

Answer on Question #53132 – Math – Integral Calculus

Find the reduction formula of $\int \tan^n x dx$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} I_n &= \int \tan^n x dx = \int \tan^{n-2} x \tan^2 x dx = \int \tan^{n-2} x (\sec^2 x - 1) dx \\ &= - \int \tan^{n-2} x dx + \int \tan^{n-2} x \sec^2 x dx. \end{aligned}$$

$$\sec^2 x = (\tan x)'$$

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

The reduction formula of I_n :

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

The reduction formula of I_6 :

$$I_6 = -I_4 + \frac{\tan^5 x}{5}.$$

$$I_4 = -I_2 + \frac{\tan^3 x}{3}.$$

$$I_2 = -I_0 + \tan x = -x + \tan x + C.$$

Thus

$\int \tan^6 x dx = -\left(-(-x + \tan x) + \frac{\tan^3 x}{3}\right) + \frac{\tan^5 x}{5} + C = -x + \frac{\tan^5 x}{5} - \frac{\tan^3 x}{3} + \tan x + C$, where C is an arbitrary real constant.