
Section 6.5: The substitution rule

1 Substitution in indefinite integral

Review: Let f and g 2 differentiable functions. then

$$(f(g(x)))' = g'(x) \cdot f'(g(x))$$

Exercise 1. Find an antiderivative of

- $\int -2x e^{-x^2} dx.$

- $\int (2s + 3)\sqrt{s^2 + 3s - 4} ds.$

Exercise 2.

- Find $\int \frac{t^2 - 3t + 5}{t} dt$

- Find $\int \frac{x^2 - 5x + 9}{x - 1} dx.$

The substitution rule for indefinite integrals: If $u = g(x)$ is a differentiable function whose range is an interval I and f a continuous function on I , then

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

Substitution Method: To evaluate $\int f(x)dx$

Example: $\int x^2 e^{x^3+1} dx$

- Find a substitution $u(x)$ that simplify the integrand

Example: $u(x) = x^3 + 1$.

- Express $du = u'(x)dx$

Example: $du = 3x^2 dx$.

- Using the expressions of u and du , eliminate completely the original variable x .

Example: Replace $x^3 + 1$ by u and $3x^2 dx$ by du , $\int x^2 e^{x^3+1} dx = \frac{1}{3} \int e^u du$.

- Evaluate the new integral as a function of u , if possible.

Example: $\frac{1}{3} \int e^u du = \frac{1}{3} e^u + C$.

- Express the solution in term of the original variable x .

Example: The antiderivatives are $\frac{1}{3} e^{u(x)} + C = \frac{1}{3} e^{x^3+1} + C$ where C is a constant real number.

Exercise 3. Use the substitution $u = 2x - 3$ to find $\int 4x\sqrt{2x-3}dx$.

- $du =$ dx .
- Eliminate x in $\int 4x\sqrt{2x-3}dx =$
- Find an antiderivative as a function of u :
- Find an antiderivative as a function of x :

Exercise 4. Using a substitution, find $\int t\sqrt{t^2-1}dt$.

Exercise 5. Find the following indefinite integrals

- $\int \frac{1}{3x+2} dx$.

- $\int x^2 e^{5x^3} dx.$

- $\int (x^2 - 1)^3 x^3 dx.$

- $\int \frac{(\ln x)^5}{x} dx.$

- $\int \frac{t^2 - 2t}{t^3 - 3t^2} dt$

2 substitution in definite integral

The substitution rule for definite integrals: If $g'(x)$ is continuous on $[a, b]$ and f is a continuous function on the range of g , then

$$\int_a^b f(g(x)) dx = \int_{g(a)}^{g(b)} f(u) du.$$

Substitution for definite integrals: To evaluate $\int_a^b f(x)dx$

Example: $\int_0^1 \frac{x^2 + 2x}{x^3 + 3x^2 + 5} dx$.

- Find a substitution $u(x)$ that simplify the integrand

Example: $u(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 + 5$.

- Express $du = u'(x)dx$

Example: $du = 3x^2 + 6x dx$.

- Find the new limit of integration: if $x = a$, $u(x) = ?$ (new lower limit), if $x = b$, $u(x) = ?$ (new upper limit).

Example: If $x = 0$ then $u = 5$. If $x = 1$, $u = 9$.

The new lower limit is 5 and the new upper limit is 9.

- Using the expressions of u and du , eliminate completely the original variable x and change the limits of integration.

Example: Replace $x^3 + 3x^2 + 5$ by u and $3x^2 + 6x dx$ by du , the boundaries by 5 and 9.

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^2 + 2x}{x^3 + 3x^2 + 5} dx = \frac{1}{3} \int_5^9 \frac{1}{u} du.$$

- Evaluate the new definite integral if possible.

Example: $\frac{1}{3} \int_5^9 \frac{1}{u} du = \frac{1}{3} [\ln u]_5^9 = \frac{1}{3} (\ln(9) - \ln(5)).$

Exercise 6. Find $\int_0^5 x\sqrt{5-x} dx$

Exercise 7. Find $\int_e^{e^2} \frac{(\ln x)^5}{x} dx$

Exercise 8. Find $\int_0^1 x^3 e^{x^4} dx$

Exercise 9. Find $\int_0^{\ln(2)} \frac{3e^x}{2+e^x} dx$.

Exercise 10. Find $\int_0^{\pi/2} \cos x \sin^5 x dx$.