

Section 5.5

More Integration Formula (The Substitution Method)

2 Lectures

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MATHS 101: Calculus I

The Substitution Method

Idea: To replace a relatively complicated integral by a simpler one (one from the list). This is done by adding an extra variable which we will call it u .

Theorem 1

$$\int f(g(x)) \cdot g'(x) dx = \int f(u) du$$

Two properties we are looking for in u :

- 1 u should be an inner function.
- 2 Almost the derivative of u appears in the integral.

Example 2

Find $\int xe^{x^2} dx$

Solution: Since this is not a basic integral, we are looking for a good substitution. We are looking for an inner function with almost the derivative is somewhere in the integral. Let

$$u = x^2$$

$$du = 2x dx \rightarrow dx = \frac{du}{2x}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\int xe^{x^2} dx &= \int xe^u \frac{du}{2x} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int e^u du \\ &= \frac{1}{2} e^u + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2} e^{x^2} + C\end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3

Find $\int \sqrt{3x + 5} dx$.

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Example 4

$$\text{Find } \int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1-x^3}} dx$$

Solution: Since this is not a basic integral, we are looking for a good substitution. We are looking for an inner function with almost the derivative is somewhere in the integral. Let

$$u = 1 - x^3$$

$$du = -3x^2 dx \rightarrow dx = \frac{du}{-3x^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1-x^3}} dx &= \int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{u}} \frac{du}{-3x^2} = \frac{1}{-3} \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} du \\ &= \frac{1}{-3} \int (u)^{-\frac{1}{2}} du = \frac{2}{-3} u^{\frac{1}{2}} + C \\ &= \frac{2}{-3} (1 - x^3)^{\frac{1}{2}} + C \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 5

Find $\int \cos x \sqrt{1 + \sin x} \, dx$.

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Example 6

$$\text{Find } \int \frac{(\ln x)^2}{x} dx$$

Solution: Since this is not a basic integral, we are looking for a good substitution. We are looking for an inner function with almost the derivative is somewhere in the integral. Let

$$u = \ln x$$

$$du = \frac{1}{x} dx \rightarrow dx = x du$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{(\ln x)^2}{x} dx &= \int \frac{(u)^2}{x} x du = \int (u)^2 du \\ &= \frac{1}{3} u^3 + C \\ &= \frac{1}{3} (\ln x)^3 + C \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 7

Find $\int \frac{\sec^2 x}{\tan^{101} x} dx$.

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Example 8

$$\text{Find } \int \frac{1}{ax+b} dx \quad (a \neq 0)$$

Solution: Since this is not a basic integral, we are looking for a good substitution. We are looking for an inner function with almost the derivative is somewhere in the integral. Let

$$u = ax + b$$

$$du = a dx \rightarrow dx = \frac{du}{a}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{ax+b} dx &= \int \frac{1}{u} \frac{du}{a} = \frac{1}{a} \int \frac{1}{u} du \\ &= \frac{1}{a} \ln |u| + C \\ &= \frac{1}{a} \ln |ax+b| + C \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 9

$$\text{Find } \int \frac{\sin(2x)}{1-\cos^2 x} dx$$

Solution: Since this is not a basic integral, we are looking for a good substitution. We are looking for an inner function with almost the derivative is somewhere in the integral. Let

$$u = 1 - \cos^2 x$$

$$du = (-2 \cos x(-\sin x)) dx \rightarrow dx = \frac{du}{2 \cos x \sin x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{\sin(2x)}{1-\cos^2 x} dx &= \int \frac{\sin(2x)}{u} \frac{du}{2 \cos x \sin x} = \int \frac{2 \cos x \sin x}{u} \frac{du}{2 \cos x \sin x} \\ &= \int \frac{1}{u} du = \ln |u| + C \\ &= \ln |1 - \cos^2 x| + C \end{aligned}$$

Example 10

Find $\int \tan x \, dx$

Solution: Since this is not a basic integral, we are looking for a good substitution. Note that $\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$. Hence we are looking for an inner function with almost the derivative is somewhere in the integral. Let

$$u = \cos x$$

$$du = -\sin x \, dx \rightarrow dx = \frac{du}{-\sin x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \, dx &= \int \frac{\sin x}{u} \frac{du}{-\sin x} = - \int \frac{1}{u} \, du \\ &= -\ln |u| + C \\ &= -\ln |\cos x| + C \end{aligned}$$

Example 11

Find $\int x^3 \sqrt{x^2 + 1} dx$

Solution: Since this is not a basic integral, we are looking for a good substitution. We are looking for an inner function with almost the derivative is somewhere in the integral. Let

$$u = x^2 + 1$$

$$du = 2x dx \rightarrow dx = \frac{du}{2x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int x^3 \sqrt{x^2 + 1} dx &= \int x^3 \sqrt{u} \frac{du}{2x} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int x^2 \sqrt{u} du \end{aligned}$$

Note that $x^2 = u - 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2} \int x^2 \sqrt{u} \, du \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int (u - 1) u^{\frac{1}{2}} \, du \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int u^{\frac{3}{2}} - u^{\frac{1}{2}} + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{2}{5} u^{\frac{5}{2}} - \frac{2}{3} u^{\frac{3}{2}} \right) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{5} (x^2 + 1)^{\frac{5}{2}} - \frac{1}{3} (x^2 + 1)^{\frac{3}{2}} + C \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 12

Find $\int 4x^7(x^4 + 4)^{101} dx$.

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Example 13

$$\text{Find } \int_0^{\sqrt{\pi}} x \cos(x^2) dx$$

Solution: Since this is not a basic integral, we are looking for a good substitution. We are looking for an inner function with almost the derivative is somewhere in the integral. Let

$$u = x^2$$

$$du = 2x dx \rightarrow dx = \frac{du}{2x}$$

$$\text{if } x = 0, \text{ then } u = 0$$

$$\text{if } x = \sqrt{\pi}, \text{ then } u = (\sqrt{\pi})^2 = \pi$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\sqrt{\pi}} x \cos(x^2) dx &= \int_0^{\pi} x \cos(u) \frac{du}{2x} = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\pi} \cos(u) du \\ &= \left[\frac{1}{2} \sin(u) \right]_0^{\pi} = \left(\frac{1}{2} \sin(\pi) \right) - \left(\frac{1}{2} \sin(0) \right) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 14

Find $\int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\sin^{-1} x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx$

Solution: Since this is not a basic integral, we are looking for a good substitution. Let

$$u = \sin^{-1} x$$

$$du = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx \rightarrow dx = \sqrt{1-x^2} du$$

if $x = 0$, then $u = \sin^{-1} 0 = 0$

if $x = \frac{1}{2}$, then $u = \sin^{-1} \frac{1}{2} = \frac{\pi}{6}$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\sin^{-1} x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{6}} \frac{u}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \sqrt{1-x^2} du = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{6}} u du \\ &= \left[\frac{1}{2} u^2 \right]_0^{\frac{\pi}{6}} = \left(\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\pi}{6} \right)^2 \right) - \left(\frac{1}{2} (0)^2 \right) = \frac{\pi^2}{72} \end{aligned}$$

Example 15

$$\text{Find } \int_0^{\ln \sqrt{3}} \frac{e^x}{1+e^{2x}} dx$$

Solution: Since this is not a basic integral, we are looking for a good substitution. Let

$$u = e^x$$

$$du = e^x dx \rightarrow dx = \frac{du}{e^x}$$

$$\text{if } x = 0, \text{ then } u = e^0 = 1$$

$$\text{if } x = \ln \sqrt{3}, \text{ then } u = e^{\ln \sqrt{3}} = \sqrt{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\ln \sqrt{3}} \frac{e^x}{1+e^{2x}} dx &= \int_0^{\sqrt{3}} \frac{e^x}{1+(u)^2} \frac{du}{e^x} = \int_0^{\sqrt{3}} \frac{1}{1+(u)^2} du \\ &= [\tan^{-1}(u)]_0^{\sqrt{3}} = \left(\tan^{-1}(\sqrt{3}) \right) - \left(\tan^{-1}(0) \right) = \frac{\pi}{3} \end{aligned}$$