

W02 Notes

Trig power products

Videos, Math Dr. Bob:

- [Trig power products](#): $\int \cos^m x \sin^n x dx$
- [Trig differing frequencies](#): $\int \cos mx \sin nx dx$
- [Trig tan and sec](#): $\int \tan^m x \sec^n x dx$
- [Secant power](#): $\int \sec^5 x dx$

Videos, Organic Chemistry Tutor:

- [Trig power product techniques](#)
- [Trig substitution](#)

01 Theory

Review: trig identities

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

📌 Trig power product: sin / cos

A sin / cos power product has this form:

$$\int \cos^m x \cdot \sin^n x dx$$

for some integers m and n (even negative!).

To compute these integrals, use a sequence of these techniques:

- **Swap an even bunch.**
- **u -sub for power-one.**
- **Power-to-frequency conversion.**

- 🕒 Memorize these three techniques!

Examples of trig power products:

- $\int \sin x \cdot \cos^7 x dx$
- $\int \sin^3 x dx$
- $\int \sin^2 x \cdot \cos^2 x dx$

📌 Swap an even bunch

If *either* $\cos^m x$ or $\sin^n x$ is an *odd* power, use

$$\sin^2 x \gg \gg 1 - \cos^2 x$$

$$\text{OR } \cos^2 x \gg \gg 1 - \sin^2 x$$

(maybe repeatedly) to convert an **even bunch** to the opposite trig type.

An **even bunch** is *all but one* from the odd power.

For example:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin^5 x \cdot \cos^8 x &\gg \gg \sin x (\sin^2 x)^2 \cdot \cos^8 x \\ &\gg \gg \sin x (1 - \cos^2 x)^2 \cdot \cos^8 x \\ &\gg \gg \sin x (1 - 2\cos^2 x + \cos^4 x) \cdot \cos^8 x \\ &\gg \gg \sin x (\cos^8 x - 2\cos^{10} x + \cos^{12} x) \\ &\gg \gg \sin x \cos^8 x - 2\sin x \cos^{10} x + \sin x \cos^{12} x \end{aligned}$$

u-sub for power-one

If $m = 1$ or $n = 1$, *perform u-substitution* to do the integral.

The *other* trig power becomes a u power; the power-one becomes du .

For example, using $u = \cos x$ and thus $du = -\sin x dx$ we can do:

$$\int \sin x \cos^8 x dx \gg \gg \int -\cos^8 x (-\sin x dx) \gg \gg -\int u^8 du$$

-  By combining these tricks you can do any power product with at least one odd power!
 - Leave a power-one from the odd power when swapping an even bunch.
-  Notice: $1 = \sin^0 x = \cos^0 x$, even powers. So the method works for $\int \sin^3 x dx$ and similar.

Power-to-frequency conversion

Using these ‘power-to-frequency’ identities (maybe repeatedly):

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

change an even power (either type) into an odd power of cosine.

For example, consider the power product:

$$\sin^4 x \cdot \cos^6 x$$

You can substitute appropriate powers of $\sin^2 x = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos 2x)$ and $\cos^2 x = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos 2x)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin^4 x \cdot \cos^6 x &\gg \gg (\sin^2 x)^2 \cdot (\cos^2 x)^3 \\ &\gg \gg \left(\frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos 2x)\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos 2x)\right)^3 \end{aligned}$$

By doing some annoying algebra, this expression can be expanded as a sum of *smaller* powers of $\cos 2x$:

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos 2x)\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos 2x)\right)^3$$

$$\gg \gg \frac{1}{32} \left(1 + \cos(2x) - 2 \cos^2(2x) - 2 \cos^3(2x) + \cos^4(2x) + \cos^5(2x)\right)$$

Each of these terms can be integrated by repeating the same techniques.

02 Illustration

Example - Trig power product with an odd power

Compute the integral:

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

Solution

1. Swap over the even bunch.

- Max even bunch leaving power-one is $\sin^4 x$:

$$\sin^5 x \gg \gg \sin x (\sin^2 x)^2 \gg \gg \sin x (1 - \cos^2 x)^2$$

- Apply to $\sin^5 x$ in the integrand:

$$\int \cos^2 x \cdot \sin^5 x \, dx \gg \gg \int \cos^2 x \cdot \sin x (1 - \cos^2 x)^2 \, dx$$

2. Perform u -substitution on the power-one integrand.

- Set $u = \cos x$.
- Hence $du = -\sin x \, dx$. Recognize this in the integrand.
- Convert the integrand:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \cos^2 x \cdot \sin x (1 - \cos^2 x)^2 \, dx &\gg \gg \int \cos^2 x \cdot (1 - \cos^2 x)^2 (\sin x \, dx) \\ &\gg \gg \int u^2 \cdot (1 - u^2)^2 \, du \end{aligned}$$

3. Perform the integral.

- Expand integrand and use power rule to obtain:

$$\int u^2 \cdot (1 - u^2)^2 \, du = \frac{1}{3}u^3 - \frac{2}{5}u^5 + \frac{1}{7}u^7 + C$$

- Insert definition $u = \cos x$:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \cos^2 x \cdot \sin^5 x \, dx &\gg \gg \int u^2 \cdot (1 - u^2)^2 \, du \\ &\gg \gg \frac{1}{3} \cos^3 x - \frac{2}{5} \cos^5 x + \frac{1}{7} \cos^7 x + C \end{aligned}$$

4. This is our final answer.

03 Theory

Trig power product: $\tan / \sec$ or $\cot / \csc$

A tan / sec power product has this form:

$$\int \tan^m x \cdot \sec^n x \, dx$$

A cot / csc power product has this form:

$$\int \cot^m x \cdot \csc^n x \, dx$$

To integrate these, **swap an even bunch** using:

- $\tan^2 x + 1 = \sec^2 x$

OR:

- $\cot^2 x + 1 = \csc^2 x$

Or do **u-substitution** using:

- $u = \tan x \rightsquigarrow du = \sec^2 x \, dx$
- $u = \sec x \rightsquigarrow du = \sec x \tan x \, dx$

OR:

- $u = \cot x \rightsquigarrow du = -\csc^2 x \, dx$
- $u = \csc x \rightsquigarrow du = -\csc u \cot u \, dx$

Note:

- ⚠ There is no simple “power-to-frequency conversion” for tan / sec !

We can modify the power-one technique to solve some of these. We need to swap over an even bunch *from the odd power* so that exactly the du factor is left behind.

Considering all the possibilities, one sees that this method works when:

- $\tan^m x$ is an *odd* power
- $\sec^n x$ is an *even* power

Quite a few cases escape this method:

- Any $\int \tan^m x \, dx$ with no power of $\sec x$
- Any $\int \tan^m x \cdot \sec^n x \, dx$ for m even and n odd

These tricks don't work for $\int \tan x \, dx$ or $\int \sec x \, dx$ or $\int \tan^4 x \sec^5 x \, dx$, among others.

📦 Special integrals: tan and sec

We have:

$$\int \tan x \, dx = \ln |\sec x| + C$$

$$\int \sec x \, dx = \ln |\sec x + \tan x| + C$$

- ⚠ These integrals should be memorized individually.

Extra - Deriving special integrals - tan and sec

The first formula can be found by u -substitution, considering that $\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$.

The second formula can be derived by multiplying $\sec x$ by a special “1”, computing instead $\int \frac{\sec x (\sec x + \tan x)}{\sec x + \tan x} dx$ by expanding the numerator and doing u -sub on the denominator.

04 Illustration

Example - Trig power product with tan and sec

Compute the integral:

$$\int \tan^5 x \cdot \sec^3 x dx$$

Solution

1. ➡ Try $du = \sec^2 x dx$.

- Factor du out of the integrand:

$$\int \tan^5 x \cdot \sec^3 x dx \quad \gg \gg \quad \int \tan^5 x \cdot \sec x (\sec^2 x dx)$$

- We then must swap over remaining $\sec x$ into the $\tan x$ type.
- Cannot do this because $\sec x$ has odd power. Need even to swap.

2. ➡ Try $du = \sec x \tan x dx$.

- Factor du out of the integrand:

$$\int \tan^5 x \cdot \sec^3 x dx \quad \gg \gg \quad \int \tan^4 x \cdot \sec^2 x (\sec x \tan x dx)$$

- Swap remaining $\tan x$ into $\sec x$ type:

$$\int (\tan^2 x)^2 \cdot \sec^2 x (\sec x \tan x dx)$$

$$\gg \gg \quad \int (\sec^2 x - 1)^2 \cdot \sec^2 x (\sec x \tan x dx)$$

- Substitute $u = \sec x$ and $du = \sec x \tan x dx$:

$$\gg \gg \quad \int (u^2 - 1)^2 \cdot u^2 du$$

3. ➡ Compute the integral in u and convert back to x .

- Expand the integrand:

$$\gg \gg \quad \int u^6 - 2u^4 + u^2 du$$

- Apply power rule:

$$\gg \gg \quad \frac{u^7}{7} - 2\frac{u^5}{5} + \frac{u^3}{3} + C$$

- Plug back in, $u = \sec x$:

$$\gg \gg \quad \frac{\sec^7 x}{7} - 2\frac{\sec^5 x}{5} + \frac{\sec^3 x}{3} + C$$

Trig substitution

Videos, Math Dr. Bob:

- [Trig sub 1](#): Basics and $\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{36-x^2}} dx$ and $\int \frac{x}{36+x^2} dx$ and $\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2-36}} dx$
- [Trig sub 2](#): $\int \frac{dx}{(1+x^2)^{5/2}}$
- [Trig sub 3](#): $\int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1-4x^2}} dx$
- [Trig sub 4](#): $\int \sqrt{e^{2x}-1} dx$
- [Trig sub 5](#): $\int \frac{\sqrt{4-36x^2}}{x^2} dx$

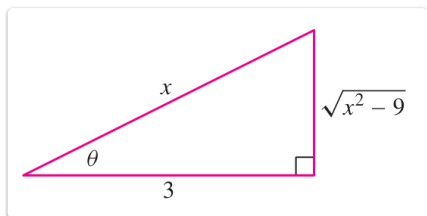
05 Theory

Certain algebraic expressions have a secret meaning that comes from the Pythagorean Theorem. This meaning has a very simple expression in terms of trig functions of a certain angle.

For example, consider the integral:

$$\int \frac{1}{x^2 \sqrt{x^2 - 9}} dx$$

Now consider this triangle:



The triangle determines the relation $x = 3 \sec \theta$, and it implies $\sqrt{x^2 - 9} = 3 \tan \theta$.

Now plug these into the integrand above:

$$\frac{1}{x^2 \sqrt{x^2 - 9^2}} \quad \gg \gg \quad \frac{1}{9 \sec^2 \theta \cdot 3 \tan \theta}$$

Considering that $dx = 3 \sec \theta \tan \theta d\theta$, we obtain a very reasonable trig integral:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{x^2 \sqrt{x^2 - 9^2}} dx &\gg \gg \int \frac{3 \sec \theta \tan \theta}{27 \sec^2 \theta \tan \theta} d\theta \\ &\gg \gg \frac{1}{9} \int \cos \theta d\theta \gg \gg \frac{1}{9} \sin \theta + C \end{aligned}$$

We must rewrite this in terms of x using $x = 3 \sec \theta$ to finish the problem. We need to find $\sin \theta$ assuming that $\sec \theta = \frac{x}{3}$. To do this, refer back to the triangle to see that $\sin \theta = \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 9}}{x}$. Plug this in for our final value of the integral:

$$\frac{1}{9} \sin \theta + C \gg \gg \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 9}}{9x} + C$$

Here is the moral of the story:

-  Re-express the Pythagorean expression *using a triangle and a trig substitution*.
- In this way, square roots of quadratic polynomials can be eliminated.

There are always three steps for these trig sub problems:

- (1) Identify the trig sub: find the sides of a triangle and relevant angle θ .
- (2) Solve a trig integral (often a power product).
- (3) Refer back to the triangle to convert the answer back to x .

To speed up your solution process for these problems, *memorize* these three transformations:

(1)

$$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2} \xrightarrow{x=a\sin\theta} \sqrt{a^2 - a^2\sin^2\theta} = a\cos\theta \quad \text{from } 1 - \sin^2\theta = \cos^2\theta$$

(2)

$$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2} \xrightarrow{x=a\tan\theta} \sqrt{a^2 + a^2\tan^2\theta} = a\sec\theta \quad \text{from } 1 + \tan^2\theta = \sec^2\theta$$

(3)

$$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} \xrightarrow{x=a\sec\theta} \sqrt{a^2\sec^2\theta - a^2} = a\tan\theta \quad \text{from } \sec^2\theta - 1 = \tan^2\theta$$

For a more complex quadratic with linear and constant terms, you will need to first *complete the square* for the quadratic and then do the trig substitution.

06 Illustration

Example - Trig sub in quadratic: completing the square

Compute the integral:

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2 - 6x + 11}}$$

Solution

1. Notice square root of a quadratic.

2. Complete the square to obtain Pythagorean form.

- Find constant term for a complete square:

$$x^2 - 6x + \left(\frac{-6}{2}\right)^2 = x^2 - 6x + 9 = (x - 3)^2$$

- Add and subtract desired constant term:

$$x^2 - 6x + 11 \gg x^2 - 6x + 9 - 9 + 11$$

- Simplify:

$$x^2 - 6x + 9 - 9 + 11 \gg (x - 3)^2 + 2$$

3. Perform shift substitution.

- Set $u = x - 3$ as inside the square:

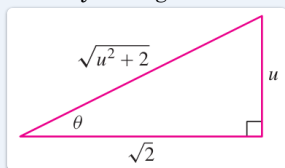
$$(x - 3)^2 + 2 = u^2 + 2$$

- Infer $du = dx$.
- Plug into integrand:

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2 - 6x + 11}} \gg \int \frac{du}{\sqrt{u^2 + 2}}$$

4. Trig sub with $\tan \theta$.

- Identify triangle:



- Use substitution $u = \sqrt{2} \tan \theta$. (From triangle or memorized tip.)
- Infer $du = \sqrt{2} \sec^2 \theta d\theta$.
- Plug in data:

$$\int \frac{du}{\sqrt{u^2 + 2}} \quad \gg \gg \quad \int \frac{\sec^2 \theta}{\sec \theta} d\theta = \int \sec \theta d\theta$$

5. Compute trig integral.

- Use ad hoc formula:

$$\int \sec \theta d\theta = \ln |\tan \theta + \sec \theta| + C$$

6. Convert trig back to x .

- First in terms of u , referring to the triangle:

$$\tan \theta = \frac{u}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \sec \theta = \frac{\sqrt{u^2 + 2}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

- Then in terms of x using $u = x - 3$.
- Plug everything in:

$$\ln |\tan \theta + \sec \theta| + C \quad \gg \gg \quad \ln \left| \frac{x-3}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\sqrt{(x-3)^2 + 2}}{\sqrt{2}} \right| + C$$

7. Simplify using log rules.

- Log rule for division gives us:

$$\ln \frac{f(x)}{a} = \ln f(x) - \ln a$$

- The common denominator $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ can be pulled outside as $-\ln \sqrt{2}$.
- The new term $-\ln \sqrt{2}$ can be “absorbed into the constant” (redefine C).
- So we write our final answer thus:

$$\ln \left| x - 3 + \sqrt{(x-3)^2 + 2} \right| + C$$