

How to integrate $\int \sin^6 x \cos^2 x dx$

I do not know of an easy way to evaluate this integral. But here's one way that isn't too bad. It repeatedly uses the reduction formula

$$\int \sin^n x dx = -\frac{1}{n} \cos x \sin^{n-1} x + \frac{n-1}{n} \int \sin^{n-2} x dx \quad \text{where } n \geq 2 \text{ is an integer,}$$

which is proved as Example 6 in Section 6.1.

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sin^6 x \cos^2 x dx &= \int \sin^6 x (1 - \sin^2 x) dx && \text{[using } \sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1 \text{]} \\ &= \int \sin^6 x dx - \int \sin^8 x dx \\ &= \int \sin^6 x dx - \left(-\frac{1}{8} \cos x \sin^7 x + \frac{7}{8} \int \sin^6 x dx \right) && \text{[reduction formula]} \\ &= \int \sin^6 x dx + \frac{1}{8} \cos x \sin^7 x - \frac{7}{8} \int \sin^6 x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \cos x \sin^7 x + \frac{1}{8} \int \sin^6 x dx && \text{[combining like integrals]} \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \cos x \sin^7 x + \frac{1}{8} \left(-\frac{1}{6} \cos x \sin^5 x + \frac{5}{6} \int \sin^4 x dx \right) && \text{[reduction formula]} \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \cos x \sin^7 x - \frac{1}{48} \cos x \sin^5 x + \frac{5}{48} \int \sin^4 x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \cos x \sin^7 x - \frac{1}{48} \cos x \sin^5 x + \frac{5}{48} \left(-\frac{1}{4} \cos x \sin^3 x + \frac{3}{4} \int \sin^2 x dx \right) && \text{[reduction formula]} \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \cos x \sin^7 x - \frac{1}{48} \cos x \sin^5 x - \frac{5}{192} \cos x \sin^3 x + \frac{5}{64} \int \sin^2 x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \cos x \sin^7 x - \frac{1}{48} \cos x \sin^5 x - \frac{5}{192} \cos x \sin^3 x + \frac{5}{64} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \int (1 - \cos 2x) dx && \text{[using } \sin^2 x = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos 2x) \text{]} \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \cos x \sin^7 x - \frac{1}{48} \cos x \sin^5 x - \frac{5}{192} \cos x \sin^3 x + \frac{5}{128} (x - \frac{1}{2} \sin 2x) + C && \text{[mental substitution } u = 2x \text{]} \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \cos x \sin^7 x - \frac{1}{48} \cos x \sin^5 x - \frac{5}{192} \cos x \sin^3 x + \frac{5}{128} x - \frac{5}{256} \sin 2x + C. \end{aligned}$$

Compare Example 3 in Section 6.2, which shows how to integrate $\sin^2 x$ (the same method is used above).