

In this section we will make **inverse substitutions** using trig functions to solve a specific class of integrals.

usually,  $u=f(x)$  is how we define substitution in this section we will instead define  $x=f(u)$ .

The following table summarizes the substitution we will use.

Expression in integral	Substitution	Identity
$\sqrt{a^2-x^2}$	$x=asin\theta$	$1-\sin^2\theta = \cos^2\theta$
$\sqrt{a^2+x^2}$	$x=atan\theta$	$1+\tan^2\theta = \sec^2\theta$
$\sqrt{x^2-a^2}$	$x=asec\theta$	$\sec^2\theta-1 = \tan^2\theta$

Based on the **expression** that appears in the integral, we make the appropriate **substitution** and simplify using the corresponding **identity**.

Example 1.  $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$  (\*) some of you may recognize this as the antiderivative of  $\arcsin x$ — which we will show

Use the substitution,

$$u = \sin\theta$$

$$du = \cos\theta d\theta$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} = \int \frac{\cos\theta d\theta}{\sqrt{1-\sin^2\theta}} \stackrel{\text{use identity}}{=} \int \frac{\cos\theta d\theta}{\sqrt{\cos^2\theta}}$$

$$= \int \frac{\cancel{\cos\theta} d\theta}{\cancel{\cos\theta}}$$

$$= \int d\theta = \theta$$

want to change back to  $x$ ,  
 $x = \sin\theta \Rightarrow \arcsin x = \theta$

$$\boxed{= \arcsin x}$$

Example 2.  $\int \frac{dx}{x^2 \sqrt{x^2-4}}$

from our "expressions"  
 $a^2 = 4 \rightarrow a = 2.$

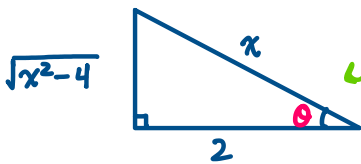
Use the substitution,

$$x = 2 \sec \theta$$

$$dx = 2 \sec \theta \tan \theta d\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{dx}{x^2 \sqrt{x^2-4}} &= \int \frac{2 \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta}{4 \sec^2 \theta \sqrt{4 \sec^2 \theta - 4}} = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{\cancel{\tan \theta} \cancel{\sec \theta} d\theta}{\sec^2 \theta \sqrt{4(\sec^2 \theta - 1)}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{\cancel{\tan \theta} d\theta}{\sec \theta \cdot 2 \cancel{\tan \theta}} = \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{d\theta}{\sec \theta} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sin \theta \end{aligned}$$

Now replacing  $\theta$  is more challenging, so we need to draw a triangle,



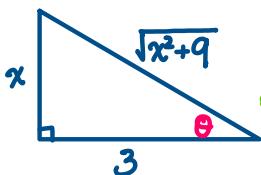
substitution tells us  
 $\sec \theta = \frac{x}{2} = \frac{\text{hypotenuse}}{\text{adjacent}}$

We can read  $\sin \theta$  off this triangle (recall  $\sin \theta = \frac{\text{opposite}}{\text{hypotenuse}}$ ),

$$\sin \theta = \frac{\sqrt{x^2-4}}{x}$$

Example 3.  $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2+9}}$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 3 \tan \theta \\ dx &= 3 \sec^2 \theta d\theta \end{aligned}$$



it's good practice to draw the triangle every time we make the substitution

$$\int \frac{3 \sec^2 \theta d\theta}{\sqrt{9 \tan^2 \theta + 9}} = \int \frac{\cancel{3} \sec^2 \theta d\theta}{\cancel{3} \sec \theta}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \int \sec \theta \, d\theta = \log |\sec \theta + \tan \theta| \\
 &= \log \left| \frac{1}{3} \sqrt{x^2+9} + \frac{1}{3}x \right| \quad \left. \vphantom{\log} \right\} \text{use triangle!}
 \end{aligned}$$

If we see **ANY** quadratic polynomial we will want to use this procedure. That means we will have to **complete the square** if necessary.

Example 4.  $\int \frac{x}{\sqrt{3-2x-x^2}} \, dx$

Complete the square first,

$$\begin{aligned}
 3-2x-x^2 &= 3-(x^2+2x+1)+1 \\
 &= 3+1-(x+1)^2 \\
 &= 4-(x+1)^2
 \end{aligned}$$

Plug the above in the integral,

$$\int \frac{x \, dx}{\sqrt{4-(x+1)^2}} = \int \frac{(u-1) \, du}{\sqrt{4-u^2}} = \int \frac{u}{\sqrt{4-u^2}} \, du - \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{4-u^2}} \, du$$

use substitution,  
 $u=x+1, \, du=dx$   
 $u-1=x$

Exercise. Solve the above integrals.