

Solution for the integral $\int \frac{dx}{\sin^3(2x)}$.

I was asked about the integral

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sin^3(2x)},$$

here is the way to do it: The trick (or at least, *one* trick), is to use the trigo equality

$$\sin(2x) = 2 \sin(x) \cos(x) :$$

That way, the integral becomes:

$$\frac{1}{8} \int \frac{dx}{\sin^3(x) \cos^3(x)}.$$

Note: we have cos's, this remind of sec. Thus let's try to change sin for a tan:

$$\sin(x) = \tan(x) \cos(x) :$$

$$\frac{1}{8} \int \frac{dx}{\sin^3(x) \cos^3(x)} = \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{dx}{\tan^3(x) \cos^6(x)} = \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{\sec^6(x) dx}{\tan^3(x)}.$$

Note that we know that $\sec^2(x) = 1 + \tan^2(x)$. Thus this is calling for the substitution $u = \tan(x)$: then $du = \sec^2(x) dx$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{\sec^6(x) dx}{\tan^3(x)} &= \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{(\sec^2(x))^2 \sec^2(x) dx}{\tan^3(x)} = \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{(\sec^2(x))^2 du}{u^3} = \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{(1 + \tan^2(x))^2 du}{u^3} \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{(1 + u^2)^2 du}{u^3} = \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{(1 + 2u^2 + u^4) du}{u^3} = \frac{1}{8} \int \left(\frac{1}{u^3} + \frac{2}{u} + u \right) du = \frac{u^2}{2} + 2 \ln |u| - \frac{1}{2u^2} \end{aligned}$$

Since $u = \tan(x)$,

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sin^3(2x)} = \frac{\tan(x)^2}{2} + 2 \ln |\tan(x)| - \frac{1}{2 \tan(x)^2}$$