

Strategy for Evaluating $\int \sin^m x \cos^n x dx$

- (a) If the power of cosine is odd ($n = 2k + 1$), save one cosine factor and use $\cos^2 x = 1 - \sin^2 x$ to express the remaining factors in terms of sine:

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

Then substitute $u = \sin x$.

- (b) If the power of sine is odd ($m = 2k + 1$), save one sine factor and use $\sin^2 x = 1 - \cos^2 x$ to express the remaining factors in terms of cosine:

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

Then substitute $u = \cos x$. [Note that if the powers of both sine and cosine are odd, either (a) or (b) can be used.]

- (c) If the powers of both sine and cosine are even, use the half-angle identities

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

It is sometimes helpful to use the identity

$$\sin x \cos x = \frac{1}{2} \sin 2x$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int \cos^3 x \, dx = \\
 &= \int (\cos^2 x) (\cos x) \, dx \\
 &= \int (1 - \sin^2 x) (\cos x) \, dx \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} u = \sin x \\ du = \cos x \, dx \end{array} \right\} \\
 &= \int (1 - u^2) \, du \\
 &= u - \frac{u^3}{3} + C \\
 &= \underline{\sin x - \frac{1}{3} \sin^3 x + C}
 \end{aligned}$$

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

$$= \int \sin^4 x \cos^2 x \sin x \, dx$$

$$= \int (\sin^2 x)^2 \cos^2 x \sin x \, dx$$

$$= \int (1 - \cos^2 x)^2 \cos^2 x \sin x \, dx \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} u = \cos x \\ du = -\sin x \, dx \end{array} \right.$$

$$= - \int (1 - u^2)^2 u^2 \, du$$

$$= - \int (1 - 2u^2 + u^4) u^2 \, du$$

$$= - \int (u^2 - 2u^4 + u^6) \, du$$

$$= - \left(\frac{u^3}{3} - 2 \frac{u^5}{5} + \frac{u^7}{7} \right) + C$$

$$= - \left(\frac{1}{3} \cos^3 x - \frac{2}{5} \cos^5 x + \frac{1}{7} \cos^7 x \right) + C$$
