

The formula for the special cases of Gauss integral:

$$\int_0^{\infty} x^p e^{-ax^q} dx = \frac{1}{qa^{(p+1)/q}} \Gamma\left(\frac{p+1}{q}\right) \quad (1)$$

(Proof)

The gamma function is given as follows:

$$\Gamma(x) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} t^{x-1} dt \quad (x > 0)$$

Let $ax^q = t$; then, we have $x = \frac{1}{a^{1/q}} t^{1/q}$ and $dx = \frac{1}{a^{1/q}} \frac{1}{q} t^{(1/q)-1} dt$. Substitute them into the above. Thus, we have

$$\int_0^{\infty} \left(\frac{t^{1/q}}{a^{1/q}}\right)^p e^{-t} \frac{1}{a^{1/q}} \frac{1}{q} t^{(1/q)-1} dt = \frac{1}{qa^{(p+1)/q}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} t^{(1/q)-1} dt = \frac{1}{qa^{(p+1)/q}} \Gamma\left(\frac{p+1}{q}\right).$$

Q.E.D.

The gamma function gives the following values:

$$\Gamma(1) = 1 \quad (2)$$

$$\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \sqrt{\pi} \quad (3)$$

$$\Gamma(n+1) = n! \text{ with } n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (4)$$

$$\Gamma(x) = (x-1)\Gamma(x-1) \text{ with } x > 1 \quad (5)$$

$$\text{e.g. } \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\pi}$$

(Example)

$$\int_0^{\infty} x^4 e^{-ax^2} dx = ?$$

From the above formula, (1), we can let $p = 4$ and $q = 2$. Therefore,

$$\int_0^{\infty} x^4 e^{-ax^2} dx = \frac{1}{2a^{5/2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2}\right)$$

Then, use (5).

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2a^{5/2}} \frac{3}{2} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2a^{5/2}} \frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{3}{8a^{5/2}} \sqrt{\pi} \end{aligned}$$