

§7.3 Trigonometric Substitution

- Integrals of the form $\int \sqrt{a^2 - x^2} dx$, $\int \sqrt{a^2 + x^2} dx$, and $\int \sqrt{x^2 - a^2} dx$ cannot be solved with a simple substitution.
- We use an INVERSE SUBSTITUTION:

$$x = g(t) \Rightarrow dx = g'(t)dt \quad \text{which yields} \quad \int f(x) dx = \int f(g(t))g'(t) dt$$

Note: an inverse substitution can be made as long as g is a one-to-one function.

Integrand contains

$$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$$

Substitution:

$$x = a \sin \theta, \theta \in \left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$$

Derivations:

$$x = a \sin \theta \Rightarrow dx = a \cos \theta d\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{a^2 - x^2} &= \sqrt{a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2(1 - \sin^2 \theta)} \\ &= a\sqrt{\cos^2 \theta} \\ &= a|\cos \theta| \\ &= a \cdot \cos \theta \quad \text{as } \cos \theta \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

on the given interval.

Integrand contains

$$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2}$$

Substitution:

$$x = a \tan \theta, \theta \in \left(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

Derivations:

$$x = a \tan \theta \Rightarrow dx = a \sec^2 \theta d\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{a^2 + x^2} &= \sqrt{a^2 + a^2 \tan^2 \theta} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2(1 + \tan^2 \theta)} \\ &= a\sqrt{\sec^2 \theta} \\ &= a|\sec \theta| \\ &= a \sec \theta \quad \text{as } \sec \theta > 0 \end{aligned}$$

on the given interval.

Integrand contains

$$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2}$$

Substitution:

$$x = a \sec \theta, \theta \in \left[0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \cup \left[\pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}\right)$$

Derivations:

$$x = a \sec \theta \Rightarrow dx = a \sec \theta \tan \theta d\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{x^2 - a^2} &= \sqrt{a^2 \sec^2 \theta - a^2} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2(\sec^2 \theta - 1)} \\ &= a\sqrt{\tan^2 \theta} \\ &= a|\tan \theta| \\ &= a \cdot \tan \theta \quad \text{as } \tan \theta \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

on the given interval.