

Evaluate The Integral: $\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec x \, dx$

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Understanding how to evaluate integrals is fundamental in calculus, especially when dealing with functions involving trigonometric expressions. Among these, the integral involving the secant function, particularly the integral of secant over a specific interval, is a common problem that appears frequently in calculus courses and practical applications such as physics, engineering, and computer science. This article aims to provide a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to evaluating the integral:

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec x \, dx$$

This integral, often written as $\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec x \, dx$, involves integrating the secant function over the interval from 0 to $\pi/4$. We will delve into the techniques used to evaluate this integral, explore its significance, and discuss related concepts for a deeper understanding.

Understanding the Integral of Secant

What is the Secant Function?

The secant function, $\sec x$, is one of the basic trigonometric functions defined as the reciprocal of the cosine function:

$$\sec x = \frac{1}{\cos x}$$

It's important in calculus because it appears in various integrals and differential equations involving trigonometric functions.

Why Integrate $\sec x$?

Integrating $\sec x$ is a classic problem because the integral:

$$\int \sec x \, dx$$

does not have an immediate elementary antiderivative like sine or cosine. Instead, it requires a specific technique involving manipulation and substitution, making it an excellent example for illustrating integral-solving strategies.

Step-by-Step Solution of $\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec x \, dx$

The process to evaluate this integral involves the following steps:

1. Recall the Standard Integral of Secant

The indefinite integral of $\sec x$ is a well-known result:

$$\int \sec x \, dx = \ln |\sec x + \tan x| + C$$

This formula is derived using algebraic manipulation and substitution, which we will revisit below.

2. Set Up the Definite Integral

Applying the indefinite integral to the limits from 0 to $\pi/4$:

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec x \, dx = \left[\ln |\sec x + \tan x| \right]_0^{\pi/4}$$

This involves evaluating the antiderivative at the upper and lower bounds and subtracting.

3. Evaluate at the Upper Limit $(x = \pi/4)$

Compute $\sec(\pi/4)$ and $\tan(\pi/4)$:

$$\cos(\pi/4) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$\sec(\pi/4) = \frac{1}{\cos(\pi/4)} = \sqrt{2}$$

$$- \tan(\pi/4) = 1$$

Thus,

$$\sec(\pi/4) + \tan(\pi/4) = \sqrt{2} + 1$$

and

$$\ln |\sec(\pi/4) + \tan(\pi/4)| = \ln(\sqrt{2} + 1)$$

4. Evaluate at the Lower Limit $(x = 0)$

Compute $\sec 0$ and $\tan 0$:

$$- \cos 0 = 1$$

$$- \sec 0 = 1$$

$$- \tan 0 = 0$$

Therefore,

$$\sec 0 + \tan 0 = 1 + 0 = 1$$

and

$$\ln |1| = 0$$

5. Calculate the Difference

Subtract the value at the lower limit from the upper limit:

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec x \, dx = \ln(\sqrt{2} + 1) - 0 = \ln(\sqrt{2} + 1)$$

This is the exact value of the integral over the specified interval.

Understanding the Derivation of $\int \sec x \, dx$

To comprehend why the indefinite integral of $\sec x$ is $\ln |\sec x + \tan x| + C$, it helps to revisit the derivation process.

Method 1: Algebraic Manipulation and Substitution

Starting with:

$$I = \int \sec x \, dx$$

Multiply numerator and denominator by $(\sec x + \tan x)$:

$$I = \int \sec x \, dx = \int \frac{\sec x (\sec x + \tan x)}{\sec x + \tan x} \, dx$$

This simplifies as:

$$I = \int \frac{\sec^2 x + \sec x \tan x}{\sec x + \tan x} \, dx$$

Recognize that the numerator is the derivative of the denominator:

$$\frac{d}{dx} (\sec x + \tan x) = \sec x \tan x + \sec^2 x$$

which matches the numerator.

So, the integral becomes:

$$I = \int \frac{\frac{d}{dx} (\sec x + \tan x)}{\sec x + \tan x} \, dx$$

Using substitution:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int (\sec x + \tan x) dx \\ & u = \sec x + \tan x \quad \Rightarrow \quad du = (\sec x \tan x + \sec^2 x) dx \\ & \int \frac{1}{u} du = \ln |u| + C = \ln |\sec x + \tan x| + C \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\int \sec x dx = \ln |\sec x + \tan x| + C$$

Applications and Significance

Evaluating the integral $\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec x \, dx$ is more than an academic exercise; it has practical applications in various fields.

Applications in Physics

- Calculating work done in systems involving angular displacement where secant functions appear.
- Analyzing wave functions and oscillations involving trigonometric integrals.

Applications in Engineering

- Signal processing algorithms that involve integrals of secant functions.
- Structural engineering problems where load distributions relate to trigonometric functions.

Mathematical Significance

- Demonstrates the use of substitution and algebraic manipulation in integral calculus.
- Provides insight into the relationships between different trigonometric functions and their integrals.

Related Integrals and Extensions

Beyond the basic integral, other related integrals include:

1. $\int \tan x \, dx = -\ln |\cos x| + C$
2. $\int \csc x \, dx = -\ln |\csc x + \cot x| + C$
3. $\int \sec^n x \, dx$ for $(n \neq 1)$, which involves reduction formulas.

These integrals are useful in solving more complex calculus problems involving powers of secant and tangent functions.

Summary and Final Remarks

In conclusion, the integral:

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec x \, dx$$

can be evaluated using the known indefinite integral of secant:

$$\int \sec x \, dx = \ln |\sec x + \tan x| + C$$

Applying the limits yields the exact value:

$$\boxed{\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec x \, dx = \ln (\sqrt{2} + 1)}$$

This result highlights the elegance of calculus techniques that involve manipulation, substitution, and recognizing derivatives. Understanding this integral enhances one's ability to handle various trigonometric integrals and their applications across scientific disciplines.

Always remember to verify your calculations and understand the derivation process, as it deepens your grasp of calculus concepts and prepares you for

tackling more complex integrals in advanced mathematics or applied sciences.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the integral of the function secant from 0 to $\pi/4$?

The integral of $\sec(x)$ from 0 to $\pi/4$ is $\ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)|$ evaluated from 0 to $\pi/4$, which equals $\ln(\sqrt{2} + 1)$.

How do you evaluate the definite integral of $\sec(x)$ from 0 to $\pi/4$?

You use the standard integral formula for $\sec(x)$: $\int \sec(x) dx = \ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)| + C$, then apply the limits 0 to $\pi/4$ to find the value.

What is the value of the integral of $\sec(x)$ from 0 to $\pi/4$?

The value is $\ln(1 + \sqrt{2})$, which results from evaluating $\ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)|$ at the limits 0 and $\pi/4$.

Are there any special considerations when integrating $\sec(x)$ from 0 to $\pi/4$?

Since $\sec(x)$ is continuous in $[0, \pi/4]$, the integral can be directly computed using the logarithmic antiderivative without concerns about singularities in this interval.

Can the integral of $\sec(x)$ from 0 to $\pi/4$ be expressed in terms of elementary functions?

Yes, it can be expressed as $\ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)|$ evaluated between 0 and $\pi/4$, resulting in an elementary logarithmic expression.

What is the significance of the integral of $\sec(x)$ over $[0, \pi/4]$ in calculus?

It demonstrates the use of logarithmic antiderivatives for secant and illustrates how to evaluate definite integrals involving trigonometric functions over specific intervals.

Additional Resources

Integral Evaluation: An In-Depth Analysis of $\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} \sec t \, dt$

Introduction: The Significance of the Integral

The process of evaluating integrals is fundamental to understanding calculus's core principles, especially in fields like physics, engineering, and applied mathematics. Among the various types of integrals, those involving trigonometric functions are particularly significant due to their widespread applications—from calculating areas under curves to solving differential equations.

In this article, we focus on a specific integral:

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec t \, dt$$

This integral, while seemingly straightforward, encapsulates core techniques in integral calculus, such as substitution and recognizing standard integral forms. As an expert review, we will dissect this integral meticulously, exploring different methods of evaluation, the underlying mathematical principles, and practical implications.

Understanding the Integral: Context and Components

The Function: $\sec t$

The secant function, $\sec t$, is the reciprocal of the cosine function:

$$\sec t = \frac{1}{\cos t}$$

It is undefined at points where $\cos t = 0$, namely $t = \frac{\pi}{2} + k\pi$, but within the interval $[0, \frac{\pi}{4}]$, $\sec t$ remains well-defined and positive since $\cos t > 0$.

The Limits of Integration: 0 to $\frac{\pi}{4}$

The interval spans from 0 to $\frac{\pi}{4}$ (or 45 degrees). This interval is particularly convenient because:

- $\cos 0 = 1$, $\sec 0 = 1$
- $\cos(\frac{\pi}{4}) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$, $\sec(\frac{\pi}{4}) = \sqrt{2}$

Understanding the behavior of $\sec t$ over this interval helps us anticipate the nature of the integral.

Techniques for Evaluating $\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec t \, dt$

1. Standard Integral Recognition

The integral of $\sec t$ is a classic form in calculus:

$$\int \sec t \, dt = \ln |\sec t + \tan t| + C$$

This formula is derived via a strategic multiplication and substitution process, which we will explore in detail.

2. Substitution Method

The most straightforward approach involves recognizing the standard form and applying the antiderivative directly:

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec t \, dt = \left[\ln |\sec t + \tan t| \right]_0^{\pi/4}$$

Let's examine how this works step-by-step.

Step-by-Step Evaluation of the Integral

Step 1: Use the Standard Antiderivative

As noted, the indefinite integral:

$$\int \sec t \, dt = \ln |\sec t + \tan t| + C$$

is well-established.

Step 2: Apply the Limits

Plug in the bounds:

$$\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec t \, dt = \left. \ln |\sec t + \tan t| \right|_0^{\pi/4}$$

which simplifies to:

$$\begin{aligned} &= \ln |\sec(\pi/4) + \tan(\pi/4)| - \ln |\sec 0 + \tan 0| \end{aligned}$$

Now, evaluate each term.

Step 3: Evaluate at $(t = \pi/4)$

$$\begin{aligned} - \cos(\pi/4) &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \\ - \sin(\pi/4) &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \sec(\pi/4) &= \frac{1}{\cos(\pi/4)} = \frac{1}{\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}} = \sqrt{2} \\ \tan(\pi/4) &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$\sec(\pi/4) + \tan(\pi/4) = \sqrt{2} + 1$$

which is positive, so the absolute value can be omitted.

Step 4: Evaluate at $(t=0)$

$$\begin{aligned} - \cos 0 &= 1 \\ - \sin 0 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\sec 0 = 1, \quad \tan 0 = 0$$

and:

$$\sec 0 + \tan 0 = 1 + 0 = 1$$

Again, positive, so the absolute value is unnecessary.

Final Expression:

```
\[
\boxed{
\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec t \, dt = \ln (\sqrt{2} + 1) - \ln 1 = \ln (\sqrt{2} + 1)
}
\]
```

Result: The definite integral evaluates neatly to:

```
\[
\boxed{
\boxed{\ln (\sqrt{2} + 1)}
}
\]
```

Interpretation and Mathematical Significance

The value $\ln(\sqrt{2} + 1)$ is noteworthy because it connects to the inverse hyperbolic functions and the properties of the secant and tangent functions over specific intervals. The integral's result offers a compact, exact expression, which is advantageous in both theoretical and applied contexts.

Alternative Approaches and Verifications

While the standard formula suffices here, alternative methods can reinforce understanding or serve as verification.

1. Trigonometric Substitution

Suppose we attempt substitution $(t = \arcsin u)$, but this approach tends to complicate the integral unnecessarily. The direct recognition of the standard form remains the most efficient.

2. Numerical Approximation

Performing a numerical approximation:

- At $(t=0)$, $\sec 0 = 1$
- At $(t=\pi/4)$, $\sec(\pi/4) \approx 1.4142$

Using numerical methods (e.g., Simpson's rule), the integral's value would approximate $\ln(\sqrt{2} + 1) \approx 0.8814$, confirming the analytical result.

Practical Implications and Applications

Understanding the integral $\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec t \, dt$ extends beyond pure mathematics into various domains:

- Engineering: Calculations involving waveforms and signal processing often require integrating secant functions over specific intervals.
- Physics: Path integrals and trajectory calculations may involve such integrals.
- Mathematical Analysis: Recognizing the integral's closed-form expression facilitates solving differential equations and evaluating limits.

Summary of Key Takeaways

- The integral $\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec t \, dt$ evaluates to $\ln(\sqrt{2} + 1)$.
- The antiderivative $\int \sec t \, dt = \ln |\sec t + \tan t| + C$ is pivotal in solving such integrals.
- The straightforward evaluation at bounds showcases the elegance of standard integral formulas.
- Alternative methods serve as validation, but the standard formula remains efficient and reliable.

Final Thoughts: The Beauty of Trigonometric Integrals

This integral exemplifies the beauty of calculus—how recognizing standard forms can lead to elegant, exact solutions. The connection between the secant function's integral and logarithmic expressions underscores the interconnectedness within mathematical functions.

Mastering these integrals enriches mathematical intuition, enhances problem-solving skills, and deepens appreciation for the symmetry and structure inherent in calculus. Whether for theoretical exploration or practical application, understanding integral evaluations like $\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec t \, dt$ forms an essential foundation for advanced mathematical proficiency.

In conclusion, the evaluation of $\int_0^{\pi/4} \sec t \, dt$ is a testament to the power of recognizing standard integral forms and applying fundamental calculus techniques. The final exact value, $\ln(\sqrt{2} + 1)$, not only provides a precise measure but also exemplifies the elegance that characterizes mathematical analysis.

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