

Rationalising substitutions and Weierstrass $t = \tan(x/2)$

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Practice problems

1. Evaluate the integral $\int \frac{1}{1-\cos x} dx$.
2. Evaluate the integral $\int \frac{1}{2+\cos x} dx$.
3. Evaluate the integral $\int \frac{\sin x}{1+\sin x+\cos x} dx$.

Solutions

1. Evaluate the integral $\int \frac{1}{1-\cos x} dx$.

- Substitute $\cos x = \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}$ and $dx = \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt$.
- The denominator becomes $1 - \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2} = \frac{1+t^2-(1-t^2)}{1+t^2} = \frac{2t^2}{1+t^2}$.
- The integral is $\int \frac{1}{2t^2/(1+t^2)} \cdot \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt = \int \frac{1}{t^2} dt$.
- Integrating t^{-2} gives $-t^{-1} + C = -\frac{1}{t} + C$.
- Substitute back $t = \tan(x/2)$ to get $-\cot(x/2) + C$.

Answer: $-\cot\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + C$

2. Evaluate the integral $\int \frac{1}{2+\cos x} dx$.

- Substitute $\cos x = \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}$ and $dx = \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt$.
- The denominator is $2 + \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2} = \frac{2(1+t^2)+1-t^2}{1+t^2} = \frac{3+t^2}{1+t^2}$.
- The integral becomes $\int \frac{1+t^2}{3+t^2} \cdot \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt = \int \frac{2}{3+t^2} dt$.
- This is an arctangent form: $2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \arctan\left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{3}}\right) + C$.
- Substitute back $t = \tan(x/2)$.

Answer: $\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \arctan\left(\frac{\tan(x/2)}{\sqrt{3}}\right) + C$

3. Evaluate the integral $\int \frac{\sin x}{1+\sin x+\cos x} dx$.

- Substitute $\sin x = \frac{2t}{1+t^2}$, $\cos x = \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}$, and $dx = \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt$.
- The integral becomes $\int \frac{2t/(1+t^2)}{1+(2t+1-t^2)/(1+t^2)} \cdot \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt$.
- Simplify the denominator: $1 + \frac{2t+1-t^2}{1+t^2} = \frac{1+t^2+2t+1-t^2}{1+t^2} = \frac{2+2t}{1+t^2}$.
- The integral is $\int \frac{2t}{1+t^2} \cdot \frac{1+t^2}{2+2t} \cdot \frac{2}{1+t^2} dt = \int \frac{2t}{(1+t)(1+t^2)} dt$.
- Use partial fractions: $\frac{2t}{(1+t)(1+t^2)} = \frac{A}{1+t} + \frac{Bt+C}{1+t^2}$. Solving gives $A = -1, B = 1, C = 1$.
- Integrate: $\int \left(\frac{-1}{1+t} + \frac{t}{1+t^2} + \frac{1}{1+t^2}\right) dt = -\ln|1+t| + \frac{1}{2} \ln(1+t^2) + \arctan(t) + C$.

Answer: $-\ln|1+t| + \frac{1}{2} \ln(1+t^2) + \arctan(t) + C$