

Question if $I_n = \int (x^2 + 3)^n dx$, show that $(2n + 1)I_n = x(x^2 + 3)^n + 6nI_{n-1}$.

Answer $I_n = \int (x^2 + 3)^n dx$

We want to reduce the powers of n . So, integrate by parts with

$$\begin{aligned} u &= (x^2 + 3)^n & \frac{dv}{dx} &= 1 \\ \frac{du}{dx} &= n(x^2 + 3)^{n-1} 2x & v &= x \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_n &= x(x^2 + 3) - \int dx \cdot x \cdot n \cdot 2x \cdot (x^2 + 3)^{n-1} \\ &= x(x^2 + 3) - 2n \int dx x^2 (x^2 + 3)^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

Now $x^2 = (x^2 + 3) - 3$. This is the key step

So

$$\begin{aligned} I_n &= x(x^2 + 3) - 2n \int dx [(x^2 + 3) - 3](x^2 + 3)^{n-1} \\ &= x(x^2 + 3) - 2n \underbrace{\int dx (x^2 + 3)^n}_{I_n} + 6n \underbrace{\int dx (x^2 + 3)^{n-1}}_{I_{n-1}} \end{aligned}$$

So $I_n = x(x^2 + 3) - 2nI_n + 6nI_{n-1}$

Rearrange for I_n

$(2n + 1)I_n = x(x^2 + 3) + 6nI_{n-1}$ as required.