1.7 Integrals Resulting in Inverse Trigonometric Functions

Learning Objectives

1.7.1 Integrate functions resulting in inverse trigonometric functions

In this section we focus on integrals that result in inverse trigonometric functions. We have worked with these functions before. Recall from [Functions and Graphs](#) that trigonometric functions are not one-to-one unless the domains are restricted. When working with inverses of trigonometric functions, we always need to be careful to take these restrictions into account. Also in [Derivatives](#), we developed formulas for derivatives of inverse trigonometric functions. The formulas developed there give rise directly to integration formulas involving inverse trigonometric functions.

Integrals that Result in Inverse Sine Functions

Let us begin this last section of the chapter with the three formulas. Along with these formulas, we use substitution to evaluate the integrals. We prove the formula for the inverse sine integral.

RULE: INTEGRATION FORMULAS RESULTING IN INVERSE TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTIONS

The following integration formulas yield inverse trigonometric functions. Assume $a > 0$:

1.

$$\int \frac{du}{\sqrt{a^2 - u^2}} = \sin^{-1}\frac{u}{a} + C \qquad (1.23)$$

2.

$$\int \frac{du}{a^2 + u^2} = \frac{1}{a}\tan^{-1}\frac{u}{a} + C \qquad (1.24)$$

3.

$$\int \frac{du}{u\sqrt{u^2 - a^2}} = \frac{1}{a}\sec^{-1}\frac{|u|}{a} + C \qquad (1.25)$$

Proof

Let $y = \sin^{-1}\frac{x}{a}$. Then $a\sin y = x$. Now let's use implicit differentiation. We obtain

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(a\sin y\right) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(x\right)$$
$$a\cos y\,\frac{dy}{dx} = 1$$
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{a\cos y}.$$

For $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq y \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$, $\cos y \geq 0$. Thus, applying the Pythagorean identity $\sin^2 y + \cos^2 y = 1$, we have $\cos y = \sqrt{1-\sin^2 y}$. This gives

$$\frac{1}{a\cos y} = \frac{1}{a\sqrt{1-\sin^2 y}}$$
$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 - a^2\sin^2 y}}$$
$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}}.$$

Then for $-a \leq x \leq a$, and generalizing to u, we have

$$\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 - u^2}}\,du = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{u}{a}\right) + C.$$

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EXAMPLE 1.49

Evaluating a Definite Integral Using Inverse Trigonometric Functions

Evaluate the definite integral $\displaystyle\int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}$.

[Show/Hide Solution]

CHECKPOINT 1.40

Evaluate the integral $\displaystyle\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1 - 16x^2}}$.

EXAMPLE 1.50

Finding an Antiderivative Involving an Inverse Trigonometric Function

Evaluate the integral $\displaystyle\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{4 - 9x^2}}$.

[Show/Hide Solution]

CHECKPOINT 1.41

Find the indefinite integral using an inverse trigonometric function and substitution for

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{9 - x^2}}.$$

EXAMPLE 1.51

Evaluating a Definite Integral

Evaluate the definite integral $\displaystyle\int_0^{\sqrt{3}/2} \frac{du}{\sqrt{1 - u^2}}$.

[Show/Hide Solution]

Integrals Resulting in Other Inverse Trigonometric Functions

There are six inverse trigonometric functions. However, only three integration formulas are noted in the rule on integration formulas resulting in inverse trigonometric functions because the remaining three are negative versions of the ones we use. The only difference is whether the integrand is positive or negative. Rather than memorizing three more formulas, if the integrand is negative, simply factor out –1 and evaluate the integral using one of the formulas already provided. To close this section, we examine one more formula: the integral resulting in the inverse tangent function.

EXAMPLE 1.52

Finding an Antiderivative Involving the Inverse Tangent Function

Evaluate the integral $\int \dfrac{1}{1+4x^2}\,dx$.

[Show/Hide Solution]

CHECKPOINT 1.42

Use substitution to find the antiderivative $\int \dfrac{dx}{25+4x^2}$.

EXAMPLE 1.53

Applying the Integration Formulas

Evaluate the integral $\int \dfrac{1}{9+x^2}\,dx$.

[Show/Hide Solution]

CHECKPOINT 1.43

Evaluate the integral $\int \dfrac{dx}{16+x^2}$.

EXAMPLE 1.54

Evaluating a Definite Integral

Evaluate the definite integral $\int_{\sqrt{3}/3}^{\sqrt{3}} \dfrac{dx}{1 + x^2}$.

[Show/Hide Solution]

CHECKPOINT 1.44

Evaluate the definite integral $\int_0^2 \dfrac{dx}{4 + x^2}$.

Section 1.7 Exercises

In the following exercises, evaluate each integral in terms of an inverse trigonometric function.

391. $\int_0^{\sqrt{3}/2} \dfrac{dx}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}$

392. $\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \dfrac{dx}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}$

393. $\int_{\sqrt{3}}^1 \dfrac{dx}{1 + x^2}$

394. $\int_{1/\sqrt{3}}^{\sqrt{3}} \dfrac{dx}{1 + x^2}$

395. $\int_{\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}}^{\sqrt{2}} \dfrac{dx}{|x|\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}$

396. $\int_{\sqrt{2}}^2 \dfrac{dx}{|x|\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}$

In the following exercises, find each indefinite integral, using appropriate substitutions.

397. $\int \dfrac{dx}{\sqrt{9 - x^2}}$

398. $\displaystyle\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-16x^2}}$

399. $\displaystyle\int \frac{dx}{9+x^2}$

400. $\displaystyle\int \frac{dx}{25+16x^2}$

401. $\displaystyle\int \frac{dx}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-9}}$

402. $\displaystyle\int \frac{dx}{|x|\sqrt{4x^2-16}}$

403. Explain the relationship $-\cos^{-1}t + C = \displaystyle\int \frac{dt}{\sqrt{1-t^2}} = \sin^{-1}t + C.$ Is it true, in general, that $\cos^{-1}t = -\sin^{-1}t$?

404. Explain the relationship $\sec^{-1}t + C = \displaystyle\int \frac{dt}{|t|\sqrt{t^2-1}} = -\csc^{-1}t + C.$ Is it true, in general, that $\sec^{-1}t = -\csc^{-1}t$?

405. Explain what is wrong with the following integral: $\displaystyle\int_1^2 \frac{dt}{\sqrt{1-t^2}}.$

406. Explain what is wrong with the following integral: $\displaystyle\int_{-1}^1 \frac{dt}{|t|\sqrt{t^2-1}}.$

In the following exercises, solve for the antiderivative $\displaystyle\int f$ of f with $C = 0$, then use a calculator to graph f and the antiderivative over the given interval $[a, b]$. Identify a value of C such that adding C to the antiderivative recovers the definite integral $F(x) = \int_a^x f(t)\,dt.$

407. [T] $\displaystyle\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{9-x^2}}\,dx$ over $[-3,3]$

408. [T] $\displaystyle\int \frac{9}{9+x^2}\,dx$ over $[-6,6]$

409. [T] $\displaystyle\int \frac{\cos x}{4+\sin^2 x}\,dx$ over $[-6,6]$

410. [T] $\int \dfrac{e^x}{1 + e^{2x}}\,dx$ over $[-6, 6]$

In the following exercises, compute the antiderivative using appropriate substitutions.

411. $\displaystyle\int \dfrac{\sin^{-1}t\,dt}{\sqrt{1 - t^2}}$

412. $\displaystyle\int \dfrac{dt}{\sin^{-1}t\sqrt{1 - t^2}}$

413. $\displaystyle\int \dfrac{\tan^{-1}(2t)}{1 + 4t^2}\,dt$

414. $\displaystyle\int \dfrac{t\tan^{-1}(t^2)}{1 + t^4}\,dt$

415. $\displaystyle\int \dfrac{\sec^{-1}\left(\frac{t}{2}\right)}{|t|\,\sqrt{t^2 - 4}}\,dt$

416. $\displaystyle\int \dfrac{t\sec^{-1}(t^2)}{t^2\sqrt{t^4 - 1}}\,dt$

In the following exercises, use a calculator to graph the antiderivative $\int f$ with $C = 0$ over the given interval $[a, b]$. Approximate a value of C, if possible, such that adding C to the antiderivative gives the same value as the definite integral $F(x) = \int_a^x f(t)\,dt$.

417. [T] $\int \dfrac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2 - 4}}\,dx$ over $[2, 6]$

418. [T] $\int \dfrac{1}{(2x + 2)\sqrt{x}}\,dx$ over $[0, 6]$

419. [T] $\int \dfrac{(\sin x + x\cos x)}{1 + x^2\sin^2 x}\,dx$ over $[-6, 6]$

420. [T] $\int \dfrac{2e^{-2x}}{\sqrt{1 - e^{-4x}}}\,dx$ over $[0, 2]$

421. [T] $\int \dfrac{1}{x + x\ln^2 x}$ over $[0, 2]$

422. [T] $\displaystyle\int \frac{\sin^{-1} x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ over $[-1, 1]$

In the following exercises, compute each integral using appropriate substitutions.

423. $\displaystyle\int \frac{e^t}{\sqrt{1-e^{2t}}} dt$

424. $\displaystyle\int \frac{e^t}{1+e^{2t}} dt$

425. $\displaystyle\int \frac{dt}{t\sqrt{1-\ln^2 t}}$

426. $\displaystyle\int \frac{dt}{t\left(1+\ln^2 t\right)}$

427. $\displaystyle\int \frac{\cos^{-1}(2t)}{\sqrt{1-4t^2}} dt$

428. $\displaystyle\int \frac{e^t \cos^{-1}\left(e^t\right)}{\sqrt{1-e^{2t}}} dt$

In the following exercises, compute each definite integral.

429. $\displaystyle\int_0^{1/2} \frac{\tan\left(\sin^{-1} t\right)}{\sqrt{1-t^2}} dt$

430. $\displaystyle\int_{1/4}^{1/2} \frac{\tan\left(\cos^{-1} t\right)}{\sqrt{1-t^2}} dt$

431. $\displaystyle\int_0^{1/2} \frac{\sin\left(\tan^{-1} t\right)}{1+t^2} dt$

432. $\displaystyle\int_0^{1/2} \frac{\cos\left(\tan^{-1} t\right)}{1+t^2} dt$

433. For $A > 0$, compute $I(A) = \displaystyle\int_{-A}^{A} \frac{dt}{1+t^2}$ and evaluate $\lim_{a \to \infty} I(A)$, the area under the graph of $\frac{1}{1+t^2}$ on $[-\infty, \infty]$.

434.
For $1 < B < \infty$, compute $I(B) = \displaystyle\int_1^B \frac{dt}{t\sqrt{t^2 - 1}}$ and evaluate $\displaystyle\lim_{B\to\infty} I(B)$, the area under

the graph of $\frac{1}{t\sqrt{t^2-1}}$ over $[1, \infty)$.

435. Use the substitution $u = \sqrt{2}\cot x$ and the identity $1 + \cot^2 x = \csc^2 x$ to evaluate

$\displaystyle\int \frac{dx}{1 + \cos^2 x}$. (*Hint:* Multiply the top and bottom of the integrand by $\csc^2 x$.)

436. **[T]** Approximate the points at which the graphs of $f(x) = 2x^2 - 1$ and
$g(x) = (1 + 4x^2)^{-3/2}$ intersect to four decimal places, and approximate the area between
their graphs to three decimal places.

437. 47. **[T]** Approximate the points at which the graphs of $f(x) = x^2 - 1$ and
$g(x) = (x^2 + 1)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ intersect to four decimal places, and approximate the area between their
graphs to three decimal places.

438.
Use the following graph to prove that $\displaystyle\int_0^x \sqrt{1 - t^2}\,dt = \frac{1}{2}x\sqrt{1 - x^2} + \frac{1}{2}\sin^{-1}x$.