

Evaluate the integral.<sup>1</sup>

$$\int \tan^2(\theta) \sec^4(\theta) \, d\theta$$

Tangents and secants ... what do we know?

$$1 + \tan^2(\theta) = \sec^2(\theta)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} [\tan(\theta)] = \sec^2(\theta)$$

$$\sec^2(\theta) - 1 = \tan^2(\theta)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} [\sec(\theta)] = \sec(\theta) \tan(\theta)$$

Let's rewrite the original integral

$$\begin{aligned} \int \tan^2(\theta) \sec^4(\theta) \, d\theta &= \int \tan^2(\theta) \sec^2(\theta) \sec^2(\theta) \, d\theta \\ &= \int \tan^2(\theta) (1 + \tan^2(\theta)) \sec^2(\theta) \, d\theta \\ &= \int (\tan^2(\theta) + \tan^4(\theta)) \sec^2(\theta) \, d\theta \end{aligned}$$

and now we can do a basic  $u$ -substitution. Let  $u = \tan(\theta)$ , so  $du = \sec^2(\theta) \, d\theta$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int u^2 + u^4 \, du \\ &= \frac{u^3}{3} + \frac{u^5}{5} + C \end{aligned}$$

and now we substitute back to get the indefinite integral in terms of the original variable  $\theta$

$$= \frac{\tan^3(\theta)}{3} + \frac{\tan^5(\theta)}{5} + C$$

Thus,

$$\int \tan^2(\theta) \sec^4(\theta) \, d\theta = \frac{\tan^3(\theta)}{3} + \frac{\tan^5(\theta)}{5} + C$$

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<sup>1</sup>Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 484, #22.