

Spring 2021 MATH 76
Activity 6

TRIG SUBSTITUTION

When a is a positive fixed number, we choose $\theta = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)$, or $\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)$, or $\theta = \sec^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)$ when it is convenient. The different types of substitutions are highlighted in the table below, along with the values of x and corresponding values of θ that make the substitutions valid.

Expression	Trig sub	Trig identities	Simplification
$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$	$x = a \sin \theta$	$a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta = a^2 \cos^2 \theta$	$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2} = a \cos \theta$, $-a \leq x \leq a$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$
$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2}$	$x = a \tan \theta$	$a^2 + a^2 \tan^2 \theta = a^2 \sec^2 \theta$	$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2} = a \sec \theta$, all x and $-\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$
$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2}$	$x = a \sec \theta$	$a^2 \sec^2 \theta - a^2 = a^2 \tan^2 \theta$	$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} = \begin{cases} a \tan \theta, & x \geq a \text{ and } 0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ -a \tan \theta, & x \leq -a \text{ and } \frac{\pi}{2} < \theta \leq \pi \end{cases}$

1. Use a trig substitution of x to simplify the following expressions.

(a) $\sqrt{x^2 + 4}$

(b) $\sqrt{16 - x^2}$ where $-4 \leq x \leq 4$

(c) $\sqrt{x^2 - 9}$ where $x \geq 3$

(d) $\sqrt{1 - 16x^2}$ where $-\frac{1}{4} \leq x \leq \frac{1}{4}$

(e) $\sqrt{9x^2 + 16}$

(a) $\sqrt{x^2 + 4}$

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

$$= \sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 \tan^2 \theta}$$

$$= \sqrt{2^2 \sec^2 \theta}$$

$$= 2 \sec \theta \quad \checkmark$$

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

$$x = a \tan \theta$$

$$a^2 + a^2 \tan^2 \theta = a^2 \sec^2 \theta$$

$$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2} = a \sec \theta, \quad \text{all } x \text{ and } -\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

(b) $\sqrt{16 - x^2}$ where $-4 \leq x \leq 4$

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

$$x = a \sin \theta$$

$$a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta = a^2 \cos^2 \theta$$

$$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2} = a \cos \theta, \quad -a \leq x \leq a \text{ and } -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$= \sqrt{4^2 - x^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{4^2 - 4^2 \sin^2 \theta} = 4 \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta}$$

$$= \sqrt{4^2 \cos^2 \theta} = 4 \sqrt{\cos^2 \theta}$$

$$= 4 \cos \theta \quad \checkmark$$

(c) $\sqrt{x^2 - 9}$ where $x \geq 3$

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

$$x = a \sec \theta$$

$$a^2 \sec^2 \theta - a^2 = a^2 \tan^2 \theta$$

$$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} = \begin{cases} a \tan \theta, & x \geq a \text{ and } 0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ -a \tan \theta, & x \leq -a \text{ and } \frac{\pi}{2} < \theta \leq \pi \end{cases}$$

$$= \sqrt{x^2 - 3^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{3^2 \sec^2 \theta - 3^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{3^2 \tan^2 \theta}$$

$$= 3 \tan \theta \quad \checkmark$$

(d) $\sqrt{1 - 16x^2}$ where $-\frac{1}{4} \leq x \leq \frac{1}{4}$

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

$$x = a \sin \theta$$

$$a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta = a^2 \cos^2 \theta$$

$$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2} = a \cos \theta, \quad -a \leq x \leq a \text{ and } -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$= \sqrt{(\sqrt{1})^2 - (4x)^2} \quad a^2 = (\sqrt{1})^2$$

$$= \sqrt{(\sqrt{1})^2 \sin^2 \theta - (4x)^2} \quad x^2 = (4x)^2$$

$$= \sqrt{1^2 \sin^2 \theta - x^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{1^2 \cos^2 \theta}$$

$$= 1 \cos \theta$$

$$= \cos \theta \quad \checkmark$$

(e) $\sqrt{9x^2 + 16}$

$$= \sqrt{9x^2 + 4^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{9} \sqrt{x^2 + \frac{16}{9}} = 3 \sqrt{x^2 + \frac{16}{9}}$$

$$= 3 \sqrt{\left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^2 \tan^2 \theta + \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^2}$$

$$= 3 \sqrt{\left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^2 \sec^2 \theta}$$

$$= 3 \cdot \frac{4}{3} \sec \theta = \boxed{4 \sec \theta} \checkmark$$

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

$x = a \tan \theta$

$a^2 + a^2 \tan^2 \theta = a^2 \sec^2 \theta$

$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2} = a \sec \theta, \quad \text{all } x \text{ and } -\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$

2. Make the appropriate trig substitution of x in the following integrals and simplify. DO NOT FORGET dx . DO NOT INTEGRATE.

(a) $\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + 4}} dx$

(b) $\int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{x^2 + 9}} dx$

(c) $\int \sqrt{9x^2 - 25} dx$ where $x \geq \frac{5}{3}$

(d) $\int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{16 - x^2}} dx$ where $-4 < x < 4$

(e) $\int \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + 16}}{x^4} dx$

$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2}$	$x = a \tan \theta$	$a^2 + a^2 \tan^2 \theta = a^2 \sec^2 \theta$	$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2} = a \sec \theta, \quad \text{all } x \text{ and } -\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$
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(a) $\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + 4}} dx = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + 2^2}} dx$

$x = 2 \tan \theta \quad dx = 2 \sec^2 \theta d\theta$

$$= \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^2 \tan^2 \theta + 2^2}} d\theta = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^2 \sec^2 \theta}} 2 \sec^2 \theta d\theta = \int \frac{2 \sec^2 \theta}{2 \sec \theta} d\theta$$

$= \int \sec \theta d\theta \quad \checkmark$

$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2}$	$x = a \tan \theta$	$a^2 + a^2 \tan^2 \theta = a^2 \sec^2 \theta$	$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2} = a \sec \theta, \quad \text{all } x \text{ and } -\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$
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(b) $\int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{x^2 + 9}} dx \quad \checkmark = \int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{x^2 + 3^2}} dx$

$x = 3 \tan \theta \quad dx = 3 \sec^2 \theta d\theta$

$$= \int \frac{3^2 \tan^2 \theta}{3 \sec \theta} 3 \sec^2 \theta d\theta = \int 9 \tan^2 \theta \sec \theta d\theta \quad \checkmark$$

$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2}$	$x = a \sec \theta$	$a^2 \sec^2 \theta - a^2 = a^2 \tan^2 \theta$	$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} = \begin{cases} a \tan \theta, & x \geq a \text{ and } 0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ -a \tan \theta, & x \leq -a \text{ and } \frac{\pi}{2} < \theta \leq \pi \end{cases}$
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(c) $\int \sqrt{9x^2 - 25} dx \quad \text{where } x \geq \frac{5}{3} = \int \sqrt{9x^2 - 5^2} dx$

$x = 5 \sec \theta \quad dx = 5 \sec \theta \tan \theta d\theta$

$$= 3 \int \sqrt{x^2 - 5^2} dx$$

$$= 3 \int \sqrt{5^2 \sec^2 \theta - 5^2} 5 \sec \theta \tan \theta d\theta = 75 \int \sqrt{\sec^2 \theta - 1} \sec \theta \tan \theta d\theta$$

$$= 75 \int \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta = 75 \int (\sec^2 \theta - 1) \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta$$

$u = \sec \theta$
 $du = \sec \theta \tan \theta d\theta$

$$= 75 \int (u^2 - 1) du = \boxed{75 \int (\sec^2 \theta - 1) d\theta} \quad \checkmark$$

(d) $\int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{16-x^2}} dx$ where $-4 < x < 4$

$-\sqrt{a^2-x^2}$	$x = a \sin \theta$	$a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta = a^2 \cos^2 \theta$	$\sqrt{a^2-x^2} = a \cos \theta, \quad -a \leq x \leq a \text{ and } -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$
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$$= \int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{4^2-x^2}} dx$$

$$x = 4 \sin \theta$$

$$dx = 4 \cos \theta d\theta$$

$$= \int \frac{4^2 \sin^2 \theta}{\sqrt{4^2 - 4^2 \sin^2 \theta}} d\theta = \int \frac{4^2 \sin^2 \theta}{4 \cos \theta} 4 \cos \theta d\theta$$

$$= 16 \int \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\cancel{\cos \theta}} \cancel{\cos \theta} d\theta = 16 \int \sin^2 \theta d\theta \quad \checkmark$$

(e) $\int \frac{\sqrt{x^2+16}}{x^4} dx$

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

$$x = a \tan \theta$$

$$a^2 + a^2 \tan^2 \theta = a^2 \sec^2 \theta$$

$$\sqrt{a^2+x^2} = a \sec \theta, \quad \text{all } x \text{ and } -\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$= \int \frac{\sqrt{x^2+4^2}}{x^4} dx = \int \frac{\sqrt{4^2 \tan^2 \theta + 4^2}}{4^4 \tan^4 \theta} d\theta$$

$$x = 4 \tan \theta$$

$$dx = 4 \sec^2 \theta d\theta$$

$$= \int \frac{\sqrt{4^2 \sec^2 \theta}}{4^4 \tan^4 \theta} 4 \sec^2 \theta d\theta = \int \frac{4 \sec \theta}{4^4 \tan^4 \theta} 4 \sec^2 \theta d\theta$$

$$= \frac{1}{16} \int \frac{\sec^3 \theta}{\tan^4 \theta} d\theta = \frac{1}{16} \int \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin^4 \theta} d\theta$$

$$u = \sin \theta$$

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

$$= \frac{1}{16} \int \frac{1}{u^4} du = \frac{1}{16} \int \frac{1}{\sin^4 \theta} d\theta \quad \checkmark$$

3. Compute the following integrals by using a trig substitution of x . Do not forget dx .

(a) $\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 25}} dx$ where $x > 5$

(b) $\int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}} dx$ where $-1 < x < 1$

(c) $\int \sqrt{1 + 4x^2} dx$

$$\times \text{ (a) } \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 25}} dx \quad \text{where } x > 5$$

$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2}$	$x = a \sec \theta$	$a^2 \sec^2 \theta - a^2 = a^2 \tan^2 \theta$	$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} = \begin{cases} a \tan \theta, & x \geq a \text{ and } 0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ -a \tan \theta, & x \leq -a \text{ and } \frac{\pi}{2} < \theta \leq \pi \end{cases}$
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$$x = 5 \sec \theta \quad dx = 5 \sec \theta \tan \theta d\theta$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 5^2}} dx \quad u = \frac{x}{5} \quad du = \frac{1}{5} dx \quad dx = 5 du$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{u^2 - 1}} du = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sec^2 \theta - 1}} du \quad u = \sec^2 \theta \quad du = 2 \sec \theta \tan \theta d\theta$$

$$= \int \frac{\sec \theta \tan \theta}{\sqrt{\sec^2 \theta - 1}} du = \int \frac{\sec \theta \tan \theta}{\tan \theta} du = \int \sec \theta = \sec \theta \tan \theta + C$$

$$\times \text{ (b) } \int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}} dx \quad \text{where } -1 < x < 1$$

$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$	$x = a \sin \theta$	$a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta = a^2 \cos^2 \theta$	$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2} = a \cos \theta, \quad -a \leq x \leq a \text{ and } -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$
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$$x = \sin \theta \quad dx = \cos \theta d\theta$$

$$u = \arcsin x \quad du = \cos \theta dx$$

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

$$= \int \frac{\cos \theta \sin^2 \theta}{\cos \theta} d\theta = \int \sin^2 \theta d\theta = -\frac{\cos \theta \sin \theta}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \int 1 d\theta$$

$$= -\frac{\cos \theta \sin \theta}{2} + \frac{\theta}{2} + C = \frac{\arcsin x}{2} - \frac{x \sqrt{1 - x^2}}{2} + C$$

$$(c) \int \sqrt{1+4x^2} dx$$

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

$$x = a \tan \theta$$

$$a^2 + a^2 \tan^2 \theta = a^2 \sec^2 \theta$$

$$\sqrt{a^2+x^2} = a \sec \theta, \quad \text{all } x \text{ and } -\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$= 2 \int \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} + x^2} dx$$

$$x = \frac{1}{2} \tan \theta$$

$$dx = \frac{1}{2} \sec^2 \theta d\theta$$

$$= 2 \int \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \tan^2 \theta} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \sec^2 \theta d\theta$$

$$= \int \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \tan^2 \theta} \sec^2 \theta d\theta = \int \frac{1}{2} \sec \theta \sec^2 \theta d\theta$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int \sec \theta \sec^2 \theta d\theta$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int \sec \theta \tan \theta + \frac{1}{2} \int \sec \theta d\theta$$

$$= \frac{\ln(\tan \theta + \sec \theta)}{2} + \frac{\sec \theta \tan \theta}{2} + C$$

$$= \frac{\ln(\tan \theta + \sec \theta)}{2} + \sec \theta \tan \theta + C \quad \checkmark$$