n-1) \int \sin^{n-2} x \, dx - (n-1) \int \sin^n x \, dx \\
&= -\sin^{n-1} x \cos x + (n-1) I_{n-2} - (n-1) I_n \\
&\Rightarrow I_n + (n-1) I_n = -\sin^{n-1} x \cos x + (n-1) I_{n-2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow I_n = -\frac{\sin^{n-1} x \cos x}{n} + \frac{n-1}{n} I_{n-2}$$

2<sup>nd</sup> part

$$I_4 = -\frac{\sin^3 x \cos x}{4} + \frac{3}{4} I_2 = -\frac{\sin^3 x \cos x}{4} + \frac{3}{4} \int \sin^2 x dx$$

$$= -\frac{\sin^3 x \cos x}{4} + \frac{3}{8} \int (1 - \cos 2x) dx$$

$$= -\frac{\sin^3 x \cos x}{4} + \frac{3x}{8} - \frac{3 \cos 2x}{16} + c$$

**4Example:** Find the reduction formula for  $I_n = \int e^{ax} \cos^n x dx$

$$I_n = \int e^{ax} \cos^n x dx$$

$$= \frac{\cos^n x e^{ax}}{a} + \frac{n}{a} \int e^{ax} \cos^n x \sin x dx$$

$$= \frac{\cos^n x e^{ax}}{a} + \frac{n}{a}$$

$$\left[ \cos^{n-1} x \sin x \frac{e^{ax}}{a} - \int [(n-1) \cos^{n-2} x (-\sin x) \sin x + \cos^{n-1} x \cos x] \frac{e^{ax}}{a} dx \right]$$

$$= \frac{\cos^n x e^{ax}}{a} + \frac{n \cos^{n-1} x \sin x e^{ax}}{a^2} - \frac{n}{a^2} \int [e^{ax} [(n-1) \cos^{n-2} x [\cos^2 x - 1] + \cos^n x] dx]$$

$$\frac{e^{ax} \cos^{n-1} x \{a \cos x + n \sin x\}}{a^2} - \frac{n}{a^2} \left[ n \int e^{ax} \cos^n x dx - (n-1) \int e^{ax} \cos^{n-2} x dx \right]$$

$$\left( 1 + \frac{n^2}{a^2} \right) I_n = \frac{e^{ax} \cos^{n-1} x \{a \cos x + n \sin x\}}{a^2} + \frac{n(n-1)}{a^2} I_{n-2}$$

$$I_n = \frac{e^{ax} \cos^{n-1} x \{a \cos x + n \sin x\}}{n^2 + a^2} + \frac{n(n-1)}{n^2 + a^2} I_{n-2}$$

**5Example:** Find the reduction formula for  $I_n = \int (a^2 + x^2)^n dx$

**Soln:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_n &= \int (a^2 + x^2)^n dx = x(a^2 + x^2)^n - n \int (a^2 + x^2)^{n-1} 2x^2 dx \\
 &= x(a^2 + x^2)^n - 2n \int (a^2 + x^2)^{n-1} (a^2 + x^2 - a^2) dx \\
 &= x(a^2 + x^2)^n - 2n \int (a^2 + x^2)^n dx + 2na^2 \int (a^2 + x^2)^{n-1} dx \\
 &= x(a^2 + x^2)^n - 2nI_n + 2na^2 I_{n-1} \\
 \Rightarrow (2n+1)I_n &= x(a^2 + x^2)^n + 2na^2 I_{n-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore I_n = \frac{x(a^2 + x^2)^n}{2n+1} + \frac{2na^2}{2n+1} I_{n-1}$$

**6Example:** Find the reduction formula for  $I_{m,n} = \int \frac{dx}{x^m(a+bx)^n}$

and hence evaluate  $\int \frac{dx}{x^4(a+bx)^3}$

**Soln:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{m,n} &= \int \frac{dx}{x^m(a+bx)^n} \\
 &= \frac{1}{-(m-1)x^{m-1}(a+bx)^n} - \int \frac{-nb dx}{-(m-1)x^{m-1}(a+bx)^{n+1}} \\
 &= -\frac{1}{(m-1)x^{m-1}(a+bx)^n} - \frac{n}{(m-1)} \int \frac{bx dx}{x^m(a+bx)^{n+1}} \\
 &= -\frac{1}{(m-1)x^{m-1}(a+bx)^n} - \frac{n}{(m-1)} \int \frac{a+bx-a}{x^m(a+bx)^{n+1}} dx
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= -\frac{1}{(m-1)x^{m-1}(a+bx)^n} - \frac{n}{(m-1)} \int \frac{a+bx}{x^m(a+bx)^{n+1}} dx \\
&\quad + \frac{an}{(m-1)} \int \frac{1}{x^m(a+bx)^{n+1}} dx \\
&= -\frac{1}{(m-1)x^{m-1}(a+bx)^n} - \frac{n}{(m-1)} \int \frac{1}{x^m(a+bx)^n} dx \\
&\quad + \frac{an}{(m-1)} \int \frac{1}{x^m(a+bx)^{n+1}} dx \\
&= -\frac{1}{(m-1)x^{m-1}(a+bx)^n} - \frac{n}{(m-1)} I_{m,n} + \frac{an}{(m-1)} I_{m,n+1} \\
&\Rightarrow \frac{an}{(m-1)} I_{m,n+1} = \frac{1}{(m-1)x^{m-1}(a+bx)^n} + \left(1 + \frac{n}{(m-1)}\right) I_{m,n}
\end{aligned}$$

Changing  $n$  to  $n-1$  On both sides ,

$$\frac{a(n-1)}{(m-1)} I_{m,n} = \frac{1}{(m-1)x^{m-1}(a+bx)^{n-1}} + \left(1 + \frac{n-1}{(m-1)}\right) I_{m,n-1}$$

$$I_{m,n} = \frac{1}{a(n-1)x^{m-1}(a+bx)^{n-1}} + \frac{m+n-2}{a(n-1)} I_{m,n-1}$$

**2<sup>nd</sup> part**

$$I_{4,3} = \int \frac{dx}{x^4(a+bx)^3}$$

**7Example:** Find the reduction formula for  $I_{m,n} = \int x^m (\ln x)^n dx$

**Soln:**

$$\begin{aligned}
I_{m,n} &= \int x^m (\ln x)^n dx = (\ln x)^n \frac{x^{m+1}}{m+1} - \int n(\ln x)^{n-1} \frac{1}{x} \frac{x^{m+1}}{m+1} dx \\
&= (\ln x)^n \frac{x^{m+1}}{m+1} - \frac{n}{m+1} \int x^m (\ln x)^{n-1} dx
\end{aligned}$$

$$= (\ln x)^n \frac{x^{m+1}}{m+1} - \frac{n}{m+1} I_{m,n-1}$$

$$I_{m,n} = (\ln x)^n \frac{x^{m+1}}{m+1} - \frac{n}{m+1} I_{m,n-1}$$

**8Example:** Find the reduction formula for

$$I_{m,n} = \int \cos^m x \cos nx \, dx \quad \text{hence find } \int \cos^3 x \cos 3x \, dx$$

**Soln**  $I_{m,n} = \int \cos^m x \cos nx \, dx$

$$= \cos^m x \frac{\sin nx}{n} - \int m \cos^{m-1} x (-\sin x) \frac{\sin nx}{n} dx$$

$$= \cos^m x \frac{\sin nx}{n} + \frac{m}{n} \int \cos^{m-1} x \sin x \sin nx \, dx$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos(n-1)x = \cos nx \cos x + \sin nx \sin x \\ \sin nx \sin x = \cos(n-1)x - \cos nx \cos x \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \cos^m x \frac{\sin nx}{n} + \frac{m}{n} \int \cos^{m-1} x [\cos(n-1)x - \cos nx \cos x] \, dx$$

$$= \cos^m x \frac{\sin nx}{n} + \frac{m}{n} \int \cos^{m-1} x \cos(n-1)x \, dx - \frac{m}{n} \int \cos^m x \cos nx \, dx$$

$$= \cos^m x \frac{\sin nx}{n} + \frac{m}{n} I_{m-1,n-1} - \frac{m}{n} I_{m,n}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(1 + \frac{m}{n}\right) I_{m,n} = \frac{\cos^m x \sin nx}{n} + \frac{m}{n} I_{m-1,n-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{m+n}{n}\right) I_{m,n} = \frac{\cos^m x \sin nx}{n} + \frac{m}{n} I_{m-1,n-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow I_{m,n} = \frac{\cos^m x \sin n x}{m+n} + \frac{m}{m+n} I_{m-1,n-1}$$

2<sup>nd</sup> part

$$I_{3,3} = \frac{\cos^3 x \sin 3x}{6} + \frac{3}{6} I_{2,2} = \frac{\cos^3 x \sin 3x}{6} + \frac{3}{6} \left[ \frac{\cos^2 x \sin 2x}{4} + \frac{2}{4} I_{1,1} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\cos^3 x \sin 3x}{6} + \frac{\cos^2 x \sin 2x}{8} + \frac{1}{4} I_{1,1}$$

$$= \frac{\cos^3 x \sin 3x}{6} + \frac{\cos^2 x \sin 2x}{8} + \frac{1}{4} \left[ \frac{\cos x \sin x}{2} + \frac{1}{2} I_{0,0} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\cos^3 x \sin 3x}{6} + \frac{\cos^2 x \sin 2x}{8} + \frac{\cos x \sin x}{8} + \frac{1}{8} \int dx$$

$$= \frac{\cos^3 x \sin 3x}{6} + \frac{\cos^2 x \sin 2x}{8} + \frac{\cos x \sin x}{8} + \frac{x}{8} + c$$

**9Example:** Find the reduction formula for

$I_{m,n} = \int \sin^m x \cos^n x \, dx$  , m, n positive integer is

$$I_{m,n} = \frac{\sin^{m+1} x \cos^{n-1} x}{m+n} + \frac{n-1}{m+n} I_{m,n-2}$$

or

$$I_{m,n} = -\frac{\sin^{m-1} x \cos^{n+1} x}{m+n} + \frac{m-1}{m+n} I_{m-2,n}$$

hence find  $\int \sin^2 x \cos^3 x \, dx$

**Soln**

$$\begin{aligned}
I_{m,n} &= \int \sin^m x \cos^n x \, dx \\
&= \int \cos^{n-1} x (\cos x \sin^m x) \, dx \\
&= \cos^{n-1} x \frac{\sin^{m+1} x}{m+1} - (n-1) \int \cos^{n-2} x (-\sin x) \frac{\sin^{m+1} x}{m+1} \, dx \\
&= \frac{\sin^{m+1} x \cos^{n-1} x}{m+1} + \frac{n-1}{m+1} \int \cos^{n-2} x (1 - \cos^2 x) \sin^m x \, dx \\
&= \frac{\sin^{m+1} x \cos^{n-1} x}{m+1} + \frac{n-1}{m+1} \int \sin^m x \cos^{n-2} x \, dx \\
&\quad - \frac{n-1}{m+1} \int \cos^n x \sin^m x \, dx \\
&= \frac{\sin^{m+1} x \cos^{n-1} x}{m+1} + \frac{n-1}{m+1} I_{m,n-2} - \frac{n-1}{m+1} I_{m,n} \\
\Rightarrow \left[ 1 + \frac{n-1}{m+1} \right] I_{m,n} &= \frac{\sin^{m+1} x \cos^{n-1} x}{m+1} + \frac{n-1}{m+1} I_{m,n-2} \\
\Rightarrow \left[ \frac{m+n}{m+1} \right] I_{m,n} &= \frac{\sin^{m+1} x \cos^{n-1} x}{m+1} + \frac{n-1}{m+1} I_{m,n-2} \\
\Rightarrow I_{m,n} &= \frac{\sin^{m+1} x \cos^{n-1} x}{m+n} + \frac{n-1}{m+n} I_{m,n-2}
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly

$$\begin{aligned}
I_{m,n} &= \int \sin^{m-1} x (\sin x \cos^n x) \, dx \\
&= -\frac{\sin^{m-1} x \cos^{n+1} x}{m+n} + \frac{m-1}{m+n} I_{m-2,n}
\end{aligned}$$

2<sup>nd</sup> part

$$I_{2,3} = \int \sin^2 x \cos^5 x \, dx$$



$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{\sin^3 x \cos^4 x}{7} + \frac{4}{7} I_{2,3} \\
&= \frac{\sin^3 x \cos^4 x}{7} + \frac{4}{7} \left[ \frac{\sin^3 x \cos^2 x}{5} + \frac{2}{5} I_{2,1} \right] \\
&= \frac{\sin^3 x \cos^4 x}{7} + \frac{4 \sin^3 x \cos^2 x}{35} + \frac{8}{15} I_{2,1} \\
&= \frac{\sin^3 x \cos^4 x}{7} + \frac{4 \sin^3 x \cos^2 x}{35} + \frac{8}{35} \int \sin^2 x \cos x \, dx \\
&= \frac{\sin^3 x \cos^4 x}{7} + \frac{4 \sin^3 x \cos^2 x}{35} + \frac{8}{35} \int \sin^2 x \, d(\sin x) \\
&= \frac{\sin^3 x \cos^4 x}{7} + \frac{4 \sin^3 x \cos^2 x}{35} + \frac{8}{105} \sin^3 x + c
\end{aligned}$$