

The integral $\int \tan^2(x) \sec^3(x) dx$ is the case of even tangent and odd secant. Start by transforming this into a sum of secant powers. Using the identity $\sec^2(x) - 1 = \tan^2(x)$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int \tan^2(x) \sec^3(x) dx &= \int (\sec^2(x) - 1) \sec^3(x) dx \\ &= \int \sec^5(x) dx - \int \sec^3(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

We will label these integrals $I_1 = \int \sec^5(x) dx$ and $I_2 = \int \sec^3(x) dx$.

Computing I_2

As this is a case of lonely secant powers, pull off a $\sec^2(x)$ term and perform integration by parts with $dv = \sec^2(x) dx$.

$$I_2 = \int \sec^3(x) dx = \int \sec(x) \sec^2(x) dx$$

Then $u = \sec(x)$ and so we compute

$$\begin{array}{ccc} u = \sec(x) & & du = \sec(x) \tan(x) dx \\ & \searrow & \uparrow \\ dv = \sec^2(x) dx & & v = \tan(x) \end{array}$$

and thus

$$\begin{aligned} I_2 &= \int \sec^3(x) dx \\ &= \sec(x) \tan(x) - \int \sec(x) \tan^2(x) dx \\ &= \sec(x) \tan(x) - \int \sec(x) (\sec^2(x) - 1) dx \\ &= \sec(x) \tan(x) - \int \sec^3(x) dx + \int \sec(x) dx \\ &= \sec(x) \tan(x) - I_2 + \ln |\sec(x) + \tan(x)| \end{aligned}$$

To which we collect and solve for I_2 to obtain

$$I_2 = \frac{1}{2} \sec(x) \tan(x) + \frac{1}{2} \ln |\sec(x) + \tan(x)| + C$$

Computing I_1

We perform integration by parts as above to express this integral in terms of an integral of $\sec^{5-2}(x) = \sec^3(x)$. By pulling off a $\sec^2(x)$ and setting $dv = \sec^2(x) dx$ we obtain

$$I_1 = \int \sec^5(x) dx = \int \sec^3(x) \sec^2(x) dx$$

Then $u = \sec^3(x)$ and so we compute

$$\begin{array}{ccc} u = \sec^3(x) & & du = 3\sec^3(x) \tan(x) dx \\ & \searrow & \uparrow \\ dv = \sec^2(x) dx & & v = \tan(x) \end{array}$$

and thus

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &= \int \sec^5(x) dx \\ &= \sec^3(x) \tan(x) - 3 \int \sec^3(x) \tan^2(x) dx \\ &= \sec^3(x) \tan(x) - 3 \int \sec^3(x) (\sec^2(x) - 1) dx \\ &= \sec^3(x) \tan(x) - 3 \int \sec^5(x) dx + 3 \int \sec^3(x) dx \\ &= \sec^3(x) \tan(x) - 3I_1 + 3I_2 \\ &= \sec^3(x) \tan(x) - 3I_1 + 3 \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sec(x) \tan(x) + \frac{1}{2} \ln |\sec(x) + \tan(x)| \right\} \\ &= \sec^3(x) \tan(x) + \frac{3}{2} \sec(x) \tan(x) + \frac{3}{2} \ln |\sec(x) + \tan(x)| - 3I_1 \end{aligned}$$

To which we collect and solve for I_1 to obtain

$$I_1 = \frac{1}{4} \sec^3(x) \tan(x) + \frac{3}{8} \sec(x) \tan(x) + \frac{3}{8} \ln |\sec(x) + \tan(x)| + C$$

Finally we combine both integrals to complete the integral as

$$\begin{aligned} \int \tan^2(x) \sec^3(x) dx &= I_1 - I_2 \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{4} \sec^3(x) \tan(x) + \frac{3}{8} \sec(x) \tan(x) + \frac{3}{8} \ln |\sec(x) + \tan(x)| \right) \\ &\quad - \left(\frac{1}{2} \sec(x) \tan(x) + \frac{1}{2} \ln |\sec(x) + \tan(x)| \right) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sec^3(x) \tan(x) - \frac{1}{8} \sec(x) \tan(x) - \frac{1}{8} \ln |\sec(x) + \tan(x)| + C \end{aligned}$$