

NATIONAL DONG HWA UNIVERSITY

Calculus I + II

Lecture Note

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Contents

1 Pre-calculus	3
2 Limits and Continuity	4
3 Definition of Derivatives	5
4 Differentiation Rules and Derivatives of Common Functions	6
5 Application of Derivatives	7
5.1 Function Approximation	7
5.1.1 Linear Approximation / Tangent Line Approximation	7
5.1.2 Linear Approximation of Common Functions	10
5.1.3 Quadratic Approximation and Beyond	13
5.2 Newton's Method	16
5.3 Related Rates	20
5.4 Curve Sketching	24
5.4.1 First Derivative and Critical Points	25
5.4.2 Second Derivative and Concavity	33
5.5 Finding the Extrema of a Function	37
5.5.1 Definition of Extrema	37
5.5.2 Existence and Identification of Global Extrema	38
5.5.3 Identification of Local Extrema	41
5.6 Optimization Problems	44
6 Antiderivatives and integrals	49
6.1 Definition of Antiderivatives and the Mean Value Theorem	49
6.2 Antidifferentiation techniques: Variable substitution	60
6.2.1 Differentials	60
6.2.2 U-substitution	61
6.2.3 Interlude: Products between Trigonometric Functions	72
6.2.4 Trigonometric substitution	80
6.3 Antidifferentiation techniques: Partial Fractions	101
6.4 Antidifferentiation techniques: Integration by Parts	113

1 Pre-calculus

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2 Limits and Continuity

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3 Definition of Derivatives

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4 Differentiation Rules and Derivatives of Common Functions

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5 Application of Derivatives

5.1 Function Approximation

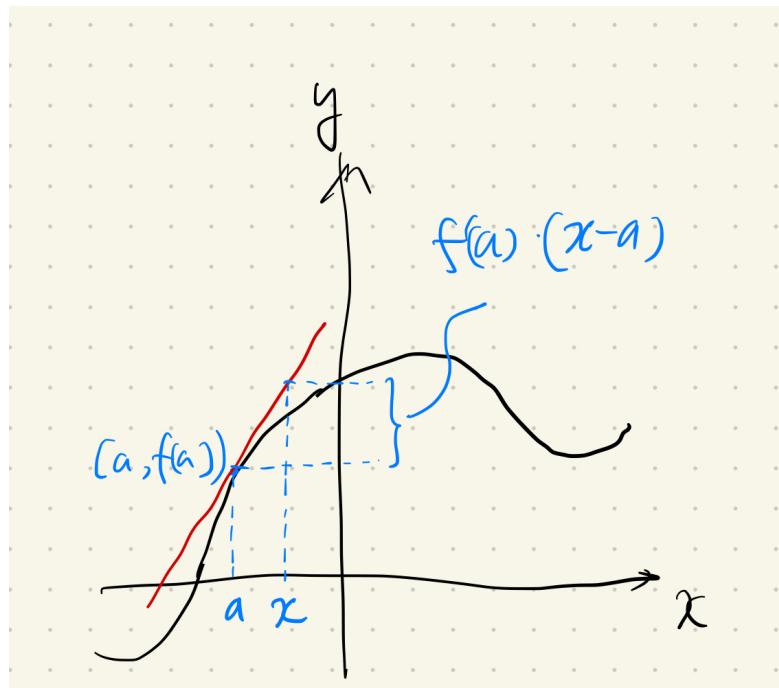
5.1.1 Linear Approximation / Tangent Line Approximation

Previously, we talked about how to find the equation of the tangent line for a function $f(x)$ at a given point $(a, f(a))$, which is:

$$y - f(a) = f'(a)(x - a)$$

or we can rewrite the expression and graph it:

$$y = \underbrace{f(a)}_{\text{starting value of } y} + \underbrace{f'(a)}_{\text{change rate of } y \text{ relative to } x} \cdot \underbrace{(x - a)}_{\text{deviation of } x \text{ from } a}$$



Since the curve is very close to the tangent line when x is close to a , we can *approximate* the values of $f(x)$ at $x \approx a$ with $\hat{f}(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$. In fact, one can prove that $\hat{f}(x)$ is the

"best linear approximant" to $f(x)$ near $x = a$ by showing that any other linear approximant has a relatively larger error when $x \rightarrow a$. To see this, say there is another linear approximant $f^*(x) = q + p(x - a)$, then ratio of the approximation errors between $\hat{f}(x)$ and $f^*(x)$ can be written as:

$$\frac{f(x) - \hat{f}(x)}{f(x) - f^*(x)} = \frac{f(x) - [f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)]}{f(x) - [q + p(x - a)]}$$

Taking the limit where $x \rightarrow a$, we yield:

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - \hat{f}(x)}{f(x) - f^*(x)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - [f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)]}{f(x) - [q + p(x - a)]} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{[f(x) - f(a)] - f'(a)(x - a)}{[f(x) - f(a)] - [(q - f(a)) + p(x - a)]} \end{aligned} \quad (5.1)$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{\frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} - f'(a)}{\frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} - \left[\frac{q - f(a)}{x - a} + p \right]} \quad (5.2)$$

Now we have two cases:

(a) If $q \neq f(a)$, then from (5.1):

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{[f(x) - f(a)] - f'(a)(x - a)}{[f(x) - f(a)] - [(q - f(a)) + p(x - a)]} = \frac{0 - 0}{0 - [(q - f(a)) - 0]} = 0$$

where $f(x) - f(a) = 0$ since $f(x)$ is differentiable at $x = a$ and thus continuous there.

(b) If $q = f(a)$ but $p \neq f'(a)$, then from (5.2):

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{\frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} - f'(a)}{\frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} - \left[\frac{q - f(a)}{x - a} + p \right]} = \frac{f'(a) - f'(a)}{f'(a) - [0 + p]} = 0$$

Therefore, the error ratio goes to zero if $f^*(x)$ is not $\hat{f}(x)$, which implies that the tangent line approximant has a smaller error than any other linear approximants as $x \rightarrow a$. We write this as a theorem:

Theorem 5.1: Linear approximation of general function

Suppose $f(x)$ is differentiable at $x = a$, then the best linear approximant for $f(x)$ at $x = a$ is

$$\hat{f}(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$$

The advantage of using linear approximations is that when $f(x)$ is complicated and difficult evaluate, $\hat{f}(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$ may be relatively easy to calculate. We will demonstrate in the following example:

Example 5.1

Give an approximate value for $\sqrt{1.0003}$ using linear approximation.

Solution 5.1

$\sqrt{1.0003}$ may be hard to compute, yet $\sqrt{1}$ is trivial. Therefore, we define a function $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ so that $f(1.0003) = \sqrt{1.0003}$. We can then obtain the linear approximation of $f(x)$ at $x = 1$ to help us approximate $f(1.0003)$. Using the power rule, $f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$, so we have our linear approximant:

$$\hat{f}(x) = f(1) + f'(1)(x - 1) = \sqrt{1} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1}}(x - 1) = 1 + \frac{x - 1}{2}$$

Therefore, the linear approximation of $\sqrt{1.0003}$ would be:

$$\sqrt{1.0003} = f(1.0003) \approx \hat{f}(1.0003) = 1 + \frac{0.0003}{2} = 1.00015$$

Note that the true value of $\sqrt{1.0003}$ is 1.0001499887..., so our approximation is actually quite good.

Remark 5.1. Note that we based our linear approximation at $x = 1$ instead of, say, $x = 0.5$ for two reasons: (a) $f(0.5)$ and $f'(0.5)$ are not as easily computed as $f(1)$ and $f'(1)$, (b) 1.0003 is closer to 1 than 0.5, so the approximant at $x = 1$ would perform better than the approximant at $x = 0.5$.

Exercise 5.2

Give an approximate value for $\sqrt[3]{65}$ using linear approximation.

Solution 5.2

We can rewrite $\sqrt[3]{65}$ as:

$$\sqrt[3]{65} = \sqrt[3]{64 + 1} = \sqrt[3]{64} \left(1 + \frac{1}{64}\right) = 4\sqrt[3]{1 + \frac{1}{64}}$$

While $\sqrt[3]{1 + \frac{1}{64}}$ is difficult to evaluate, we actually can compute $\sqrt[3]{1}$ quite easily. So we let $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$ and find its linear approximant at $x = 1$. Since $f'(x) = \frac{1}{3}x^{-\frac{2}{3}} = \frac{1}{3(\sqrt[3]{x})^2}$, we have,

$$\hat{f}(x) = f(1) + f'(1)(x - 1) = \sqrt[3]{1} + \frac{1}{3(\sqrt[3]{1})^2}(x - 1) = 1 + \frac{x - 1}{3}$$

Therefore, the linear approximation for $\sqrt[3]{65}$ would be,

$$\sqrt[3]{65} = 4f\left(1 + \frac{1}{64}\right) \approx 4\hat{f}\left(1 + \frac{1}{64}\right) = 4\left(1 + \frac{1/64}{3}\right) = 4 + \frac{1}{48} \approx 4.02083$$

The true value of $\sqrt[3]{65}$ is actually about 4.02072, so we are precise to the third decimal using linear approximation.

5.1.2 Linear Approximation of Common Functions

In the following we try to derive a list of linear approximants for common functions. Note that we rewrite the form for some of the functions so that all the the approximants are expanded at $x = 0$, so that

$$f(x) \approx \hat{f}(x) = f(0) + f'(0)x$$

$f(x)$	$f'(x)$	$f(0)$	$f'(0)$	$\hat{f}(x)$
$(1+x)^r$	$r(1+x)^{r-1}$	1	r	$1 + rx$
e^x	e^x	1	1	$1 + x$
$\ln(1+x)$	$\frac{1}{1+x}$	0	1	x
$\sin x$	$\cos x$	0	1	x
$\cos x$	$-\sin x$	1	0	1

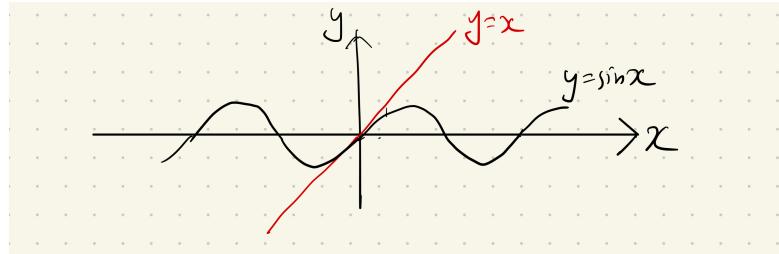
We summarize the results into the following theorem:

Theorem 5.2: Linear approximation of common functions

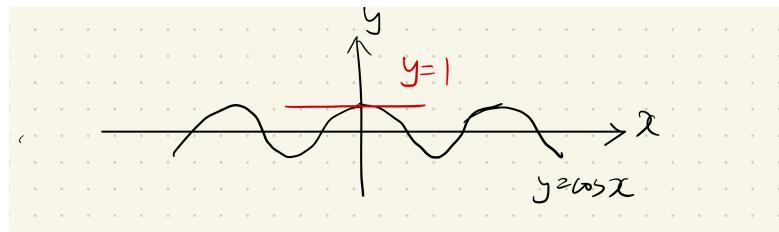
When $x \approx 0$, we have the following linear approximations:

$$(1+x)^r \approx 1+rx \quad e^x \approx 1+x \quad \ln(1+x) \approx x \quad \sin x \approx x \quad \cos x \approx 1$$

Remark 5.2. These approximations tell us the behavior of these functions near $x = 0$. Eg. $\sin x$ behaves like x (linearly) when x is near zero. This can also be seen on the graph:



Remark 5.3. The approximant for $\cos x$ seems weird: there is no x in the approximant! This indicates that when restricting to linear approximation, the behavior of $\cos x$ near $x = 0$ is best approximated with a horizontal line, as shown in the graph:



When functions are added / subtracted / multiplied with each other, we can do approximations to the individual functions first, then perform the addition / subtraction / multiplication. We will demonstrate this in the following example.

Example 5.3

Find the linear approximant to $f(x) = \frac{2e^x + \ln(1+x)}{\sqrt{1+x}}$ at $x = 0$.

Solution 5.3

If we try to approximate $f(x)$ at $x = 0$ with the tangent line formula, we first need to find

its derivative with the quotient rule:

$$f'(x) = \frac{\left(2e^x + \frac{1}{1+x}\right)\sqrt{1+x} - [2e^x + \ln(1+x)]\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x}}}{(\sqrt{1+x})^2}$$

Therefore we have

$$f(0) = \frac{2+0}{\sqrt{1}} = 2$$

$$f'(0) = \frac{(2+1)\sqrt{1+0} - [2+0]\frac{1}{2\sqrt{1}}}{(\sqrt{1+0})^2} = \frac{3-1}{1} = 2$$

And the approximant is

$$\hat{f}(x) = f(0) + f'(0)(x-0) = 2 + 2x$$

Alternatively, we can approximate first and get

$$f(x) = [2e^x + \ln(1+x)](1+x)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\approx [2(1+x) + x]\left(1 - \frac{1}{2}x\right)$$

$$= [2 + 3x]\left(1 - \frac{1}{2}x\right)$$

$$= 2 + 2x - \frac{3}{2}x^2 \approx 2 + 2x$$

The last approximation discards the x^2 term since when x is near 0, x^2 is negligible compared to x . We can see that these two approaches yield identical results.

We will conclude linear approximations with an exercise:

Exercise 5.4

Find the linear approximant to $f(x) = 3xe^{2x-10}$ at $x = 5$.

Solution 5.4

(Approach 1)

We use the tangent line formula directly, so we first obtain the derivative of $f(x)$

$$f'(x) = 3e^{2x-10} + 3xe^{2x-10} \cdot 2 = (6x+3)e^{2x-10}$$

Therefore,

$$f(5) = 3 \cdot 5 \cdot e^0 = 15$$

$$f'(5) = (6 \cdot 5 + 3)e^0 = 33$$

And the linear approximant is

$$\hat{f}(x) = f(5) + f'(5)(x - 5) = 15 + 33(x - 5) = 33x - 150$$

(Approach 2)

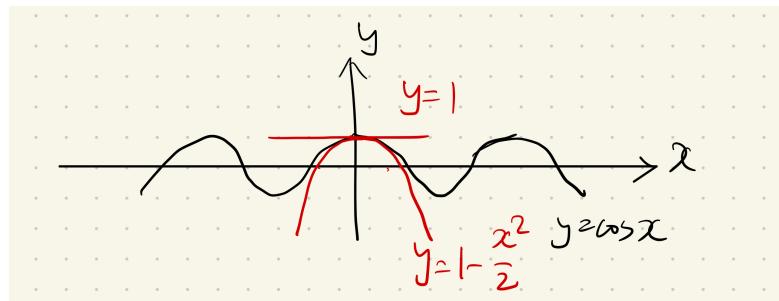
Let $x = 5 + \delta$, then when $x \approx 5$, $\delta \approx 0$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 3(5 + \delta)e^{2(5+\delta)-10} \\ &= 3(5 + \delta)e^{2\delta} \\ &\approx 3(5 + \delta)(1 + 2\delta) \\ &= 15 + 33\delta + 6\delta^2 \\ &\approx 15 + 33\delta = 15 + 33(x - 5) = 33x - 150 \end{aligned}$$

The two approaches still yield the same linear approximant.

5.1.3 Quadratic Approximation and Beyond

Previously we used linear approximation to approximate $\cos x$ near $x = 0$ and got $\cos x \approx 1$, which is somewhat anticlimactic.



As shown in the graph above, although $y = 1$ is the best line that approximates the behavior of $\cos x$ near zero, it is not doing a good job when x is a bit far from zero. A possible improvement is to use a degree-2 polynomial (parabola) instead of a degree-1 polynomial (line) to do the approximation, so that the approximant can curve and fit $\cos x$ better.

Suppose we want to approximate our desired function $f(x)$ near $x = a$. Before we get to degree-2 polynomials, we first observe that if we write the degree-1 polynomial approximant as $\hat{f}_1(x) = b_0 + b_1(x - a)$, then matching the function value and derivative at $x = a$, i.e. letting $f(a) = \hat{f}_1(a)$ and $f'(a) = \hat{f}'_1(a)$, will give us the best solution $f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$, as shown in the following table:

	Original function $f(x)$	Linear approximant $\hat{f}_1(x) = b_0 + b_1(x - a)$	Quadratic approximant $\hat{f}_2(x) = b_0 + b_1(x - a) + b_2(x - a)^2$
Value @ $x = a$	$f(a)$	b_0	b_0
Derivative @ $x = a$	$f'(a)$	b_1	b_1
2^{nd} derivative @ $x = a$	$f''(a)$	0	$2b_2$

Likewise, if we write the degree-2 polynomial approximant as $\hat{f}_2(x) = b_0 + b_1(x - a) + b_2(x - a)^2$, we can find the best solution by letting $f(a) = \hat{f}_2(a)$, $f'(a) = \hat{f}'_2(a)$ and $f''(a) = \hat{f}''_2(a)$. This leads to $b_0 = f(a)$, $b_1 = f'(a)$ and $b_2 = \frac{1}{2}f''(a)$, and we have the following theorem:

Theorem 5.3: Quadratic approximation of general function

Suppose $f(x)$ is twice differentiable at $x = a$, then the best quadratic approximant for $f(x)$ at $x = a$ is

$$\hat{f}(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{1}{2}f''(a)(x - a)^2$$

We can then list some quadratic approximants for common functions:

$f(x)$	$f'(x)$	$f''(x)$	$f(0)$	$f'(0)$	$f''(0)$	$\hat{f}(x)$
$(1+x)^r$	$r(1+x)^{r-1}$	$r(r-1)(1+x)^{r-2}$	1	r	$r(r-1)$	$1+rx+\frac{r(r-1)}{2}x^2$
e^x	e^x	e^x	1	1	1	$1+x+\frac{1}{2}x^2$
$\ln(1+x)$	$\frac{1}{1+x}$	$-\frac{1}{(1+x)^2}$	0	1	-1	$x-\frac{1}{2}x^2$
$\sin x$	$\cos x$	$-\sin x$	0	1	0	x
$\cos x$	$-\sin x$	$-\cos x$	1	0	-1	$1-\frac{1}{2}x^2$

We summarize the results into the following theorem:

Theorem 5.4: Quadratic approximation of common functions

When $x \approx 0$, we have the following quadratic approximations:

$$(1+x)^r \approx 1+rx+\frac{r(r-1)}{2}x^2 \quad e^x \approx 1+x+\frac{x^2}{2} \quad \ln(1+x) \approx x-\frac{x^2}{2}$$

$$\sin x \approx x \quad \cos x \approx 1-\frac{x^2}{2}$$

Remark 5.4. Notice that our quadratic approximant for $\cos x$ near $x = 0$ performs much better than the linear approximant, especially when x is a bit away from 0, as shown in the graph above. Also, the quadratic approximant for $\sin x$ near $x = 0$ is the same as its linear approximant, which implies that introducing an extra x^2 term does not improve the approximation of $\sin x$ near $x = 0$.

In fact, by the virtue of linear and quadratic approximants, if we try to approximate $f(x)$ near $x = c$ with higher order polynomials by matching an array of high-order derivatives at $x = c$, eventually we will get the famous *Taylor series*:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x-a)^n = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \dots$$

Under certain conditions (which we will not dig further into for now), this series is actually an accurate representation for $f(x)$. In other words, it is no longer an approximation to $f(x)$: it is $f(x)$. We provide some of the famous Taylor series below:

Theorem 5.5: Taylor series of common functions

$$\begin{aligned} e^x &= 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots \\ \sin x &= x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots \\ \cos x &= 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots \\ \ln(1+x) &= x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots \quad (-1 < x \leq 1) \\ \frac{1}{1-x} &= 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + \dots \quad (-1 < x < 1) \end{aligned}$$

To digress a little bit, although in this course we only talk about real numbers, but if we define $i = \sqrt{-1}$ as the imaginary square root of -1 and plug ix into the Taylor series for e^x , we get

$$\begin{aligned} e^{ix} &= 1 + ix + \frac{(ix)^2}{2!} + \frac{(ix)^3}{3!} + \frac{(ix)^4}{4!} + \frac{(ix)^5}{5!} + \frac{(ix)^6}{6!} - \frac{(ix)^7}{7!} + \dots \\ &= 1 + ix - \frac{x^2}{2!} - \frac{ix^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \frac{ix^5}{5!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \frac{ix^7}{7!} + \dots \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots\right) + i \left(x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots\right) \\ &= \cos x + i \sin x \end{aligned}$$

which is a remarkable result proposed (popularized) by the famous mathematician *Leonhard Euler* (1707-1783). In addition, pluggin π into x and we yield $e^{i\pi} = -1$. Or, even better,

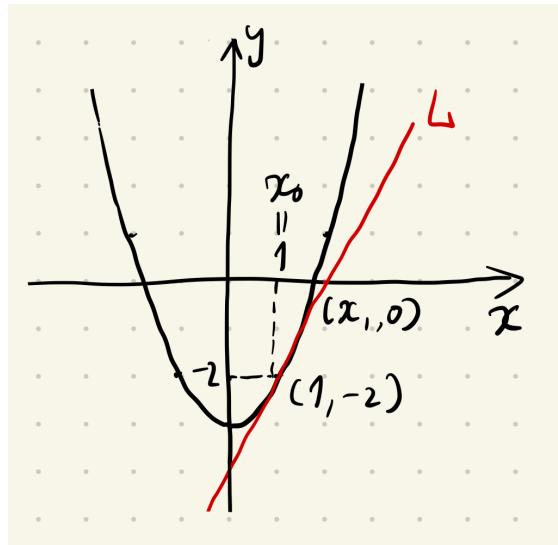
$$e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$$

This formula, also termed as *Euler's identity*, is considered as the most beautiful formula by some, since it relates five of the fundamental numbers in mathematics: e , π , i , 1 , 0 , all in a compact and simple formula.

5.2 Newton's Method

Derivatives are also useful in finding roots of a function $f(x)$, i.e. finding x where $f(x) = 0$. Sometimes you *can* find the roots by simply solving $f(x) = 0$ on paper, but for complicated functions (eg. $f(x) = x^2 - \sin x$) you have to resort to numerical methods, which approximate the roots using iterative procedures. Newton's method is one of the numerical methods that has a fairly fast speed of convergence (i.e. it can get you a pretty accurate answer within a few iterations).

For example, suppose we want to find the roots of $f(x) = x^2 - 3$. In this case, we know its roots are $\pm\sqrt{3}$ by solving $x^2 - 3 = 0$, but we now try to find the roots numerically. To initiate Newton's method, we must first guess a solution that is not too far off. We notice $f(1) = -2 < 0$ and $f(2) = 1 > 0$, so there is (probably) a root between 1 and 2. Let's make a initial guess of 1. Since this is our initial guess, we denote it as $x_0 = 1$. This gives us a graph a follows:



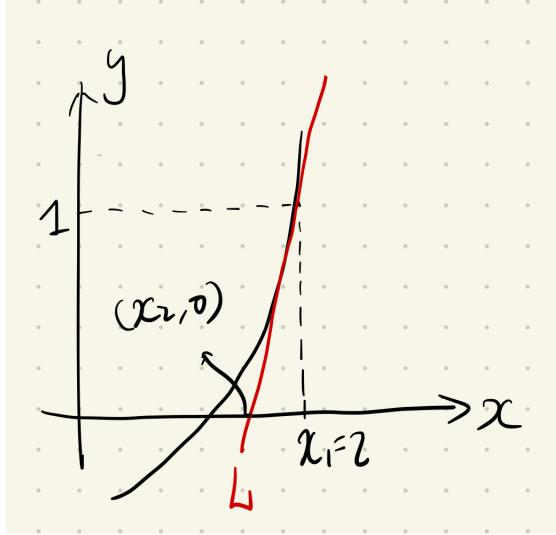
We see that our guess of $x_0 = 1$ is not quite correct since $f(x_0) = -2$. However, from this point on the curve we can construct a tangent line L that intersects with the x -axis at $(x_1, 0)$. The mindset is that if L is a good linear approximation to $f(x)$ near $x = 1$, then $(x_1, 0)$ should be very close to the point where the curve intersects the x -axis. Knowing that $f'(x) = 2x$, we can express L using our tangent line formula (or linear approximation formula, if you will):

$$L : y = -2 + 2(x - 1) = 2x - 4$$

Since L passes through $(x_1, 0)$, the following equation should be satisfied:

$$0 = 2x_1 - 4$$

So we get our next guess $x_1 = 2$, which still isn't quite right since $f(2) = 1$. We can apply the same trick again, i.e. do another iteration of Newton's method based on the following graph (which is scaled and a little distorted for demonstration):



The equation for the new tangent line, which passes through $(2, f(2) = 1)$, is

$$L : y = 1 + 4(x - 2) = 4x - 7$$

using the fact that $f'(2) = 2 \cdot 2 = 4$. Following the same procedure, we aim to find the point where L intersects with the x -axis, $(x_2, 0)$. Since L passes through $(x_2, 0)$, we have

$$0 = 4x_2 - 7$$

So we have our next guess $x_2 = \frac{7}{4}$. Now you can see that $f\left(\frac{7}{4}\right) = 0.0625$, which is really close to 0, so we're very close to our solution. In practice, we can set a small positive number ϵ (sometimes termed as *tolerance*) that stands for the maximum error magnitude in function value we are willing to accept, then repeat the iterations until $|f(x_k)| < \epsilon$ and claim x_k is our approximated root and call it a day. If we set the tolerance as 10^{-8} , then we only need 4 iterations to arrive at our answer:

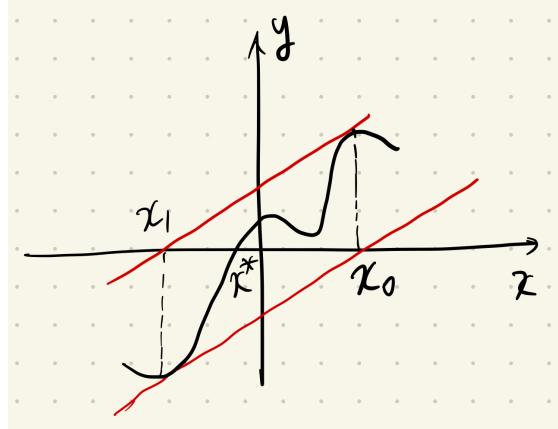
Iteration number (k)	Root estimate (x_k)	Error in function value ($f(x_k)$)	Error of estimate ($x_k - \sqrt{3}$)
0	1	-2	-0.7321
1	2	1	0.2679
2	7/4	0.0625	0.0179
3	97/56	3.19×10^{-4}	9.20×10^{-5}
4	18817/10864	8.47×10^{-9}	2.45×10^{-9}

Remark 5.5. The iteration is actually going closer and closer to one of the roots, $\sqrt{3}$, but does not get anywhere near the other root, $-\sqrt{3}$. To find the other root, we will have to pick an initial value closer to $-\sqrt{3}$, eg. $x_0 = -1$.

Note that although Newton's methods is quite powerful, in some cases it will fail miserably. One of the failure modes is when Newton's method iterates to a point where the derivative is

zero. For example, if we make our initial guess of $x_0 = 0$, then $f'(x_0) = 0$, so the tangent line L is horizontal and does not intersect with the x -axis and we do not know how to make the next guess x_1 .

Another failure mode of Newton's method is when the root estimate jumps between several points and does not converge. For example, in the following figure, if you initialize at $x = x_0$, the next guess would be $x = x_1$. Yet in the next iteration, plugging in x_1 will lead you back to x_0 , and you will get nowhere near the true root x^* . The two failure modes mentioned above can be circumvented by choosing a better initial guess of x_0 .



There are still other failures modes for Newton's method, but we will not discuss further: just keep in mind that if Newton's method is taking a lot of iterations and does not seem to be converging, you may have encountered a case where Newton's method fails. You should try changing your initial guess or opting for another root-finding algorithm.

Lastly, we derive the general formula for each iteration of Newton's method. Suppose we are finding the roots of $f(x)$, and our current guess is x_k , the tangent line over $(x_k, f(x_k))$ is:

$$L : y = f(x_k) + f'(x_k)(x - x_k)$$

The next guess for the root, x_{k+1} , is the x -coordinate of intersection point between L and the x -axis, i.e. L passes through $(x_{k+1}, 0)$. So we have

$$0 = f(x_k) + f'(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k)$$

Rearrange the equation and we get the following theorem:

Theorem 5.6: Iteration formula for Newton's method

Let x_k be root estimate for $f(x)$ from the k^{th} iteration in Newton's method, then the root estimate of the next iteration, x_{k+1} , can be found by

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \frac{f(x_k)}{f'(x_k)}$$

From this formula, you can see that the failure mode where the derivative is zero becomes evident, since zero would then be in the denominator and the procedure does not make sense. We will end this section with an exercise.

Exercise 5.5

Approximate the value of $\sqrt[3]{2}$ by finding the root of $f(x) = x^3 - 2$ with Newton's method.

Solution 5.5

First, we obtain the derivative of $f(x)$, which is $f'(x) = 3x^2$. The iteration formula is then

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \frac{x_k^3 - 2}{3x_k^2}$$

Now we must make an initial guess, x_0 , for the root of $f(x)$. Since we know that $f(1) = -1 < 0$ and $f(2) = 6 > 0$, we reckon that there should be a root for $f(x)$ between 1 and 2, and we set $x_0 = 1$ for convenience. We also set the tolerance ϵ to be 10^{-4} .

Iteration number (k)	Root estimate $\left(x_k = x_{k-1} - \frac{x_{k-1}^3 - 2}{3x_{k-1}^2} \right)$	Error in function value $(x_k^3 - 2)$
0	1	-1
1	4/3	0.370
2	91/72	0.0190
3	1126819/894348	5.93×10^{-5}

We thus have our estimate $x_3 = \frac{1126819}{894348} \approx 1.2599335$.

Compared to the true root $\sqrt[3]{2} \approx 1.2599210$, we are accurate to the fourth decimal. Actually, if we lower our tolerance and allow one more iteration, we can be accurate to the seventh decimal.

5.3 Related Rates

In some application problems, we know the relationship between two or more variables, e.g. price and demand of a product; volume, surface area and radius of a ball. Since these variables are inter-related, if one variable is changing with time at a certain rate, the other variables will also be changing with time based on the given relationship, and its rate of change can be deduced using derivatives. In these types of problems, implicit differentiation will come in handy frequently. To see this, let us look at the following examples:

Example 5.6

An air nozzle is blowing air into the balloon at the speed of $150 \text{ cm}^3/\text{sec}$. Suppose we can treat the balloon as a perfect sphere and the balloon is now 10 cm in diameter. How fast is the diameter of the balloon growing right now?

Solution 5.6

If we denote the diameter of the balloon as D (cm) and its volume as V (cm^3), then we can relate them with the following equation:

$$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi\left(\frac{D}{2}\right)^3 = \frac{\pi}{6}D^3$$

To obtain the related rates between V and D , we differentiate both sides of the equation by time t (measured in seconds). Note that V and D are both functions of t , so we need to use the chain rule along the way:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}V &= \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\pi}{6}D^3\right) \\ \frac{dV}{dt} &= \frac{\pi}{6}\frac{dD^3}{dt} = \frac{\pi}{6}\frac{dD^3}{dD}\frac{dD}{dt} = \frac{\pi}{6} \cdot 3D^2\frac{dD}{dt} = \frac{\pi}{2}D^2\frac{dD}{dt}\end{aligned}$$

Or we may use the Lagrange notation, defining $()'$ as differentiating with respect to t :

$$V' = \left(\frac{\pi}{6}D^3\right)' = \frac{\pi}{6}(D^3)' = \frac{\pi}{6} \cdot 3D^2 \cdot D' = \frac{\pi}{2}D^2D'$$

Since the nozzle is blow air at the speed of $150 \text{ cm}^3/\text{sec}$ and the balloon is currently 10 cm in diameter, we have $V' = 150$ and $D = 10$, so

$$150 = \frac{\pi}{2}10^2D' \Rightarrow D' = \frac{3}{\pi}$$

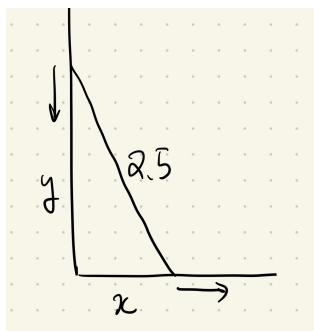
which implies the diameter of the balloon is growing at $\frac{3}{\pi} \text{ cm/sec}$.

Example 5.7

A 2.5-meter ladder leaning against a wall is starting to slide off. Suppose the foot of the ladder is moving away from the wall at the speed of 20 cm/sec when it is 1.5 meters away from the wall base. How fast is the tip of the ladder sliding down against the wall now?

Solution 5.7

Based on the description of the problem, we can draw a graph as follows:



where x (in meters) is the distance between the ladder foot and the wall base, and y (in meters) is the height of the ladder tip. From Pythagorean theorem, we relate x and y by:

$$x^2 + y^2 = 2.5^2 = 6.25$$

To obtain the related rates between x and y , we differentiate both sides by t (denoting $()'$ as differentiation with respect to t):

$$\begin{aligned} (x^2 + y^2)' &= (6.25)' \\ 2xx' + 2yy' &= 0 \\ y' &= -\frac{xx'}{y} \quad (\because y > 0) \end{aligned}$$

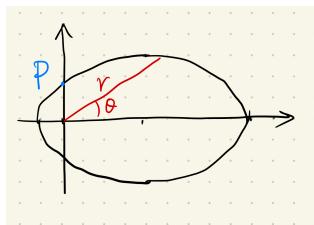
Since the foot of the ladder is moving *away* from the wall with speed 0.2m/sec, and it is currently 1.5m away from the wall base, we have

$$x' = 0.2 \quad x = 1.5 \quad y = \sqrt{2.5^2 - 1.5^2} = 2$$

Therefore,

$$y' = -\frac{0.2 \cdot 1.5}{2} = -0.15$$

So the tip of the ladder is sliding down with speed 15cm/s. (The negative sign in y' indicates that y is decreasing, which reflects that the tip is sliding down.)

Exercise 5.8

Shown in the figure above, a moon is orbiting counter-clockwise around a planet at the origin point. The orbit, which is an ellipse, can be described as follows:

$$r\left(1 - \frac{4}{5} \cos \theta\right) = \frac{9}{5}$$

where r (in AU, astronomical unit) is the distance between the moon and the planet, and θ is the directed angle from the long axis of the ellipsis to the moon-planet line. Suppose an astronomer observed that the angular velocity of the moon at point P is 0.2 radians/day, how fast is the moon-planet distance decreasing at that time?

Solution 5.8

We try to find the related rate by differentiating both sides of the orbit equation by time t (in days). For brevity, we denote $()'$ as differentiation with respect to t :

$$\begin{aligned} \left[r\left(1 - \frac{4}{5} \cos \theta\right)\right]' &= \left(\frac{9}{5}\right)' \\ r'\left(1 - \frac{4}{5} \cos \theta\right) + r\left(1 - \frac{4}{5} \cos \theta\right)' &= 0 \\ r'\left(1 - \frac{4}{5} \cos \theta\right) + r\left(-\frac{4}{5}(-\sin \theta)\theta'\right)' &= 0 \\ r'\left(1 - \frac{4}{5} \cos \theta\right) + \frac{4}{5}r\theta' \sin \theta &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

At point P , we have $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ and $\theta' = 0.2$. Plugging in $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ into the orbit equation and we can solve for r at point P :

$$r = \frac{9}{5} / \left(1 - \frac{4}{5} \cos \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \frac{9}{5}$$

We can then plug in $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$, $\theta' = 0.2$ and $r = \frac{9}{5}$ into the previous equation and yield

$$\begin{aligned} r'\left(1 - \frac{4}{5} \cos \frac{\pi}{2}\right) + \frac{4}{5} \cdot \frac{9}{5} \cdot 0.2 \cdot \sin \frac{\pi}{2} &= 0 \\ r' + \frac{36}{125} &= 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad r' = -\frac{36}{125} = -0.288 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the moon-planet distance is decreasing at a rate of 0.288 AU/day, where the negative sign we've got indicates that the distance is decreasing.

Exercise 5.9

Two cars A and B are driving away from town O . A is driving straight to the east, while B is driving toward the north-east, so that the routes of the two cars are 45° apart. Suppose A is 20 km from town O and driving at 60 km/hr, and B is $20\sqrt{2}$ km from town O and driving at 100 km/hr. What is the rate of change for the distance between the two cars?

Solution 5.9

Let the distance between A and O be a (kilometers), between B and O be b (kilometers), and distance between A and B be c (kilometers). From the Cosine Theorem, we have the relationship between a , b and c as:

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos 45^\circ = a^2 + b^2 - \sqrt{2}ab$$

We try to find the related rate by differentiating both sides by time t (in seconds). For brevity, we denote $(\cdot)'$ as differentiation with respect to t :

$$\begin{aligned} (c^2)' &= (a^2 + b^2 - \sqrt{2}ab)' \\ 2cc' &= 2aa' + 2bb' - \sqrt{2}(ab)' \\ 2cc' &= 2aa' + 2bb' - \sqrt{2}a'b - \sqrt{2}ab' \\ c' &= \frac{aa' + bb' - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}a'b - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}ab'}{c} \quad (\text{if } c \neq 0) \end{aligned}$$

The current distance between the two cars (i.e., c) can also be found by the Cosine Theorem, which is

$$c = \sqrt{20^2 + (20\sqrt{2})^2 - 2 \cdot 20 \cdot 20\sqrt{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}} = \sqrt{400 + 800 - 800} = \sqrt{400} = 20$$

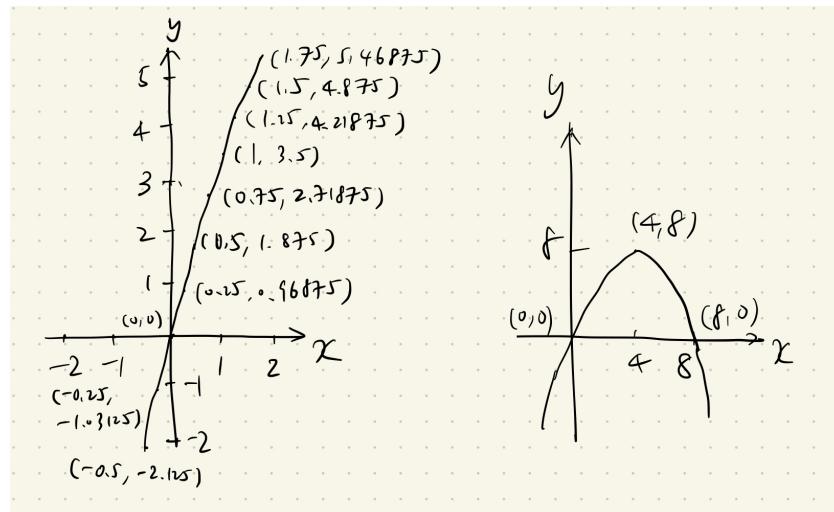
Therefore, we can then plug in $a = 20$, $a' = 60$, $b = 20\sqrt{2}$, $b' = 100$ and $c = 20$ into the previous equation and yield

$$c' = \frac{20 \cdot 60 + 20\sqrt{2} \cdot 100 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot 60 \cdot 20\sqrt{2} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot 20 \cdot 100}{20} = 50\sqrt{2}$$

Therefore, the distance between the two cars is increasing at the speed of $50\sqrt{2}$ km/hr.

5.4 Curve Sketching

At times you would want to know the behavior a function by graphing it on a Cartesian plane. However, you would want the graph to be as informative as possible. For example, for $f(x) = 4x - \frac{1}{2}x^2$, the graph on the left below is very accurate in the region it is plotting, and the graph on the right is a little bit distorted in scale. However, the one on the right captures important features of the function (i.e. the vertex of the parabola, where it's facing, its x -intercepts). Therefore, it is preferred since it carries way more information.



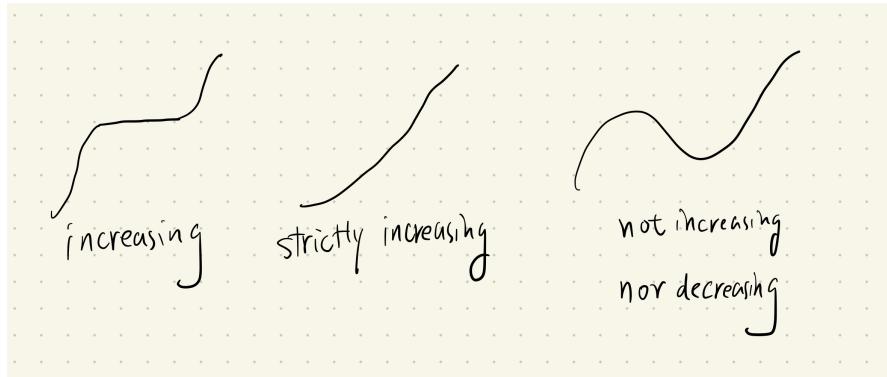
Up until now, we have already known how to tap into several features of a function $f(x)$, including:

- Discontinuities and behavior at discontinuities: Find values c where $f(c)$ is undefined, or where $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) \neq f(c)$. The latter usually happens when $f(x)$ is piecewise defined. We can then try to evaluate $f(c)$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x)$ to ascertain the behavior of $f(x)$ around and at $x = c$.
- Behavior at boundaries: We may evaluate the behavior of the function at its domain boundaries by taking its limit at that boundary. For example, if the domain of f is (ℓ, u) , then we can try to evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow \ell^+} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow u^-} f(x)$ and see if the function converge to a value, or blows up to $\pm\infty$. Alternatively, if the domain is unbounded (eg. \mathbb{R}), we can try finding $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x)$.
- y -intercept: Plug 0 into x .
- x -intercepts (roots): Let $f(x) = 0$ and solve for x .

Apart from the features above (which you *should* include in your curve sketching if possible), as we will soon see, the behavior of the function is also largely governed by its first derivative f' and second derivative f'' . Therefore, a big part of curve sketching is to determine where f' and f'' are zero, positive or negative. We will first start with the first derivative f' .

5.4.1 First Derivative and Critical Points

Given a function f , its first derivative f' governs if f is *increasing* or *decreasing*. The concept of (strictly) increasing and decreasing is straightforward: if $f(x)$ is getting larger as x is getting larger, then $f(x)$ is increasing, vice versa. The reason why we added "(strictly)" is that by convention in mathematics, "increasing" and "decreasing" permits the possibility where $f(x)$ remains the same value as x is getting larger. This can be illustrated by the following graphs:



We hereby include the formal definition of increasing and decreasing functions for completeness:

Definition 5.7: Increasing and decreasing functions

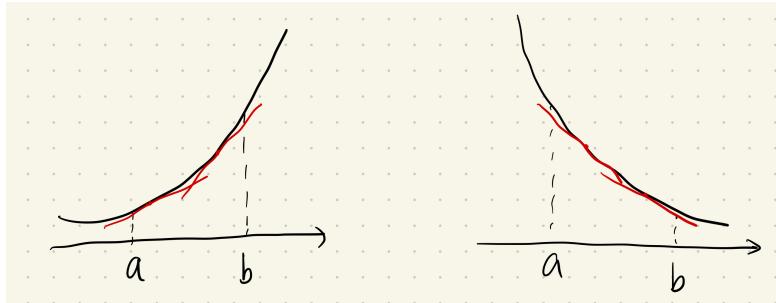
Let I be an interval and x_1, x_2 be any two numbers in I . A function $f(x)$ is:

- *increasing* in I if $x_1 > x_2$ implies $f(x_1) \geq f(x_2)$.
- *strictly increasing* in I if $x_1 > x_2$ implies $f(x_1) > f(x_2)$.

- *decreasing* in I if $x_1 > x_2$ implies $f(x_1) \leq f(x_2)$.
- *strictly decreasing* in I if $x_1 > x_2$ implies $f(x_1) < f(x_2)$.

To relate the derivative of a function to whether it is strictly increasing or decreasing, we can look at the following graph:

1. In the left panel, the slope of the tangent lines (i.e. the derivatives) are always *positive* within (a, b) , and we see that the function is *strictly increasing* in (a, b) .
2. In the right panel, the slopes of the tangent lines are always *negative* within (a, b) , and the function is *strictly decreasing* in (a, b) .



We can summarize our findings into the following theorem:

Theorem 5.8: Derivative and strict monotonicity

Suppose a function $f(x)$ is differentiable in (a, b) , then:

$$f'(x) > 0, \forall x \in (a, b) \Rightarrow f(x) \text{ is strictly increasing in } (a, b)$$

$$f'(x) < 0, \forall x \in (a, b) \Rightarrow f(x) \text{ is strictly decreasing in } (a, b)$$

If in addition $f(x)$ is continuous in $[a, b]$, then

$$f'(x) > 0, \forall x \in (a, b) \Rightarrow f(x) \text{ is strictly increasing in } [a, b]$$

$$f'(x) < 0, \forall x \in (a, b) \Rightarrow f(x) \text{ is strictly decreasing in } [a, b]$$

We will prove this theorem rigorously in later subsections, and now we will focus on its practical use. For a function $f(x)$, we may try to find intervals for x where $f'(x)$ is positive, so we would know that $f(x)$ is strictly increasing in this region. Likewise, we may find intervals where $f'(x)$ is negative so that $f(x)$ is strictly decreasing in that region. This can be demonstrated with the following example:

Example 5.10

Find intervals on which the function $f(x) = x^5 + 5x^4 - 20x^3 + 30$ is increasing or decreasing.

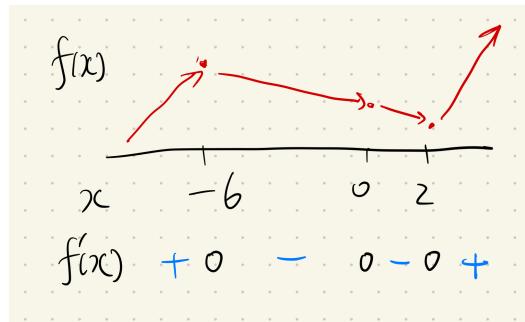
Solution 5.10

We first calculate the derivative of $f(x)$, which is

$$f'(x) = 5x^4 + 20x^3 - 60x^2 = 5x^2(x^2 + 4x - 12) = 5x^2(x - 2)(x + 6)$$

To find where $f'(x)$ is positive or negative, we can first determine where $f'(x) = 0$, i.e. find the roots for $f'(x)$. These roots can then serve as anchor points to help us find regions where $f'(x)$ is positive or negative.

Since $f'(x)$ has three distinct roots 0, 2, -6 , we can divide the number line into four regions with these three roots: $(-\infty, -6)$, $(-6, 0)$, $(0, 2)$ and $(2, \infty)$, illustrated in the graph below:



We now assess the sign of $f'(x) = 5(x + 6) \cdot x \cdot x \cdot (x - 2)$ in each interval by evaluating the sign of each factor, i.e. $x + 6$, x , x and $x - 2$:

- $(2, \infty)$: All factors of $f'(x)$ are positive in this interval, so $f'(x)$ is positive.
- $(0, 2)$: We have three positive factors ($x + 6$, x , x) and one negative factor ($x - 2$), so $f'(x)$ is negative.
- $(-6, 0)$: We have one positive factor ($x + 6$) and three negative factors (x , x , $x - 2$), so $f'(x)$ is negative.
- $(-\infty, -6)$: We have all four factors negative, so $f'(x)$ is positive.

From Theorem 5.8, since $f(x)$ is a polynomial and thus differentiable and continuous in \mathbb{R} , it is strictly increasing in $(-\infty, -6]$ and $[2, \infty)$ and strictly decreasing in $[-6, 2]$. We can then sketch the increasing and decreasing behavior of $f(x)$ based on our finding, also shown in the graph.

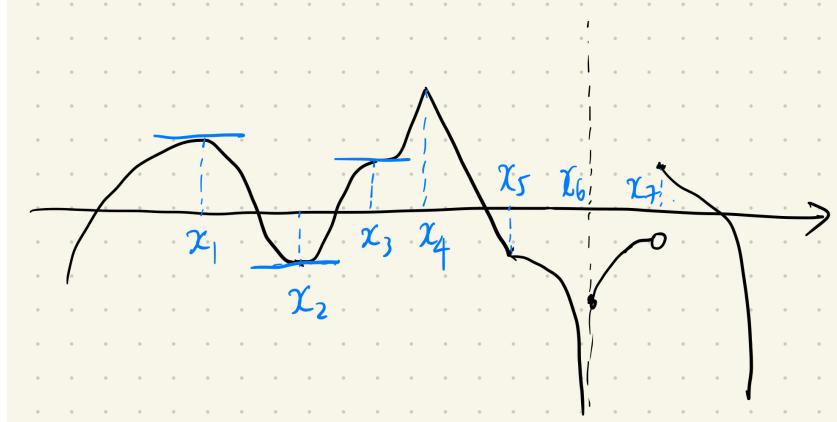
Remark 5.6. From the graph we can see that as x is increasing from the left side of the number line, $f(x)$ is increasing until $x = -6$, then it decreases until $x = 2$, then it increases again. Therefore, $f(-6)$ and $f(2)$ are the "local maximum" and "local minimum" of the function, i.e. $f(x)$ has a peak at $x = -6$ and a valley at $x = 2$. We will talk more about this later when we are using derivatives to obtain extrema.

Remark 5.7. In this example, we first identified points where $f'(x) = 0$ to aid us finding intervals where $f(x)$ is increasing and decreasing. In fact, points where $f'(x) = 0$ or $f'(x)$ is undefined carry a great deal of information on the behavior of $f(x)$, and they deserve a dedicated name defined below:

Definition 5.9: Critical points and critical values

A point $x = c$ in the domain of $f(x)$ is termed as a *critical point* for $f(x)$ if $f'(c) = 0$ or $f'(c)$ does not exist. The function value $f(c)$ is then termed as a *critical value* for $f(x)$ associated with the critical point $x = c$.

The reason why we care about critical points is that the behavior of a function near its critical points is often interesting. Therefore, knowing where the critical points are helps us know the function better. For example, let's take a look at the following graph showing seven critical points of a function:



The points $x = x_1$ and $x = x_2$ are both critical points since $f'(x_1) = f'(x_2) = 0$. These points are special since *local maximum* is attained at $x = x_1$ and *local minimum* is attained at $x = x_2$.

The point $x = x_3$ is also a critical point since $f'(x_3) = 0$. This time, $x = x_3$ does not lead to local maximum or minimum, but it is an *inflection point*, where the curve is turning from a bowl facing down (concave down) to a bowl facing up (concave up). We will talk about this more when we get to second derivatives.

The points $x = x_4$ and $x = x_5$ are both critical points since $f'(x_4)$ and $f'(x_5)$ both do not exist due to a *kink* in the curve. Sometimes a local maximum and minimum will also occur at these points. In this case, local maximum is attained at $x = x_4$.

The points $x = x_6$ and $x = x_7$ are also critical points since $f'(x_6)$ and $f'(x_7)$ both do not exist due to *discontinuity*. Finding these discontinuities will alert us that the function either has a jump or goes to $\pm\infty$, leading to better curve sketching. Local maximum or minimum can still occur at these discontinuities, such as $x = x_7$.

With the additional information of critical points and first derivatives, we can form a procedure to sketch a function f (without using second derivatives for now):

1. *Domain and behavior at boundaries*: Assess the behavior of f at the boundary of its domain.
2. *Find discontinuities*: Find all discontinuities in f .
3. *Behavior at discontinuities*: Assess the behavior of f at the discontinuities ($f(c)$ and the left / right limits of $f(c)$ at $x = c$).
4. *Find and plot critical points*: Find the critical points / values of f (this may include some discontinuities we've found in the first step) and plot them.

5. *Behavior between critical points / discontinuities:* Assess if the function is increasing or decreasing between the critical points and discontinuities using the sign of f' .
6. *Miscellaneous:* (Optional) Plot "easy points" of f , eg. the x - and y -intercepts.

Connecting all features in the procedure would lead to the final sketch. We now illustrate this procedure with a couple of examples.

Example 5.11

Find the critical points for $f(x) = \frac{2x-1}{x+1}$ and sketch $f(x)$ using the information of its first derivative.

Solution 5.11

To find the critical points for $f(x)$, we first find its first derivative:

$$f'(x) = \frac{2 \cdot (x+1) - (2x-1) \cdot 1}{(x+1)^2} = \frac{3}{(x+1)^2}$$

Therefore, $f'(x)$ is always positive except for $x = -1$ where it's undefined. However, $x = -1$ is not in the domain of $f(x)$, so there are no critical points for $f(x)$.

To sketch $f(x)$, we follow the steps of the procedure mentioned above:

1. *Domain and behavior at boundaries:* The domain of $f(x)$ is $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1\}$, so we assess its limit at $\pm\infty$. Since $f(x)$ is a rational function with polynomials of the same degree (1) at the numerator and denominator, we have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = \frac{2}{1} = 2$$

Therefore, $f(x)$ has a horizontal asymptote at $y = 2$ for both the left and right sides of the graph.

2. *Find discontinuities:* The only discontinuity in $f(x)$ is where its denominator equals zero, i.e. $x = -1$.
3. *Behavior at discontinuities:* $f(x)$ is undefined at $x = -1$. The right-side limit at $x = -1$ is

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow (-1)^+} \frac{2x-1}{x+1} = \frac{-3}{0^+} = -\infty$$

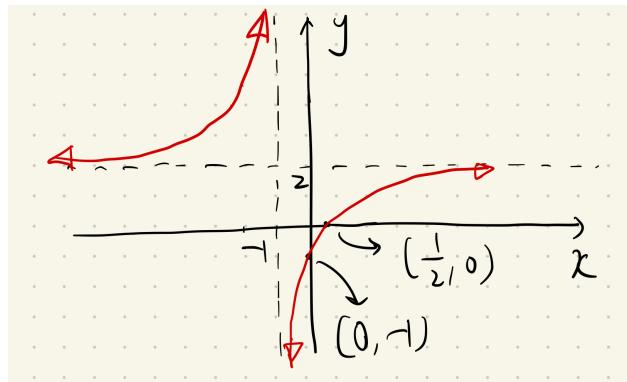
While the left-side limit is

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow (-1)^-} \frac{2x-1}{x+1} = \frac{-3}{0^-} = \infty$$

Therefore, $f(x)$ has a vertical asymptote at $x = -1$, with its value shooting down to $-\infty$ on the right and up to ∞ on the left.

4. *Find and plot critical points:* We have shown that there are no critical points for $f(x)$
5. *Behavior between critical points / discontinuities:* We now determine the sign of $f'(x) = \frac{3}{(x+1)^2}$ in $(-\infty, 1)$ and $(1, \infty)$, which should both be positive. Therefore, $f(x)$ is strictly increasing in both $(-\infty, 1)$ and $(1, \infty)$.
6. *Miscellaneous:* It is easy to find the x - and y -intercepts of $y = f(x)$, which are $(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ and $(0, -1)$. We can plot them on the graph.

Combining the information above would lead us to the graph below:



Example 5.12

Sketch $f(x) = \sqrt{x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x}$ using the information of its first derivative.

Solution 5.12

To sketch $f(x)$, we follow the steps of the procedure mentioned above:

1. *Domain and behavior at boundaries:* Since there is a square root in the function, $f(x)$ is only defined when the expression in the square root is non-negative. That is,

$$x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x \geq 0$$

$$x(x^2 - 3x + 3) \geq 0$$

$$x \left[\left(x - \frac{3}{2} \right)^2 + \frac{3}{4} \right] \geq 0$$

Since the expression in the middle bracket is always greater than 0, we conclude that the inequality holds if $x \geq 0$. That is, the domain of $f(x)$ is $[0, \infty)$.

As of the behavior of $f(x)$ at the boundaries, at the left boundary where $x = 0$:

$$f(0) = 0; \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = 0$$

At the right boundary, i.e. $x \rightarrow \infty$:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{x^3} = \infty$$

Therefore, $f(x)$ is cut off on the left at $(0, 0)$ and goes to ∞ on the right as $x \rightarrow \infty$.

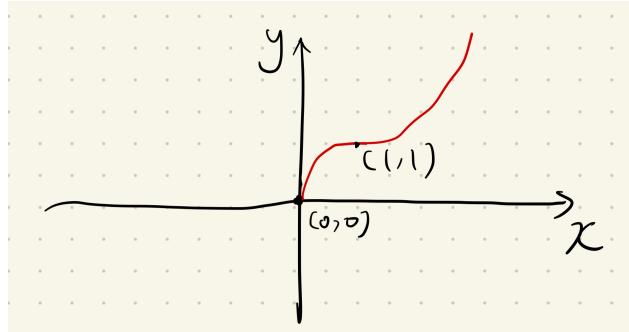
2. *Find discontinuities:* There are no discontinuities in $f(x)$.
3. *Behavior at discontinuities:* There are no discontinuities in $f(x)$.
4. *Find and plot critical points:* To find the critical points, we first calculate the derivative:

$$f'(x) = \frac{(x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x)'}{2\sqrt{x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x}} = \frac{3x^2 - 6x + 3}{2\sqrt{x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x}} = \frac{3}{2\sqrt{x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x}}(x - 1)^2$$

Therefore, there is only one critical point, which is $x = 1$ where $f'(1) = 0$. We can then plot the point $(1, f(1)) = (1, 1)$ on the plane.

5. *Behavior between critical points / discontinuities:* We now determine the sign of $f'(x) = \frac{3}{2\sqrt{x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x}}(x - 1)^2$ in $[0, 1]$ and $(1, \infty)$, which are all positive. Therefore, $f(x)$ is strictly increasing in both $[0, 1]$ and $(1, \infty)$. Note that since $f'(1) = 0$, we must sketch in a way that the tangent line at $x = 1$ is horizontal.
6. *Miscellaneous:* We may try to plot other points, but here we do not see any obvious choices.

Combining the information above would lead us to the graph below:



Exercise 5.13

Sketch $f(x) = \frac{\ln x}{x}$ using the information of its first derivative.

Solution 5.13

To sketch $f(x)$, we follow the steps of the procedure mentioned above:

1. *Domain and behavior at boundaries:* $f(x)$ is only defined if (1) $\ln x$ is defined, i.e. $x > 0$ (2) the denominator x is non-zero, i.e. $x \neq 0$. Combining these two conditions and we yield the domain of $f(x)$ which is $(0, \infty)$.

As of the behavior of $f(x)$ at the boundaries, at the left boundary where $x = 0$, $f(0)$ is undefined, and we have the limit:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{x} = \frac{-\infty}{0^+} = -\infty$$

At the right boundary, i.e. $x \rightarrow \infty$, plug-in method yields $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$, so we use the L'Hôpital's rule:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(\ln x)'}{x'} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/x}{1} = 0$$

Therefore, $f(x)$ goes to $-\infty$ as x goes to 0, and as $x \rightarrow \infty$, we have a horizontal asymptote $y = 0$.

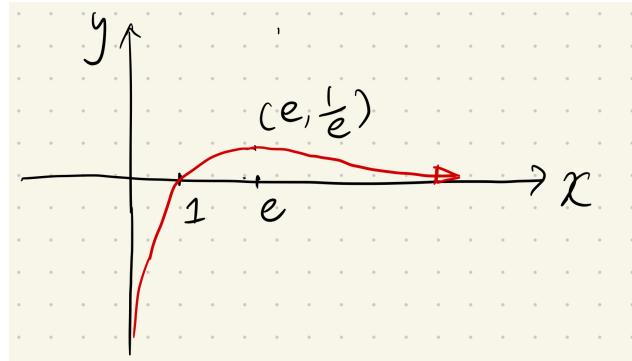
2. *Find discontinuities:* There are no discontinuities in $f(x)$.
3. *Behavior at discontinuities:* There are no discontinuities in $f(x)$.
4. *Find and plot critical points:* To find the critical points, we first calculate the derivative:

$$f'(x) = \frac{(\ln x)'x - (\ln x)x'}{x^2} = \frac{\frac{1}{x}x - \ln x}{x^2} = \frac{1 - \ln x}{x^2}$$

Therefore, there is only one critical point, which is $x = e$ where $f'(e) = 0$. We can then plot the point $(e, f(e)) = (e, 1/e)$ on the plane.

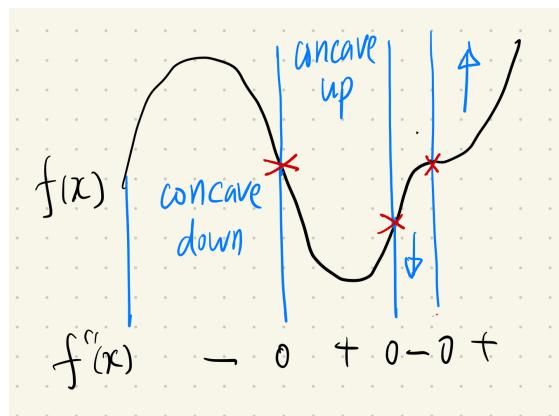
5. *Behavior between critical points / discontinuities:* We now determine the sign of $f'(x) = \frac{1 - \ln x}{x^2}$, which is positive in $(0, e)$ and negative in (e, ∞) . Therefore, $f(x)$ is strictly increasing in $(0, e)$ but strictly decreasing in (e, ∞) .
6. *Miscellaneous:* Since $f(x)$ has an obvious root $x = 1$, we can plot $(1, 0)$ in the graph.

Combining the information above would lead us to the graph below:



5.4.2 Second Derivative and Concavity

The second derivative is the derivative of the first derivative, so we can apply Theorem 5.8 to $f'(x)$ and conclude that $f''(x) > 0$ implies $f'(x)$ is strictly increasing, and $f''(x) < 0$ implies $f'(x)$ is strictly decreasing. But when $f'(x)$ is strictly increasing / decreasing, what is its implication on the graph of $f(x)$? To grasp intuition, let's look at the following graph of a function:



We first investigate the intervals marked as "*concave down*" (or with a downward arrow). Within these intervals, as x gets larger, the slope of the tangent line decreases, which corresponds to $f'(x)$ *decreasing*. Note that the graph of $f(x)$ in these intervals resemble a bowl facing down, thus the term "*concave down*".

In contrast, within intervals marked as "*concave up*" (or with an upward arrow), the slope of the tangent line increases as x gets larger, which corresponds to $f'(x)$ *increasing*. The graph of $f(x)$ in these intervals resemble a bowl facing up, thus the term "*concave up*".

An alternative view of curves concaving up and down is to imagine you are driving a car along the curve to the right. If the curve is concaving down, then you are turning right along the way. If the curve is concaving up, then you are turning left along the way.

With the concept of concavity, we can state a theorem very close to Theorem 5.8, but for the second derivative:

Theorem 5.10: Second derivative and concavity

Suppose a function $f(x)$ is twice differentiable in (a, b) , then:

$$f''(x) > 0, \forall x \in (a, b) \Rightarrow f(x) \text{ is concave up in } (a, b)$$

$$f''(x) < 0, \forall x \in (a, b) \Rightarrow f(x) \text{ is concave down in } (a, b)$$

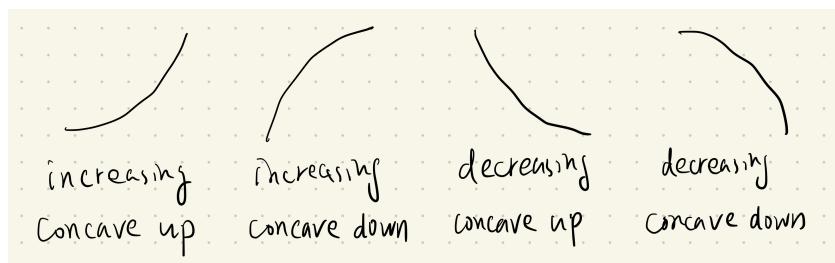
Note that in the graph, there are points at the border of the concavity intervals (marked with x) where the function transitions from concave down to concave up. That is, $f''(x)$ has opposite signs at the two sides of the point. These points are called *inflection points*, which we provide the definition as follows:

Definition 5.11

A point $x = c$ is the inflection point of $f(x)$ if $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = c$ and the concavity of $f(x)$ changes at the two sides of $x = c$.

Since $f''(x) > 0$ and $f''(x) < 0$ implies the curve is still concaving up or down around the point, the second derivatives at inflection points should either be 0 or do not exist. Therefore, to find inflection points, we can find points where $f''(x) = 0$ or do not exist, then check if $f(x)$ is continuous at these points, and also if $f''(x)$ has different signs at the left and right of these points. This procedure is analogous to what we're doing in finding critical points.

Remark 5.8. Concavity has a deep impact on the complexity of finding the maximum and minimum of a function using algorithms (eg. Newton's method). If the whole function is concave up (down), then finding the minimum (maximum) of the function will be relatively easy, since the function is shaped like a big valley (peak) with one minimum (maximum), and you can find the solution easily with the help of derivatives. However, if the function is somewhere concave up and somewhere concave down, then the curve of the function can be rugged, and you may have a hard time finding the minimum or maximum if your choice of initial value is sub-optimal.



A word of caution is that the increasing / decreasing of a function is related to its *first* derivative, and the concavity of a function is related to its *second* derivative, so be careful not to mix up these two qualities of a function. In fact, as the graph above shows, every combination between increasing / decreasing and concaving up / down is possible.

To incorporate the information of second derivatives into curve sketching, we can try finding all inflection points and incorporate the concavity of the function into our sketch after we're done with first derivatives. We will demonstrate this with one example before ending this section.

Example 5.14

Sketch $f(x) = xe^{4x}$ using the information of its first and second derivatives.

Solution 5.14

To sketch $f(x)$, we follow the steps of the procedure mentioned in the last subsection, but adding the inference from second derivatives:

1. *Domain and behavior at boundaries:* The domain of $f(x)$ is \mathbb{R} , so we need to assess its behavior as $x \rightarrow -\infty$ and $x \rightarrow \infty$ (L'Hôpital's rule is used for $x \rightarrow -\infty$ since plug-in method leads to $-\infty \cdot 0$).

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} xe^{4x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x}{e^{-4x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x'}{(e^{-4x})'} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{-4e^{-4x}} = 0$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} xe^{4x} = \infty$$

Therefore, on the left, $f(x)$ has a horizontal asymptote $y = 0$; on the right, $f(x)$ goes to ∞ as x goes to ∞ .

2. *Find discontinuities:* There are no discontinuities in $f(x)$.
3. *Behavior at discontinuities:* There are no discontinuities in $f(x)$.
4. *Find and plot critical points:* To find the critical points, we first calculate the derivative:

$$f'(x) = (x)'e^{4x} + x(e^{4x})' = e^{4x} + 4xe^{4x} = (4x+1)e^{4x}$$

Therefore, there is only one critical point, which is $x = -\frac{1}{4}$ where $f'(-\frac{1}{4}) = 0$. We can then plot the point $(-\frac{1}{4}, f(-\frac{1}{4})) = (-\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{4e})$ on the plane.

5. *Behavior between critical points / discontinuities:* We now determine the sign of $f'(x) = (4x+1)e^{4x}$ in $(-\infty, -\frac{1}{4})$ and $(-\frac{1}{4}, \infty)$. Since e^{4x} is always non-negative, the sign of $f'(x)$ depends on the sign of $(4x+1)$. Therefore, $f(x)$ is strictly decreasing in $(-\infty, -\frac{1}{4})$ and strictly increasing in $(-\frac{1}{4}, \infty)$.

6. *Plot inflection points and assess concavity:* To find the inflection points, we calculate the second derivative:

$$f''(x) = (4x+1)'e^{4x} + (4x+1)(e^{4x})' = 4e^{4x} + 4(4x+1)e^{4x} = (16x+8)e^{4x}$$

Therefore, the only candidate for the inflection point is $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ where $f''(-\frac{1}{2}) = 0$.

To verify $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ is indeed an inflection point, we have to show that $f''(x)$ has opposite signs at different sides of $x = -\frac{1}{2}$:

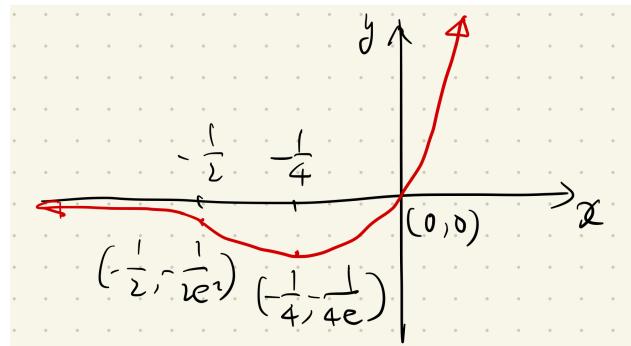
$$x < -\frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow 16x + 8 < 0 \Rightarrow f''(x) = (16x + 8)e^{4x} < 0$$

$$x > -\frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow 16x + 8 > 0 \Rightarrow f''(x) = (16x + 8)e^{4x} > 0$$

Therefore, $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ is an inflection point and we plot $(-\frac{1}{2}, f(-\frac{1}{2})) = (-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2e^2})$ on the graph, and keep in mind that $f(x)$ is concave down when $x < -\frac{1}{2}$ and concave up when $x > -\frac{1}{2}$.

7. *Miscellaneous:* An easy point to plot is $(0, f(0)) = (0, 0)$, so we add it to the graph

Combining the information above would lead us to the graph below:



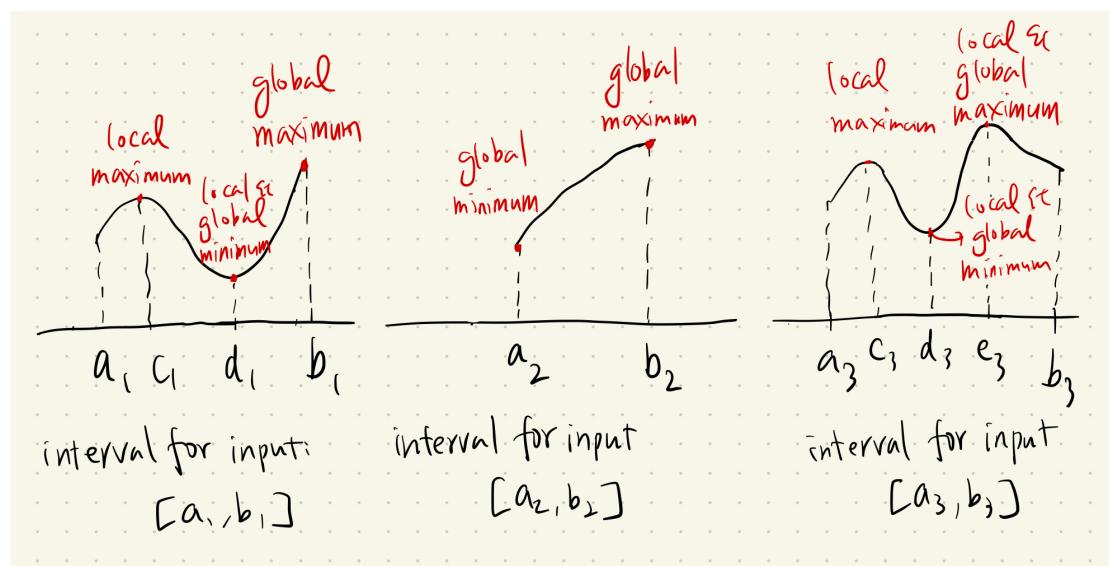
5.5 Finding the Extrema of a Function

Another important use of derivatives is to determine the maximum or minimum of a function within an interval of input. Since maxima and minima are where the function values are at their extremes, we also term them as *extrema*. Before we look into how to find the extrema of a function, we first look at the two types of extrema, **global (absolute) extrema** and **local (relative) extrema**.

5.5.1 Definition of Extrema

Global extrema are easy to understand: it is the maximal (minimal) value the function can output. In mathematical terms, if a function f is attaining value $f(c)$ at $x = c$, and any other possible function values are less than or equal to $f(c)$, then we say $f(x)$ has a global maximum at $x = c$. Similar arguments can be made for global minimum.

Local extrema are a little bit more involved: If a function f is attaining value $f(c)$ at $x = c$ so that all inputs *around* $x = c$ are giving values less than or equal to $f(c)$, then we say $f(x)$ has a local maximum at $x = c$. Similar arguments can be made for global maximum. Note that here we are using the term *around* in a sense that we must be able to compare $f(c)$ with function values with input less than c and greater than c . Therefore, the local extrema can never attained at $x = c$ if $x = c$ is at the boundary of the interval of input, since we cannot compare $f(c)$ with function values evaluated at both sides of c .



We can put these intuitions to the test with the graph above:

- Left panel: The global maximum is attained at $x = b_1$ since it produces the largest output among inputs within $[a_1, b_1]$. However, $f(b_1)$ is *not* a local maximum since b_1 is at the boundary of $[a_1, b_1]$, so we can't compare $f(b_1)$ with function values evaluated at $x > b_1$.

On the other hand, we have a local maximum attained at $x = c_1$, but it is not a global maximum since $f(c_1) < f(b_1)$. Local and global extrema can also be attained at the same input, such as $x = d_1$ here where local and global minimum are both attained.

- Middle panel: Local extrema do not necessarily exist. In this example, there are no local extrema for $f(x)$ within $[a_2, b_2]$, but the global extrema still exist.
- Right panel: Although there can be at most one global maximum and one global minimum, it is possible to have multiple local maxima or multiple local minima. In this example, there are two local maxima for $f(x)$ in $[a_3, b_3]$, one attained at $x = c_3$ and the other attained at $x = e_3$.

We end this subsection by providing a formal definition of extrema.

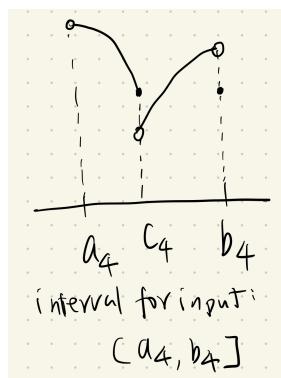
Definition 5.12: Extrema

Suppose $x = c$ is in the domain of $f(x)$, let I_0 be an interval for input where $c \in I_0$

- $f(x)$ has a **global (absolute) maximum** at $x = c$ within I_0 if $f(x) \leq f(c), \forall x \in I_0$
- $f(x)$ has a **global (absolute) minimum** at $x = c$ within I_0 if $f(x) \geq f(c), \forall x \in I_0$
- $f(x)$ has a **local (relative) maximum** at $x = c$ within I_0 if there exists an open interval $I \subset I_0$ where $c \in I$ and $f(x) \leq f(c), \forall x \in I$
- $f(x)$ has a **local (relative) minimum** at $x = c$ within I_0 if there exists an open interval $I \subset I_0$ where $c \in I$ and $f(x) \geq f(c), \forall x \in I$

5.5.2 Existence and Identification of Global Extrema

When we are trying to maximize or minimize a function, what we care about is the *global* extrema. Therefore, for the maximization or minimization to make sense, we must make sure that the global extrema exist. However, global extrema do not always exist. For example, in the following graph, both the global maximum and minimum do not exist.



Fortunately, if we focus on only *continuous* functions with a *closed interval* for input, the global extrema always exists and we can safely do maximization or minimization. This fact can be summarized in the **Extreme Value Theorem** below.

Theorem 5.13: Extreme Value Theorem

Suppose $f(x)$ is continuous in $[a, b]$, then there exists $x_M, x_m \in [a, b]$ so that $f(x_M)$ is the global maximum of $f(x)$ in $[a, b]$, and $f(x_m)$ is the global minimum of $f(x)$ in $[a, b]$.

Now we know the global extrema exist as long as we are dealing with a continuous function within a closed interval for input. However, knowing their existence is not enough: we want to know where the global extrema is obtained. To search for global extrema, we first make an important observation: if the global maximum (minimum) is not obtained at the boundaries of the closed interval, then it should also be a local maximum (minimum), since it is larger (smaller) than the function values *around* it. Therefore, the global extrema can only be attained at the boundaries or at where the local extrema are attained. This fact is useful since we can locate the local extrema using the following theorem by *Pierre de Fermat*:

Theorem 5.14: Fermat's Interior Extremum Theorem

Suppose $f(x)$ attains local extremum at $x = x_0 \in (a, b)$. If $f(x)$ is differentiable at $x = x_0$, then $f'(x_0) = 0$.

An implication of this theorem is that if $f(x)$ has local extremum at $x = x_0$, then either $f'(x_0) = 0$ or $f'(x_0)$ does not exist. Therefore, we can find all candidates of local extremum by identifying all points where the first derivative equals to zero or does not exist, which are the *critical points* of $f(x)$ as we have defined earlier. An important logic here is that all local extrema occur at critical points, but not all critical points has a local extremum attached to them. An evident example is $x = x_3$ in Figure 5.4.1.

Summarizing up, we can find the global extrema of a continuous function $f(x)$ within a close interval $[a, b]$ using the following steps:

0. Verify that $f(x)$ is indeed continuous in $[a, b]$.
1. Find all the critical points of $f(x)$ in (a, b) .
2. Evaluate $f(x)$ at a, b , and all the critical points.
3. Compare the function values: the largest one is the global maximum, and the smallest one is the global minimum.

This procedure is pretty straightforward, which we will demonstrate with a couple of examples.

Example 5.15

Find the global extrema for $f(x) = 2x^3 - 3x^2 - 12x + 5$ in $x \in [-3, 3]$.

Solution 5.15

We follow the procedure mentioned above:

0. Since $f(x)$ is a polynomial, it is continuous in \mathbb{R} and thus in $[3, 3]$.
1. To find the critical points for $f(x)$ in $[-3, 3]$, we first obtain its derivative:

$$f'(x) = 6x^2 - 6x - 12 = 6(x^2 - x - 2) = 6(x + 1)(x - 2)$$

Therefore, the points where $f'(x) = 0$ are $x = -1$ and $x = 2$, which are both in $[-3, 3]$ and thus our desired critical points.

2. We evaluate $f(x)$ at $-3, 3, -1, 2$ and yield

$$f(-3) = -40 \quad f(3) = -4 \quad f(-1) = 12 \quad f(2) = -15$$

3. Since $-40 = f(-3) < f(2) < f(3) < f(-1) = 12$, the global minimum is -40 attained at $x = -3$, and the global maximum is 12 attained as $x = -1$.

Example 5.16

Find the global extrema for $f(x) = 2x + \cos(4x)$ in $x \in \left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$.

Solution 5.16

We follow the procedure mentioned above:

0. Since x and $\cos x$ are all continuous in \mathbb{R} , $f(x)$ is continuous in $\left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$.
1. To find the critical points for $f(x)$ in $\left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$, we first obtain its derivative:

$$f'(x) = 2 - 4 \sin 4x = 2(1 - 2 \sin 4x)$$

Therefore, the points where $f'(x) = 0$ are where $\sin 4x = \frac{1}{2}$. Since $x \in \left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$, we have $4x \in [-2\pi, 2\pi]$, so there are four solutions for $\sin 4x = \frac{1}{2}$: $4x = \frac{\pi}{6}$ or $\frac{5\pi}{6}$ or $\frac{\pi}{6} - 2\pi$ or $4x = \frac{5\pi}{6} - 2\pi$. That is, $x = \frac{\pi}{24}$ or $\frac{5\pi}{24}$ or $-\frac{11\pi}{24}$ or $-\frac{7\pi}{24}$

2. We evaluate $f(x)$ at $-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{24}, \frac{5\pi}{24}, -\frac{11\pi}{24}, -\frac{7\pi}{24}$ and yield

$$\begin{aligned}f\left(-\frac{\pi}{2}\right) &= -\pi + 1 \approx -2.142 & f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) &= \pi + 1 \approx 4.142 \\f\left(\frac{\pi}{24}\right) &= \frac{\pi}{12} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \approx 1.128 & f\left(\frac{5\pi}{24}\right) &= \frac{5\pi}{12} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \approx 0.443 \\f\left(-\frac{11\pi}{24}\right) &= -\frac{11\pi}{12} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \approx -2.014 & f\left(-\frac{7\pi}{24}\right) &= -\frac{7\pi}{12} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \approx -2.699\end{aligned}$$

3. Since $f\left(-\frac{7\pi}{24}\right) < f\left(-\frac{\pi}{2}\right) < f\left(-\frac{11\pi}{24}\right) < f\left(\frac{5\pi}{24}\right) < f\left(\frac{\pi}{24}\right) < f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$, the global minimum is $-\frac{7\pi}{12} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ attained at $x = -\frac{7\pi}{24}$, and the global maximum is $\pi + 1$ attained as $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

5.5.3 Identification of Local Extrema

In the previous subsection, we used Fermat's Interior Extremum Theorem to identify potential points where local extrema may be attained for a function, and concluded that we only needed to look at the critical points of the function. However, we did not look into the behavior of the function around these critical points. That is, we do not know if these critical points represent local maximum, local minimum, or neither of them. As we will show in the next two theorems, we can parse out these scenarios using the function's first and second derivatives, with the intuition brought from what we have learned in curve sketching.

Theorem 5.15: First Derivative Test

Suppose $x = c$ is a critical point of $f(x)$ where $f'(c) = 0$, then

1. If $f'(x) > 0$ at the left of $x = c$ and $f'(x) < 0$ at the right of $x = c$, then local maximum is attained at $x = c$.
2. If $f'(x) < 0$ at the left of $x = c$ and $f'(x) > 0$ at the right of $x = c$, then local minimum is attained at $x = c$.
3. If $f'(x)$ have the same sign on both sides of $x = c$, then $x = c$ does not represent any local extrema.

Theorem 5.16: Second Derivative Test

Suppose $x = c$ is a critical point of $f(x)$ where $f'(c) = 0$ and $f''(x)$ is continuous around $x = c$, then

1. If $f''(c) < 0$, then local maximum is attained at $x = c$.
2. If $f''(c) > 0$, then local minimum is attained at $x = c$.
3. If $f''(c) = 0$, then $x = c$ can represent local maximum, local minimum or neither.

We look at some examples in the following graph, where $x = 0$ is a critical point for all of the functions. With $y = x^2$ and $y = x^4$, the first derivative is negative when $x < 0$ and positive

when $x > 0$, therefore the function is decreasing when $x < 0$ and increasing when $x > 0$, so $x = 0$ represents the position of a local minimum. Similar arguments can be made for $y = -x^2$ and $y = -x^4$, only now $x = 0$ represents the position of a local maximum. For $y = x^3$, the first derivative is positive at both sides of $x = 0$, so $x = 0$ does not represent local extremum.

For second derivatives, we see that $y = x^2$ has a positive second derivative at $x = 0$, meaning that the function is concave up at $x = 0$, so $x = 0$ represents a local minimum. The same can be said for $y = -x^2$. However, from $y = x^3$, $y = x^4$ and $y = -x^4$ we can see that a second derivative of zero does not give us information on whether $x = 0$ represents local maximum, local minimum or neither. We will have to rely on the first derivative to know for sure.

Graph					
Function	$y = x^2$	$y = -x^2$	$y = x^3$	$y = x^4$	$y = -x^4$
$f(x) @ x < 0$	-	+	+	-	+
$f'(x) @ x > 0$	+	-	+	+	-
$f''(0)$	2	-2	0	0	0

We end this section with an example:

Example 5.17

Find all local extrema for $f(x) = 3x^5 - 5x^3 + 30$, and argue if they are local minima or local maxima.

Solution 5.17

To locate the local extrema of $f(x)$, we first find the critical points for $f(x)$, which are where $f'(x)$ is undefined or zero. We first obtain the first derivative:

$$f'(x) = 15x^4 - 15x^2 = 15x^2(x^2 - 1) = 15(x + 1)x^2(x - 1)$$

Therefore, we find three critical points for $f(x)$ by letting $f'(x) = 0$, yielding $x = -1, 0$, or 1 . Let's now try to identify if they represent local minima, local maxima or neither using the first and second derivative tests. Note that $f''(x) = 60x^3 - 30x$.

x	$(-\infty, -1)$	-1	$(-1, 0)$	0	$(0, 1)$	1	$(1, \infty)$
$f'(x)$	+	0	-	0	-	0	+
$f''(x)$		-30		0		30	

We can investigate the three critical points one by one:

1. $x = -1$: The first derivative is positive on the left and negative on the right of $x = -1$, which implies that there is a local maximum here. This is also confirmed by a negative second derivative at $x = -1$, implying that the curve is concaving down here and this should be a local maximum.
2. $x = 0$: The first derivative is negative on both sides of $x = 0$, which implies this is neither a local maximum nor a local minimum. The second derivative at $x = 0$ is zero, so it does not provide any information.
3. $x = 1$, The first derivative is negative on the left and positive on the right of $x = 1$, which implies that there is a local minimum here. This is also confirmed by a positive second derivative at $x = 1$, implying that the curve is concaving up here and this should be a local minimum.

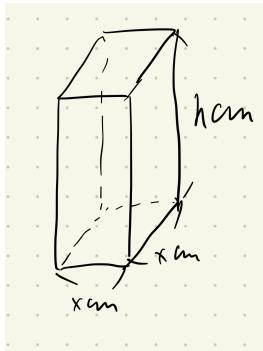
5.6 Optimization Problems

In the last section, we have shown how to find the maximum or minimum of (i.e. optimize) a function within a given range of input by looking at critical points and boundaries (if the range of input is a closed interval). In this section, we are trying to use function optimization to solve real-life problems. The optimization bit remains the same, only that we have to transform our real-life problems into functions we want to optimize and determine the range of input implied by the problem. Let's get right into it with a few exercises.

Example 5.18

A blacksmith wants to craft an open box that has a square base. Given the amount of material he has, the surface area of the box should be 300 cm^2 . What dimensions will produce a box that has the maximum volume?

Solution 5.18



Suppose the box has the dimensions above, then we have, from the surface area of the box:

$$x^2 + 4xh = 300$$

Solving for h with x leads us to

$$h = \frac{300 - x^2}{4x}$$

Therefore, the volume of the box (in cm^3), which we are aiming to maximize, is

$$V := x^2 h = x^2 \frac{300 - x^2}{4x} = 75x - \frac{1}{4}x^3$$

Note that the possible values of x are restricted by the facts that (1) x refers to the length of the sides for the base, so $x > 0$ (2) h refers to the height of the box, so $h > 0$. $h > 0$

implies that

$$\frac{300 - x^2}{4x} > 0$$

$$(300 - x^2)(4x) > 0$$

$$(x^2 - 300)x < 0$$

$$(x + 10\sqrt{3})x(x - 10\sqrt{3}) < 0$$

$$x < -10\sqrt{3} \text{ or } 0 < x < 10\sqrt{3}$$

Combined with $x > 0$, we have our range of input $x \in (0, 10\sqrt{3})$. To find the global maximum of the volume $V(x) = 75x - \frac{1}{4}x^3$ (which is a continuous function) within $x \in (0, 10\sqrt{3})$, we first find its critical points. The first derivative of $V(x)$ with respect to x is

$$V'(x) = 75 - \frac{3}{4}x^2$$

Since the first derivative always exists, we find the critical points that make $V'(x) = 0$, which leads to

$$75 - \frac{3}{4}x^2 = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 = 100 \Rightarrow x = \pm 10$$

Since $x = -10$ is out of the domain $(0, 10\sqrt{3})$, the only critical point is $x = 10$.

To determine if the function is attaining maximum, minimum or neither at $x = 10$, we can use the first derivative test and find that $V'(x) = 75 - \frac{3}{4}x^2$ is positive when x is in $(0, 10)$ and negative when x is in $(10, 10\sqrt{3})$. Therefore, the volume is attaining both local maximum and global maximum at $x = 10$, with value $V(10) = 500$ (cm³).

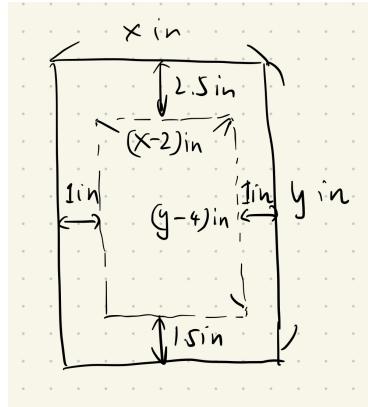
x	0	10	$10\sqrt{3}$
$V'(x)$	+	-	

Another way to show that global maximum is attained at $x = 10$ is to use the second derivative test. Since $V''(x) = -\frac{3}{2}x$ is always negative in $(0, 10\sqrt{3})$, the function is always concaving down within the range of input, so the critical point $x = 10$ with $V'(x) = 0$ attains both local maximum and global maximum.

Note that in the previous example, since the interval of input is an open interval, we cannot verify that $x = 10$ attains global maximum by comparing its function value with the function values at the boundaries as we previously did. Therefore, we resort to investigating the behavior of the first or second derivative to check the property of the function at $x = 10$.

Exercise 5.19

A poster with a total area of 200 in² and has 1 inch margins on the sides, a 2.5-inch margin on the top and a 1.5-inch margin on the bottom. What dimensions will give the largest printed area?

Solution 5.19

Suppose the poster is of the dimension as above, then from the total area of the poster, we have

$$xy = 200 \quad \Rightarrow \quad y = \frac{200}{x}$$

Therefore, the area of the printed area, which we are aiming to maximize, is

$$A := (x - 2)(y - 4) = (x - 2)\left(\frac{200}{x} - 4\right) = 200 - 4x - \frac{400}{x} + 8 = 208 - 4x - \frac{400}{x}$$

Note that the possible values of x are restricted that

1. the width of the printed area must be greater than zero, i.e. $x - 2 > 0 \Rightarrow x > 2$
2. the height of the printed area must be greater than zero, i.e. $y - 4 > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{200}{x} > 4 \Rightarrow 0 < x < 50$
3. both x and y stand for lengths, so $x > 0$ and $y > 0 \Rightarrow x > 0$.

Combining the above and we yield the range of input for x : $(2, 50)$. To find the global maximum of the volume $A(x) = 208 - 4x - \frac{400}{x}$ (which is a continuous function) within $x \in (2, 50)$, we first find its critical points. The first derivative of $A(x)$ with respect to x is

$$A'(x) = -4 + \frac{400}{x^2}$$

Although $A'(x)$ does not exist when $x = 0$, this point is not within $(2, 50)$, so it is not a critical point. We then find the critical points that make $A'(x) = 0$, which leads to

$$-4 + \frac{400}{x^2} = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 = 100 \Rightarrow x = \pm 10$$

Since $x = -10$ is out of $(2, 50)$, the only critical point is $x = 10$.

To determine if the function is attaining maximum, minimum or neither at $x = 10$, we use the first derivative test and find that $A'(x) = -4 + \frac{400}{x^2}$ is positive when x is in $(2, 10)$ and negative when x is in $(10, 50)$. Therefore, the volume is attaining both local maximum and global maximum at $x = 10$, with value $A(10) = 208 - 40 - 40 = 128$ (in²).

x	2	10	50
$A'(x)$	+	-	

Another way to show that global maximum is attained at $x = 10$ is to use the second derivative test. Since $A''(x) = -\frac{800}{x^3}$ is always negative in $(2, 50)$, the function is always concaving down within the range of input, so the critical point $x = 10$ with $A'(x) = 0$ attains both local maximum and global maximum.

Exercise 5.20

Prove the arithmetic mean-geometric mean (AM-GM) inequality: Suppose x and y are both positive, then $\frac{x+y}{2} \geq \sqrt{xy}$, where the equality is attained when $x = y$.

Solution 5.20

We now try to show that if denote $A := xy$, then $\frac{x+y}{2}$ has a global minimum at $x = y = \sqrt{A}$ with value $\sqrt{A} = \sqrt{xy}$. Expressing y with A and x and we yield $y = \frac{A}{x}$, and the function we are trying to minimize is $f(x) = \frac{x+A/x}{2}$. The range of input for x must guarantee (1) x is positive, i.e. $x > 0$ (2) y is positive, i.e. $y = \frac{A}{x} > 0 \Rightarrow x > 0$. So the combined restriction of input is $x \in (0, \infty)$.

To find the global maximum of the volume $f(x) = \frac{x+A/x}{2}$ (which is a continuous function) within $x \in (0, \infty)$, we first find its critical points. The first derivative of $f(x)$ with respect to x is

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{A}{2x^2}$$

Although $f'(x)$ does not exist when $x = 0$, this point is not within $(0, \infty)$, so it is not a critical point. We then find the critical points that make $f'(x) = 0$, which leads to

$$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{A}{2x^2} = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 = A \Rightarrow x = \pm\sqrt{A}$$

Since $x = -\sqrt{A}$ is out of $(0, \infty)$, the only critical point is $x = \sqrt{A}$.

To determine if the function is attaining maximum, minimum or neither at $x = \sqrt{A}$, we use the first derivative test and find that $f'(x) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{A}{2x^2}$ is negative when x is in $(0, \sqrt{A})$ and positive when x is in (\sqrt{A}, ∞) . Therefore, the function is attaining both local minimum and global minimum at $x = \sqrt{A}$, with value $f(\sqrt{A}) = \sqrt{A}$.

$$\begin{array}{c|cc|c} x & 0 & \sqrt{A} \\ \hline f'(x) & - & + \end{array}$$

Therefore, the minimum value $\frac{x+y}{2}$ can attain is \sqrt{xy} , where it is attained at $x = y = \sqrt{xy}$.

6 Antiderivatives and integrals

6.1 Definition of Antiderivatives and the Mean Value Theorem

In previous chapters, we have learned the derivatives of several common functions, and how to use a set of differentiation rules to find the derivatives of functions that are built from common functions. We are now like wizards that are ever powerful. Given any function, no matter how complicated they are, we can repeatedly use the set of rules to produce its derivative. Now we turn our focus to finding *antiderivatives*, which is the *reverse* of finding derivatives. Given an arbitrary function, we would like to know *which function has it as the derivative*. The process of finding antiderivatives is called *antidifferentiation*. For example, suppose we are given a function

$$f(x) = 4x^3$$

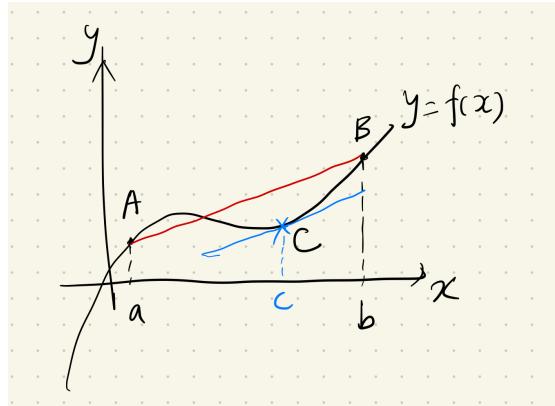
since we know that $\frac{d}{dx}x^4 = 4x^3 = f(x)$, we say that $F(x) = x^4$ is an *antiderivative* for $f(x)$. However, notice that $\frac{d}{dx}(x^4 + 1) = 4x^3 = f(x)$, so $G(x) = x^4 + 1$ is also an antiderivative for $f(x)$. Now it seems that we are doomed: there are multiple functions that has the same derivative $4x^3$, so how can we be sure that we can find or have found all of them? Fortunately, we have a very important theorem that can guide us through this mess.

Theorem 6.1: Mean Value Theorem

Let $f(x)$ be a function that is continuous in $[a, b]$ and differentiable in (a, b) , then there exists c in (a, b) such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$$

This theorem can be better explained by the graph in the next page. There are two points $A(a, f(a))$ and $B(b, f(b))$ on the curve of a differentiable function $f(x)$. Then $\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$ is the slope of the secant line shown in red. What Mean Value Theorem tells us is that you can always find a point $C(c, f(c))$ on the curve between A and B , such that the tangent line over C has the same slope as the secant line, such as the blue line in the graph. Though this theorem seems very intuitive, it can help us prove an essential lemma.


Lemma 6.2: The Antiderivative of Zero

If $f'(x) = 0$ within (a, b) , then $f(x) = C$ within (a, b) , where C is a constant.

Proof 6.2

We use proof by contradiction.

Suppose $f'(x) = 0$ within (a, b) but $f(x)$ is *not* constant within (a, b) . Then we can find two extra points $(c, f(c))$ and $(d, f(d))$ where $a < c < d < b$ and $f(c) \neq f(d)$.

Now we know that $f(x)$ is continuous within $[c, d]$ and differentiable within (c, d) (because it is differentiable in (a, b)). So by the Mean Value Theorem, there exists t in (c, d) such that $f'(t) = \frac{f(d)-f(c)}{d-c} \neq 0$, which contradicts the assumption that $f'(x) = 0$ within (a, b) . Therefore, $f(x)$ must be a constant within (a, b) . \square

Now we can show the following theorem:

Theorem 6.3: Constant of Integration

Suppose $F(x)$ and $G(x)$ are both antiderivatives for $f(x)$, then there exists a constant C so that $G(x) = F(x) + C$.

Proof 6.3

We define $H(x) = G(x) - F(x)$. Then we have $H'(x) = G'(x) - F'(x) = f(x) - f(x) = 0$. From Lemma 6.2, we thus know that $H(x) = C$ where C is a constant. Therefore $G(x) = F(x) + C$. \square

Therefore, if $F(x)$ is *one* of the antiderivatives for a function $f(x)$, then *all* the antiderivatives for $f(x)$ would be shaped as $F(x) + C$, where C is an unknown constant. In other words, we only need to strive to find one antiderivative, then add $+C$ in the end and call it a day, without fearing that some other weird function would also be an antiderivative. In the previous example, the antiderivative of $f(x) = 4x^3$ can then be written as $x^4 + C$.

In previous sections, we used $f'(x)$ or $\frac{d}{dx}f(x)$ to denote the derivative of $f(x)$. For antiderivatives, we also have a notation written as

$$\int f(x)dx$$

where \int is the integration sign, derived from a elongated "S" standing for summation. We will talk about the link between antiderivatives and integrals in the next chapter, so up until now please bear with the name. The function to be antiderivatived, $f(x)$, is also called the *integrand*. dx is a symbol that tells us that with respect to what variable are we antiderivativing. Later we will introduce its formal name: the *differential*. Using this new notation, we can now write

$$\int 4x^3dx = x^4 + C$$

With these new concepts and notations at hand, let us look at some examples of antiderivatives:

Example 6.1

Find the following antiderivatives:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| a) $\int 3dx$ | b) $\int 2xdx$ | c) $\int 6x^5dx$ | d) $\int -\frac{1}{x^2}dx$ |
| e) $\int \cos xdx$ | f) $\int -\sin xdx$ | g) $\int e^xdx$ | h) $\int \frac{1}{x}dx$ |

Solution 6.1

- a) We know for any constant k

$$\frac{d}{dx}kx = k$$

so $3x$ is *one* of the antiderivatives of 3 , and we have $\int 3dx = 3x + C$.

- b) In the power rule for differentiation, we have

$$\frac{d}{dx}x^r = rx^{r-1}$$

where the power decreases by 1 after differentiation. This prompts us to guess that the antiderivative for a multiple of x^r should be a multiple of x^{r+1} , where the power

increases by 1 after antidifferentiation. Here we can try guessing x^2 and verify that

$$\frac{d}{dx}x^2 = 2x$$

which gets to our desired function. Therefore, x^2 is *one* of the antiderivatives for $2x$ and we have $\int 2x dx = x^2 + C$.

- c) Similar to the previous subproblem, since $6x^5$ is a multiple of x^5 , we can use the reverse of power rule and try guessing something like x^6 and verify that

$$\frac{d}{dx}x^6 = 6x^5$$

so we know x^6 is *one* of the antiderivatives for $6x^5$, and we have $\int 6x^5 dx = x^6 + C$.

- d) Here $-\frac{1}{x^2}$ can actually be rewritten as $-x^{-2}$, so it is a multiple of power of x . Therefore, we can try guessing x^{-1} for its antiderivative and verify that

$$\frac{d}{dx}x^{-1} = -x^{-2}$$

so that x^{-1} indeed an antiderivative for $-x^{-2}$. Therefore we have $\int -\frac{1}{x^2} dx = -\frac{1}{x} + C$.

- e) We have known by heart that

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin x = \cos x$$

so we already know $\sin x$ is *one* of the antiderivatives for $\cos x$. Therefore we have $\int \cos x dx = \sin x + C$.

- f) Likewise, we already know that

$$\frac{d}{dx} \cos x = -\sin x$$

so $\cos x$ is *one* of the antiderivatives for $-\sin x$, and we have $\int -\sin x dx = \cos x + C$.

- g) e^x is a special function where

$$\frac{d}{dx}e^x = e^x$$

therefore e^x is an antiderivative for e^x itself, so we have $\int e^x dx = e^x + C$.

- h) Recall than the derivative of $\ln x$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln x = \frac{1}{x}$$

therefore intuitively, we would say that $\ln x$ is an antiderivative for $\frac{1}{x}$. However, this is just part of the answer. Notice that when we differentiate $\ln x$ and get $1/x$, we are implicitly assuming that x can only take up positive values in both functions, since $\ln x$ is defined only for $x > 0$. However, when we are antidifferentiating $1/x$, since $1/x$ is defined for all non-zero real numbers, we would also want the resulting antiderivative to be defined for all non-zero real numbers. This can be done by looking into the function $\ln |x|$. Note that when $x > 0$:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln |x| = \frac{d}{dx} \ln x = \frac{1}{x}$$

and when $x < 0$:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln |x| = \frac{d}{dx} \ln(-x) = \frac{1}{-x}(-1) = \frac{1}{x}$$

therefore, $\ln |x|$ is indeed an antiderivative for $1/x$, and it is also defined for all non-zero real numbers. In the end, we would write $\int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln |x| + C$.

Eminent students may argue that $\ln |x| + C$ does not actually cover all possible antiderivatives for $\frac{1}{x}$, since the following function also has derivative $\frac{1}{x}$:

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \ln |x| + C_1, & x > 0 \\ \ln |x| + C_2, & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

Indeed, the "+C" trick breaks down here. This is because when we were proving Theorem 6.3, the argument that $G'(x) - F'(x) = f(x) - f(x) = 0$ is only valid if $f(x)$ exists everywhere, while here $1/x$ is undefined at $x = 0$. However, in this course we acknowledge that this weakness exists and continue to use $\ln |x| + C$ for simplicity.

Exercise 6.2

Find the following antiderivatives:

- a) $\int 0 dx$
- b) $\int dx$
- c) $\int 2dt$
- d) $\int \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} dx$
- e) $\int \frac{2}{3\sqrt[3]{x}} dx$
- f) $\int \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx$
- g) $\int 2^x \ln 2 dx$
- h) $\int \sec^2 x dx$

Solution 6.2

- a) In Lemma 6.2, we showed that the antiderivative of 0 is a constant function C , so $\int 0 dx = C$.
- b) Here $\int dx$ is the shorthand of $\int 1 dx$. Based on previous observations, we would guess and verify that x is one antiderivative for 1. Therefore we have $\int dx = x + C$.

- c) Notice that here we are antiderentiating with respect to t instead of x , since the differential is dt instead of dx . Based on previous observations, we would guess and verify that $2t$ is one antiderivative for 2. Therefore we have $\int 2dt = 2t + C$.
- d) Here $\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$ can be rewritten as $\frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2}$, which is a multiple of $x^{-1/2}$, a power function of x . Therefore, we would naturally guess $x^{-1/2+1} = x^{1/2} = \sqrt{x}$ to be one of its antiderivatives, which checks out. Therefore we have $\int \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}dx = \sqrt{x} + C$
- e) Here $\frac{2}{3\sqrt[3]{x}}$ can be rewritten as $\frac{2}{3}x^{-1/3}$, which is a multiple of $x^{-1/3}$, a power function of x . Therefore, we would naturally guess $x^{-1/3+1} = x^{2/3} = \sqrt[3]{x^2}$ to be one of its antiderivatives, which checks out. Therefore we have $\int \frac{2}{3\sqrt[3]{x}}dx = \sqrt[3]{x^2} + C$.
- f) We specifically derived the derivatives of inverse trigonometric functions in Chapter 4, where we had the identity

$$\frac{d}{dx} \arctan x = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$$

Therefore, $\arctan x$ is one of the antiderivatives for $\frac{1}{1+x^2}$, and we have $\int \frac{1}{1+x^2}dx = \arctan x + C$.

- g) In the section where we talked about derivatives of exponential functions, we had the identity

$$\frac{d}{dx} a^x = a^x \ln a, \quad \forall a > 0$$

Therefore, 2^x is one of the antiderivatives for $2^x \ln 2$, and we have $\int 2^x \ln 2 dx = 2^x + C$.

- h) If you have memorized this one, you would immediately think of the identity

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan x = \sec^2 x$$

Therefore, $\tan x$ is one of the antiderivatives for $\sec^2 x$, and we have $\int \sec^2 x dx = \tan x + C$.

Like differentiation, we also have a set of basic antiderivative rules that can aid us in finding antiderivatives, which we list below:

- Constant rule:

$$\int kdx = kx + C, \quad \text{where } k \text{ is a constant}$$

- Power rule:

$$\int x^r dx = \frac{1}{r+1} x^{r+1} + C, r \neq -1$$

- Constant multiplication rule:

$$\int kf(x)dx = k \int f(x)dx, \quad \text{where } k \text{ is a constant}$$

- Sum and difference rule:

$$\int f(x) \pm g(x)dx = \int f(x)dx \pm \int g(x)dx$$

We can put these rules to the test in the following example.

Example 6.3

Find the following antiderivatives.

a) $\int 7xdx$	b) $\int \frac{5}{x^4}dx$	c) $\int \sqrt{x}dx$	d) $\int (x^3 - 4x^2 + 3)dx$
e) $\int (x+1)(x-3)dx$	f) $\int \frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{x}}dx$	g) $\int \frac{2+\sqrt[3]{x}}{x}dx$	h) $\int (x\sqrt{x} + 3 \sin x)dx$

Solution 6.3

- a) Using the constant multiplication and power rule, we have

$$\int 7xdx = 7 \int x^1 dx = 7 \left(\frac{1}{1+1} x^{1+1} + C_1 \right) = \frac{7}{2} x^2 + C$$

Note that here C_1 is the constant term generated by antiderivativing $\int xdx$, and in the end we let $C = 7C_1$ to be the new constant for aesthetic purpose. It is perfectly valid to leave it like $\frac{7}{2}x^2 + 7C_1$, since it still implies that we need to add an unknown constant to $\frac{7}{2}x^2$. In future derivations, sometimes we will skip these nuances and write C directly as long as it is not confusing.

- b) Using the constant multiplication and power rule, we have

$$\int \frac{5}{x^4}dx = 5 \int x^{-4}dx = 5 \left(\frac{1}{-4+1} x^{-4+1} dx \right) = 5 \cdot \frac{1}{-3} x^{-3} + C = -\frac{5}{3x^3} + C$$

- c) Writing \sqrt{x} as $x^{1/2}$ and using the power rule, we have

$$\int \sqrt{x} dx = \int x^{1/2} dx = \frac{1}{1/2 + 1} x^{1/2+1} + C = \frac{2}{3} x^{3/2} + C = \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{x^3} + C$$

- d) Using the power, constant and sum rule, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int (x^3 - 4x^2 + 3) dx &= \int x^3 dx - 4 \int x^2 dx + \int 3 dx \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{3+1} x^{3+1} \right) + C_1 - 4 \left(\frac{1}{2+1} x^{2+1} + C_2 \right) + (3x + C_3) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} x^4 - \frac{4}{3} x^3 + 3x + C \end{aligned}$$

Here notice that we let $C = C_1 - 4C_2 + C_3$ to simplify the constants.

- e) Though it is enticing to look for some kind of product rule, there is none for antiderivation. We will have to expand the product and yield:

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

Note that here we avoided the fuss of having a bunch of constants by writing C directly.

- f) It is also enticing here to try and find some kind of quotient rule, which is also nonexistent for antiderivation. Here we have to divide out the fraction and yield

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{x}} dx &= \int \left(\frac{2x}{\sqrt{x}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \right) dx \\ &= \int \left(2x^{1/2} + x^{-1/2} \right) dx \\ &= 2 \cdot \frac{1}{1+1/2} x^{1/2+1} + \frac{1}{1+(-1/2)} x^{1+(-1/2)} + C \\ &= \frac{4}{3} x^{3/2} + 2x^{1/2} + C \\ &= \frac{4}{3} \sqrt{x^3} + 2\sqrt{x} + C \end{aligned}$$

g) We will divide out the fraction and yield

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int \frac{2 + \sqrt[5]{x}}{x} dx &= \int \left(\frac{2}{x} + \frac{\sqrt[5]{x}}{x} \right) dx \\
 &= \int \left(2 \cdot \frac{1}{x} + x^{-4/5} \right) dx \\
 &= 2 \ln|x| + \frac{1}{-4/5 + 1} x^{-4/5+1} + C \\
 &= 2 \ln|x| + 5x^{1/5} + C \\
 &= 2 \ln|x| + 5\sqrt[5]{x} + C
 \end{aligned}$$

Notice that the antiderivative $\ln|x|$ we deduced previously appears again here. Do not misuse the power rule for the antiderivative of $1/x$!

h) Previously we have argued that the antiderivative of $-\sin x$ is $\cos x + C$, so we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int (x\sqrt{x} + 3 \sin x) dx &= \int [x^{3/2} + (-3)(-\sin x)] dx \\
 &= \frac{1}{3/2 + 1} x^{3/2+1} - 3 \cos x + C \\
 &= \frac{2}{5} x^{5/2} - 3 \cos x + C \\
 &= \frac{2}{5} \sqrt{x^5} - 3 \cos x + C
 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 6.4

Find the following antiderivatives.

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{a) } \int (x+1)^3 dx & \text{b) } \int \sqrt[3]{2x} dx & \text{c) } \int 3^x dx & \text{d) } \int (3 \sin x + 5 \cos x) dx \\ \text{e) } \int e^{x+2} dx & \text{f) } \int \frac{x^2}{1+x^2} dx & \text{g) } \int \cos^2 \frac{x}{2} dx & \text{h) } \int \tan^2 x dx \end{array}$$

Solution 6.4

a) Here our tools are limited, and we can only expand the polynomial and yield:

$$\begin{aligned} \int (x+1)^3 dx &= \int (x^3 + 3x^2 + 3x + 1) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{4}x^4 + 3 \cdot \frac{1}{3}x^3 + 3 \cdot \frac{1}{2}x^2 + x + C \\ &= \frac{1}{4}x^4 + x^3 + \frac{3}{2}x^2 + x + C \end{aligned}$$

b) We can rewrite the function to pull the constant out and yield

$$\int \sqrt[3]{2x} dx = \int (\sqrt[3]{2}\sqrt[3]{x}) dx = \int (\sqrt[3]{2}x^{1/3}) dx = \sqrt[3]{2} \cdot \frac{1}{4/3}x^{4/3} + C = \frac{3}{4}\sqrt[3]{2x^4} + C$$

c) Previously we have shown that the antiderivative of $f(x) = 2^x \ln 2$ is $2^x + C$, therefore here we have

$$\int 3^x dx = \int \left(\frac{1}{\ln 3} 3^x \ln 3 \right) dx = \frac{1}{\ln 3} 3^x + C$$

d) Previously we have shown that the antiderivative of $f(x) = \cos x$ is $\sin x + C$, and the antiderivative of $g(x) = -\sin x$ is $\cos x + C$. Therefore,

$$\int (3 \sin x + 5 \cos x) dx = \int [(-3)(-\sin x) + 5 \cos x] dx = -3 \cos x + 5 \sin x + C$$

e) Given that the antiderivative of $f(x) = e^x$ is $e^x + C$, we may pull the e^2 out as constant multiplier and yield

$$\int e^{x+2} dx = \int e^2 e^x dx = e^2 e^x + C = e^{x+2} + C$$

- f) Note that we already know the antiderivative of $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$ is $\arctan x + C$, and the integrand can actually be written as $1 - f(x)$. Therefore,

$$\int \frac{x^2}{1+x^2} dx = \int \left(1 - \frac{1}{1+x^2}\right) dx = x - \arctan x + C$$

- g) Here we will use the identity that $\cos 2\alpha = 2\cos^2 \alpha - 1$. Letting $\alpha = \frac{x}{2}$ then we get $\cos x = 2\cos^2 \frac{x}{2} - 1$. So we can rewrite the integrand and yield

$$\int \cos^2 \frac{x}{2} dx = \int \frac{\cos x + 1}{2} dx = \int \left(\frac{1}{2} \cos x + \frac{1}{2}\right) dx = \frac{1}{2} \sin x + \frac{1}{2}x + C = \frac{x + \sin x}{2} + C$$

- h) We do not directly know the antiderivative of $\tan^2 x$, but note that $\tan^2 x + 1 = \sec^2 x$, and we have shown the antiderivative of $f(x) = \sec^2 x$ is $\tan x + C$. Therefore, we can rewrite the integrand as,

$$\int \tan^2 x dx = \int (\sec^2 x - 1) dx = \tan x - x + C$$

Up until now, we can see that at times our way of antidifferentiation requires some clever inspiration and even some guessing. You may think that there should be a more extensive set of rules that enables us to antidifferentiate all kinds of functions. Unfortunately, this is not the case. In differentiation, with a function as ugly as

$$f(x) = \sin\left(\sqrt[3]{\ln(x)}\right)$$

we can still find its derivative, albeit with some labor. However, in antidifferentiation, even with a function as clean as

$$f(x) = \sin(x^2)$$

we *cannot* find a closed form expression for its antiderivatives! This shows how hard is it to find antiderivatives: even if we know a lot of antidifferentiation techniques, more often than not, we will still need a lot of luck to be able to antidifferentiate a random function.

Nevertheless, we cannot give up here! In the following, we will go over some of the antidifferentiation techniques that can increase our odds in finding antiderivatives of a function.

6.2 Antidifferentiation techniques: Variable substitution

In the previous section, we could do some antidifferentiation with the simple rules provided, as long as the function to be antidifferentiated can be written as addition of functions of known antiderivatives. However, for problems like

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

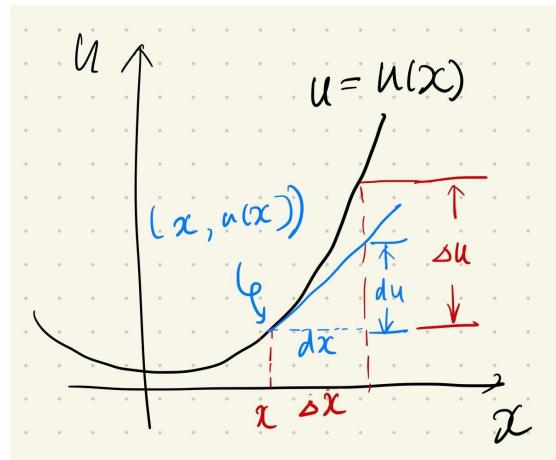
our hands are tied. Luckily, we have a technique in our arsenal that can solve some of the antidifferentiation problems of this kind. Before we get into it, let us circle back and talk about differentials.

6.2.1 Differentials

In our notation for antidifferentiation, there is a mysterious notation " dx " that we termed as *differentials*. Previously in differentiation, we did not write dx on its own, but only included it in the differentiation operate " $\frac{d}{dx}$ ". However, we can reinspect the definition of derivatives, say u is a function of x

$$u'(x) = \frac{du}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x + \Delta x) - u(x)}{\Delta x} := \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta u}{\Delta x}$$

Along with the following graph, we can alternatively see du and dx as "changes in u and x from $(x, u(x))$ along the tangent line", so that their quotient is exactly the derivative.



In this virtue, we can treat du and dx as manipulable entities and write

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

For example, say $u(x) = x^2$, then since $u'(x) = 2x$, we have $du = 2x dx$. In fact, we have implicitly used the concept of differentials before when we were doing linear approximations.

Suppose we would like to approximate $u(x)$ around $x = x_0$, previously we used the tangent line equation and derived the linear approximant

$$\hat{u}(x) = u(x_0) + u'(x_0)(x - x_0)$$

Now with the differential notation, we can write $x = x_0 + dx$ and yield

$$\hat{u}(x) = \hat{u}(x_0 + dx) = u(x_0) + du = u(x_0) + u'(x_0)dx$$

To familiarize ourselves with the differential notation, let us look at a few examples:

Example 6.5

Given following functional relationship between u and x , express du with dx

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| a) $u = x + 1$ | b) $u = 3x + 2$ | c) $u = x^2 + 1$ | d) $u = \cos x$ |
| e) $u = x^3 - \sec x$ | f) $x = e^u$ | g) $x = \tan u$ | h) $x = \sin u$ |

Solution 6.5

- a) Since $u'(x) = 1$, we have $du = u'(x)dx = dx$.
- b) Since $u'(x) = 3$, we have $du = u'(x)dx = 3dx$.
- c) Since $u'(x) = 2x$, we have $du = u'(x)dx = 2xdx$.
- d) Since $u'(x) = -\sin x$, we have $du = u'(x)dx = -\sin xdx$.
- e) Rewriting $u(x) = x^3 - \frac{1}{\cos x}$, we have $u'(x) = 3x^2 - \left(-\frac{1}{\cos^2 x}\right) \cdot (-\sin x) = 3x^2 - \tan x \sec x$. Therefore, $du = u'(x)dx = (3x^2 - \tan x \sec x)dx$.
- f) Since $x'(u) = e^u$, we have $dx = x'(u)du = e^u du = xdu$. Therefore, $du = \frac{dx}{x}$.
- g) Since $x'(u) = \sec^2 u$, we have $dx = x'(u)du = \sec^2 u du = (1 + \tan^2 u)du = (1 + x^2)du$. Therefore, $du = \frac{dx}{1+x^2}$.
- h) Since $x'(u) = \cos u$, we have $dx = x'(u)du = \cos u du$. Therefore, $du = \frac{dx}{\cos u}$. If u is restricted between $-\frac{\pi}{2}$ and $\frac{\pi}{2}$, we can further reduce $\cos u = \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 u} = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$, so we have $du = \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$.

6.2.2 U-substitution

Differentials are extremely useful in some types of antiderivation problems, since we can make the antiderivation tractable after replacing the variable of interest and substituting

the differentials. For example, in the teaser above where we try to find $\int \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+1}} dx$, suppose we let $u = x^2 + 1$, then we have $du = 2x dx$, so we yield

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

where we need to remember to substitute u back to x . We may check that this substitution trick is valid by differentiating $\sqrt{x^2+1} + C$ with respect to x , which gets us back to $\frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+1}}$.

This technique is called the **U-substitution** since in the midst of the derivation, we substituted our original target of antiderivation, x , with a new variable u . The general form of U-substitution can be written as follows:

$$\int f(u(x))u'(x) dx = \int f(u) du = F(u) + C = F(u(x)) + C$$

where $F(\cdot)$ is an antiderivative of $f(\cdot)$. In our example, we had $f(\cdot)$ as the reciprocal of square root, and $u(x) = x^2 + 1$.

The million dollar question is whether we have a standard procedure that finds the appropriate $u(x)$ that makes U-substitution work. Unfortunately, there isn't a one-size-fit-all solution, and sometimes we'll need some experience, quite a bit of trial and error, and a lot of luck. However, we can reinspect what we have done above and come up with a general rule of thumb:

1. We write out our antiderivation problem:

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

2. First we inspect the integrand and find a portion in the integrand shaped like a composite function $f(u(x))$, where we *know* the antiderivative of $f(\cdot)$. In the example above, $f(\cdot)$ is the reciprocal of square root, and $u(x) = x^2 + 1$ is the function within $f(\cdot)$.

$$\int \frac{\color{blue}{x}}{\color{orange}{\sqrt{x^2+1}}} dx = \int \frac{\color{red}{1}}{\color{orange}{\sqrt{u}}} \cdot \color{blue}{x} dx$$

Up until now we are doing the same thing as chain rule in derivatives, where we also tried to identify composite functions $f(u(x))$ that we know the derivative of $f(\cdot)$.

3. Right now in the integrand we have a function of u and a remainder of function of x . Our goal is that after substituting the differential dx with du , the function of x would vanish, leaving us a pure integrand consisting of u . Since $du = u'(x)dx$, the second step is to

calculate $u'(x)$ and check that after dividing $u'(x)$ from the remainder of the integrand, *there is no more x left*. If not, then we will have to go back to the previous step and pick a better $f(u(x))$. In the example above, $u'(x) = (x^2 + 1)' = 2x$, and the remainder of the integrand is x , so we have $\frac{x}{2x} = \frac{1}{2}$, which is free of x and greenlights our U-substitution.

$$\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} \cdot x dx = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} \cdot x \frac{du}{u'(x)} = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{x}{u'(x)}}_{\text{Should not depend on } x} du$$

4. After confirming U-substitution may work, perform U-substitution based on the selected $f(\cdot)$ and $u(x)$.

In the following, let's look at some examples utilizing U-substitution.

Example 6.6

Find the following antiderivatives.

- a) $\int 2x(x^2 + 1)^3 dx$
- b) $\int 3x^2 \sqrt{x^3 - 2} dx$
- c) $\int x \sqrt[3]{3 - 4x^2} dx$
- d) $\int \sqrt{1 - 5x} dx$
- e) $\int \frac{x}{1+4x^2} dx$
- f) $\int x e^{x^2+1} dx$
- g) $\int e^{2x} \sqrt{e^{2x} + 1} dx$
- h) $\int x \sin(x^2) dx$

Solution 6.6

- a) The composite function here is pretty straightforward: $x^2 + 1$ as a whole is raised to the third power, so we may try $f(t) = t^3$ and $u(x) = x^2 + 1$. Now since $u'(x) = 2x$ and the remainder of the integrand is $2x$, we have $\frac{2x}{2x} = 1$ which is independent of x , meaning that U-substitution may work. We then have, letting $u = x^2 + 1$ and thus $du = 2x dx$:

$$\begin{aligned} \int 2x(x^2 + 1)^3 dx &= \int (x^2 + 1)^3 2x dx \\ &= \int u^3 du \\ &= \frac{1}{4}u^4 + C = \frac{1}{4}(x^2 + 1)^4 + C \end{aligned}$$

Remember the integration constant and substitution of u back into terms of x .

- b) The composite function here looks like $x^3 - 2$ as a whole taken the square root, so we may try $f(t) = \sqrt{t}$ and $u(x) = x^3 - 2$. Now since $u'(x) = 3x^2$ and the remainder of the integrand is $3x^2$, we have $\frac{3x^2}{3x^2} = 1$ which is independent of x . We then have, letting

$u = x^3 - 2$ and thus $du = 3x^2 dx$:

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

- c) The composite function here looks like $3 - 4x^2$ as a whole taken the cube root, so we may try $f(t) = \sqrt[3]{t}$ and $u(x) = 3 - 4x^2$. Now since $u'(x) = -8x$ and the remainder of the integrand is x , we have $\frac{x}{-8x} = -\frac{1}{8}$ which is independent of x . We then have, letting $u = 3 - 4x^2$ and thus $du = -8x dx$:

$$\begin{aligned}\int x \sqrt[3]{3 - 4x^2} dx &= -\frac{1}{8} \int (3 - 4x^2)^{1/3} (-8x) dx \\ &= -\frac{1}{8} \int u^{1/3} du \\ &= -\frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{1}{1+1/3} u^{1+1/3} + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{3}{4} u^{4/3} + C = -\frac{3}{32} (3 - 4x^2)^{4/3} + C\end{aligned}$$

Note that here after substituting the differentials, we yield an additional factor $-\frac{1}{8}$.

- d) The composite function here looks like $1 - 5x$ as a whole taken the square root, so we may try $f(t) = \sqrt{t}$ and $u(x) = 1 - 5x$. Now since $u'(x) = -5$ and the remainder of the integrand is 1, we have $\frac{1}{-5} = -\frac{1}{5}$ which is independent of x . We then have, letting $u = 1 - 5x$ and thus $du = -5dx$:

$$\begin{aligned}\int \sqrt{1 - 5x} dx &= -\frac{1}{5} \int (1 - 5x)^{1/2} (-5) dx \\ &= -\frac{1}{5} \int u^{1/2} du \\ &= -\frac{1}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{1+1/2} u^{1+1/2} + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{5} \cdot \frac{2}{3} u^{3/2} + C = -\frac{2}{15} (1 - 5x)^{3/2} + C\end{aligned}$$

- e) The composite function here looks like $1 + 4x^2$ as a whole taken the reciprocal, so we may try $f(t) = \frac{1}{t}$ and $u(x) = 1 + 4x^2$. Now since $u'(x) = 8x$ and the remainder of the integrand is x , we have $\frac{x}{8x} = \frac{1}{8}$ which is independent of x . We then have, letting

$u = 1 + 4x^2$ and thus $du = 8x dx$:

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{x}{1+4x^2} dx &= \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{1}{1+4x^2} 8x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{1}{u} du \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \ln|u| + C = \frac{1}{8} \ln|1+4x^2| + C\end{aligned}$$

- f) The composite function here looks like $x^2 + 1$ as a whole taken the exponential, so we may try $f(t) = e^t$ and $u(x) = x^2 + 1$. Now since $u'(x) = 2x$ and the remainder of the integrand is x , we have $\frac{x}{2x} = \frac{1}{2}$ which is independent of x . We then have, letting $u = x^2 + 1$ and thus $du = 2x dx$:

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

- g) The composite function here looks like $e^{2x} + 1$ as a whole taken the square root, so we may try $f(t) = \sqrt{t}$ and $u(x) = e^{2x} + 1$. Now since $u'(x) = 2e^{2x}$ and the remainder of the integrand is e^{2x} , we have $\frac{e^{2x}}{2e^{2x}} = \frac{1}{2}$ which is independent of x . We then have, letting $u = e^{2x} + 1$ and thus $du = 2e^{2x} dx$:

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

- h) The composite function here looks like x^2 as a whole taken the sine function, so we may try $f(t) = \sin t$ and $u(x) = x^2$. Now since $u'(x) = 2x$ and the remainder of the integrand is x , we have $\frac{x}{2x} = \frac{1}{2}$ which is independent of x . We then have, letting $u = x^2$

and thus $du = 2x dx$:

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

Exercise 6.7

Find the following antiderivatives.

a) $\int (1 - \frac{1}{x}) \cos(x - \ln x) dx$	b) $\int \sin x \cos x dx$	c) $\int \sin(2x)(1 - \cos(2x))^3 dx$
d) $\int \frac{2}{3x+1} dx$	e) $\int \frac{2x}{3x^2+1} dx$	f) $\int \frac{2}{3x^2+1} dx$
g) $\int \frac{x^2+1}{x^3+3x} dx$	h) $\int \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx$	i) $\int \tan x dx$

Solution 6.7

- a) The composite function here is pretty straightforward: $x - \ln x$ as a whole is taken the cosine function, so we may try $f(t) = \cos t$ and $u(x) = x - \ln x$. Now since $u'(x) = 1 - \frac{1}{x}$ and the remainder of the integrand is exactly the same, we conclude that U-substitution may work. We then have, letting $u = x - \ln x$ and thus $du = (1 - \frac{1}{x}) dx$:

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

- b) Here we do not have an evident composite function, but we can let $f(t) = 1$ and $u(x) = \sin x$. Then, the remaining integrand is $\cos x$, which is exactly $u'(x)$, so the U-substitution may work. Letting $u = \sin x$ and thus $du = \cos x dx$ and we have:

$$\int \sin x \cos x dx = \int u du = \frac{1}{2}u^2 + C = \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 x + C$$

Alternatively, we may let $u(x) = \cos x$ so that the remaining integrand is $\sin x$, which is equal to $-u'(x)$ so the U-substitution may still work. Letting $u = \cos x$ and thus

$du = -\sin x dx$ and we have:

$$\int \sin x \cos x dx = - \int \cos x (-\sin x) dx = - \int u du = -\frac{1}{2}u^2 + C = -\frac{1}{2}\cos^2 x + C$$

Still another way is to recall that $\sin 2x = 2 \sin x \cos x$, so we have, letting $u = 2x$ so that $du = 2dx$:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sin x \cos x dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int 2 \sin x \cos x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int \sin(2x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int \sin(2x) \cdot 2 dx \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int \sin u du = \frac{1}{4}(-\cos u) + C = -\frac{1}{4}\cos 2x + C \end{aligned}$$

At first glance, it seems that the three methods are giving us different answers. However, we can use two identities, $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$ and $\cos 2x = 2 \cos^2 x - 1$ to show that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2}\sin^2 x + C &= \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos^2 x) + C = -\frac{1}{2}\cos^2 x + \left(C + \frac{1}{2}\right) \\ -\frac{1}{4}\cos 2x + C &= -\frac{1}{4}(2\cos^2 x - 1) + C = -\frac{1}{2}\cos^2 x + \left(C + \frac{1}{4}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Since C is any constant, we may redefine C for the first and third method, then their answers would match the $-\frac{1}{2}\cos^2 x + C$ solution. That is, these three answers are *de facto* equivalent.

- c) Here if we just let $u(x) = 2x$, then it would work since we still don't have a quick idea on how to antiderivative $\sin u(1 - \cos u)^3$. However, we can try letting $f(t) = t^3$ and $u(x) = 1 - \cos(2x)$. Now since $u'(x) = 2 \sin(2x)$, which is twice the remainder, $\sin(2x)$, the U-substitution should work now. We then have, letting $u = 1 - \cos(2x)$ and thus $du = 2 \sin(2x) dx$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sin(2x)(1 - \cos(2x))^3 dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int (1 - \cos(2x))^3 2 \sin(2x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int u^3 du \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{4}u^4 + C = \frac{1}{8}(1 - \cos(2x))^4 + C \end{aligned}$$

- d) The composite function here looks like $3x + 1$ as a whole taken the reciprocal, so we may try $f(t) = \frac{1}{t}$ and $u(x) = 3x + 1$. Now since $u'(x) = 3$ and the remainder of the integrand is 2, we have $\frac{2}{3}$ is independent of x and U-substitution should work. We then

have, letting $u = 3x + 1$ and thus $du = 3dx$:

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

- e) The composite function here looks like $3x^2 + 1$ as a whole taken the reciprocal, so we may try $f(t) = \frac{1}{t}$ and $u(x) = 3x^2 + 1$. Now since $u'(x) = 6x$ and the remainder of the integrand is $2x$, we have $\frac{2x}{6x} = \frac{1}{3}$ which is independent of x . We then have, letting $u = 3x^2 + 1$ and thus $du = 6xdx$:

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{2x}{3x^2+1} dx &= \frac{1}{3} \int \frac{1}{3x^2+1} 6xdx \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \int \frac{1}{u} du \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \ln |u| + C = \frac{1}{3} \ln |3x^2+1| + C\end{aligned}$$

- f) Here if we still let $f(t) = \frac{1}{t}$ and $u(x) = 3x^2 + 1$, we would fail since $u'(x) = 6x$ and the remainder of the integrand is 2 , and we have $\frac{2}{6x} = \frac{1}{3x}$ which is dependent of x . On closer inspection, we can rewrite the integrand as:

$$\frac{2}{3x^2+1} = \frac{2}{(\sqrt{3}x)^2+1}$$

The denominator now has the shape of $\frac{1}{1+t^2}$, which reminds us of the arctangent function. Therefore, letting $f(t) = \frac{1}{1+t^2}$ and $u(x) = \sqrt{3}x$, we have $u'(x) = \sqrt{3}$ and the integrand remainder 2 are both constants, so the U-substitution should work. We then have, letting $u = \sqrt{3}x$ and thus $du = \sqrt{3}dx$:

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

- g) The composite function here looks like $x^3 + 3x$ as a whole taken the reciprocal, so we may try $f(t) = \frac{1}{t}$ and $u(x) = x^3 + 3x$. Now since $u'(x) = 3x^2 + 3$ and the remainder of

the integrand is $x^2 + 1$, we have $\frac{x^2+1}{x^3+3x} = \frac{1}{3}$ which is independent of x . We then have, letting $u = x^3 + 3x$ and thus $du = 3(x^2 + 1)dx$:

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

- h) The composite function here looks like $1 - x^2$ as a whole taken the reciprocal of square root, so we may try $f(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}$ and $u(x) = 1 - x^2$. Now since $u'(x) = -2x$ and the remainder of the integrand is x , we have $\frac{x}{-2x} = -\frac{1}{2}$ which is independent of x . We then have, letting $u = 1 - x^2$ and thus $du = -2x dx$:

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

- i) At first glance there it looks like we do not have any idea on what to substitute as u . However, if we rewrite the integrand as:

$$\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$$

We can see that setting $f(t) = \frac{1}{t}$ and $u(x) = \cos x$ would lead to $u'(x) = -\sin x$, whose multiple appears in the numerator as the remainder of the integrand. Therefore, here we let $u = \cos x$ and thus $du = -\sin x$:

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

Or, alternatively, we may write

$$-\ln |\cos x| + C = \ln |\cos x|^{-1} + C = \ln \frac{1}{|\cos x|} + C = \ln \left| \frac{1}{\cos x} \right| + C = \ln |\sec x| + C$$

After we have mastered how U-substitution works, sometimes we can look at the integrand and plan out how the substitution would work, without writing explicitly what $f(.)$ and the integrand remainder would be. Here we try a couple of antiderivative variants that can still use U-substitution, albeit with a little twist:

Example 6.8

Find the following antiderivatives.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a) $\int \sin x(4 \cos^3 x - 3 \cos^2 x + 2)dx$ | b) $\int \frac{1}{1+x} + \sin(1-x)dx$ | c) $\int \frac{3}{x^2+4}dx$ |
| d) $\int \frac{2x+3}{x^2+4}dx$ | e) $\int \frac{1}{x \ln x}dx$ | f) $\int 2x^3 \sqrt{x^2 + 1}dx$ |

Solution 6.8

- a) Here it would be intuitive to set $u = \cos x$, since $du = -\sin x dx$ and $\sin x$ appears in the front. Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sin x(4 \cos^3 x - 3 \cos^2 x + 2)dx &= - \int (4 \cos^3 x - 3 \cos^2 x + 2)(-\sin x)dx \\ &= - \int (4u^3 - 3u^2 + 2)du \\ &= -(u^4 - u^3 + 2u) + C = -\cos^4 x + \cos^3 x - 2 \cos x + C \end{aligned}$$

- b) Here if we directly substitute $u = 1 - x$ for the latter term, the first term would become $\frac{1}{2-u}$ and still be intractable. Therefore, we should split the integrand first with the sum rule:

$$\int \frac{1}{1+x} + \sin(1-x)dx = \int \frac{1}{1+x}dx + \int \sin(1-x)dx$$

Then we can try to substitute $u = 1 + x$ ($du = dx$) for the first term and $v = 1 - x$ ($dv = -dx$) for the second term:

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

- c) Here the intuition would be to set $u(x) = x^2 + 4$. However, in this case since $u'(x) = 2x$, we would need a multiple of x in the integrand to make up $u'(x)dx = 2xdx$, so this substitution would not work. Here the way to go through is to rewrite the integrand as:

$$\int \frac{3}{x^2 + 4} dx = \int \frac{3}{4 \frac{x^2}{4} + 1} dx = \int \frac{3}{4 \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^2 + 1} dx$$

Now the integrand has the form $\frac{1}{u^2+1}$, which prompts us to do a substitution of $u = \frac{x}{2}$ and thus $du = \frac{1}{2}dx$, leading to:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{3}{4 \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^2 + 1} dx &= \frac{3}{2} \int \frac{1}{\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^2 + 1} \frac{1}{2} dx \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \int \frac{1}{u^2 + 1} du \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \arctan u + C = \frac{3}{2} \arctan \left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + C \end{aligned}$$

- d) Here if we set $u(x) = x^2 + 4$, then $u'(x) = 2x$, which partially appears in the numerator, but the numerator is still not a multiple of $2x$. Yet note that we can split the integrand first as:

$$\int \frac{2x+3}{x^2+4} dx = \int \frac{2x}{x^2+4} dx + \int \frac{3}{x^2+4} dx$$

Now the first antiderivative term can be found with U-substitution of $u(x) = x^2 + 4$ since the numerator is now just $2x = u'(x)$. For the second term, our experience in the previous subproblem prompts us to do another rewriting of the integrand:

$$\int \frac{2x}{x^2+4} dx + \int \frac{3}{x^2+4} dx = \int \frac{2x}{x^2+4} dx + \int \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^2 + 1} dx$$

so that we can do another substitution with $v = \frac{x}{2}$ and $dv = \frac{1}{2}dx$. Now we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{2x}{x^2+4} dx + \int \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^2 + 1} dx &= \int \frac{1}{x^2+4} \cdot 2xdx + \frac{3}{2} \int \frac{1}{\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^2 + 1} \cdot \frac{1}{2} dx \\ &= \int \frac{1}{u} du + \frac{3}{2} \int \frac{1}{v^2+1} dv \\ &= \ln |u| + \frac{3}{2} \arctan v + C \\ &= \ln |x^2+4| + \frac{3}{2} \arctan \left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + C \end{aligned}$$

e) Here since $\frac{d}{dx} \ln x = \frac{1}{x}$, it prompts us to let $u = \ln x$ and $du = \frac{1}{x}dx$, so we have

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

f) Here the natural choice of u would be $u = x^2 + 1$, which leads to $du = 2x dx$. Therefore, at first glance U-substitution would fail since the remainder of the integrand is $2x^3$ instead of a constant multiple of $2x$. However, note if we follow through, using the identity $x^2 = u - 1$:

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

All in all, U-substitution is a very versatile technique that can aid us in finding antiderivatives. However, this requires us to sometimes pretreat the integrand and also identify the correct $u(x)$. Therefore, successful application of U-substitution would require some experience, which can only be obtained by repeated exercises.

6.2.3 Interlude: Products between Trigonometric Functions

Now we have mastered the technique of U-substitution, we can solve a particular type of antiderivation that comes up fairly frequently, which is the product of powers of trigonometric. Specifically in the course, we are looking for the following type of antiderivative:

$$\int \sin^m x \cos^n x dx, m \in \mathbb{N}, n \in \mathbb{N}$$

As we will see, this type of antiderivative can be tackled with carefully performed U-substitution, and sometime with the help of the following three trigonometric identities:

$$\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$$

$$\cos^2 x = \frac{1 + \cos 2x}{2}$$

$$\sin^2 x = \frac{1 - \cos 2x}{2}$$

where the second and third identity come from the double angle formula for cosines. Let's first look at the following antiderivatives as a warm-up:

Example 6.9

Find the following antiderivative:

$$\int \sin x \cos^2 x \, dx$$

Solution 6.9

Here it would be intuitive to let $u(x) = \cos x$, since the remainder of the integrand after the U-substitution would be $\sin x$, which can be taken care of by $du = -\sin x \, dx$. To spell it out:

$$\int \sin x \cos^2 x \, dx = - \int \cos^2 x (-\sin x \, dx) = - \int u^2 \, du = -\frac{1}{3}u^3 + C = -\frac{1}{3}\cos^3 x + C$$

Note that if we let $u(x) = \sin x$, then the remainder of the integrand after substitution would be $\cos^2 x$, which does not fit $du = \cos x \, dx$, so this substitution thus does not work.

Exercise 6.10

Find the following antiderivative:

$$\int \sin^4 x \cos x \, dx$$

Solution 6.10

Here instead we would need to let $u(x) = \sin x$, so that the remainder of the integrand after the U-substitution would be $\cos x$, which is then taken care of by $du = \cos x \, dx$. That is:

$$\int \sin^4 x \cos x \, dx = \int \sin^4 x (\cos x \, dx) = \int u^4 \, du = \frac{1}{5}u^5 + C = \frac{1}{5}\sin^5 x + C$$

Note that if we let $u(x) = \cos x$, then the remainder of the integrand after substitution would be $\sin^4 x$, which does not fit $du = -\sin x \, dx$, so this substitution thus does not work.

From the examples above, we can see that since $d(\sin x) = \cos x \, dx$ and $d(\cos x) = -\sin x \, dx$, in the case where one of the trigonometric functions has power of 1, we can set *the other*

trigonometric function as $u(x)$, then substitution of differentials will take care of the remaining integrand and we're done. With this technique in hand, we can now actually antiderivative any case with either m or n as odd number using the identity $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$. To see this, let's look at the following examples:

Example 6.11

Find the following antiderivative:

$$\int \sin^3 x \cos^2 x \, dx$$

Solution 6.11

At face value, it seems that both letting $u(x) = \sin x$ and $u(x) = \cos x$ do not eliminate the remainder in the integrand. However, if we use the identity $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1 - \cos^2 x$ and replace $\sin^2 x$ with $(1 - \cos^2 x)$, we yield:

$$\int \sin^3 x \cos^2 x \, dx = \int \sin x (\sin^2 x) \cos^2 x \, dx = \int \sin x (1 - \cos^2 x) \cos^2 x \, dx$$

Now $\sin x$ has a power of 1, so the problem is reduced to the case in the previous two examples: we just need to let $u(x) = \cos x$, so that $du = -\sin x \, dx$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sin x (1 - \cos^2 x) \cos^2 x \, dx &= - \int (1 - \cos^2 x) \cos^2 x (-\sin x \, dx) \\ &= - \int (1 - u^2) u^2 \, du \\ &= - \int u^2 \, du + \int u^4 \, du \\ &= -\frac{1}{3} u^3 + \frac{1}{5} u^5 + C = -\frac{1}{3} \cos^3 x + \frac{1}{5} \cos^5 x + C \end{aligned}$$

Note that if we instead tried to substitute $\cos^2 x$ with $(1 - \sin^2 x)$, the following U-substitution would not work. To see this, after the substitution we will get

$$\int \sin^3 x \cos^2 x \, dx = \int \sin^3 x (1 - \sin^2 x) \, dx$$

which does not have $\cos x$ in the integrand. However, if we let $u(x) = \sin x$, we have $du = \cos x \, dx$ so we *need* a $\cos x$ in the integrand. This line of U-substitution therefore fails.

Exercise 6.12

Find the following antiderivatives:

$$\text{a) } \int \sin^4 x \cos^3 x \, dx \quad \text{b) } \int \sin^5 x \cos^2 x \, dx \quad \text{c) } \int \sin^3 x \cos^3 x \, dx$$

Solution 6.12

- a) Here since the power of $\cos x$ is odd, we opt to substitute $\cos^2 x$ with $(1 - \sin^2 x)$ so that after the substitution, we would have one $\cos x$ left for U-substitution to work. Namely,

$$\int \sin^4 x \cos^3 x \, dx = \int \sin^4 x \cos^2 x \cos x \, dx = \int \sin^4 x (1 - \sin^2 x) \cos x \, dx$$

Let $u(x) = \sin x$ so that $du = \cos x \, dx$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sin^4 x (1 - \sin^2 x) \cos x \, dx &= \int u^4 (1 - u^2) du \\ &= \int (u^4 - u^6) du \\ &= \frac{1}{5}u^5 - \frac{1}{7}u^7 + C = \frac{1}{5}\sin^5 x - \frac{1}{7}\sin^7 x + C \end{aligned}$$

- b) Here since the power of $\sin x$ is odd, we substitute $\sin^4 x$ with $(1 - \cos^2 x)^2$ so that after the substitution, we would have one $\sin x$ left for U-substitution to work. In detail,

$$\int \sin^5 x \cos^2 x \, dx = \int \sin^4 x \cos^2 x \sin x \, dx = \int (1 - \cos^2 x)^2 \cos^2 x \sin x \, dx$$

Let $u(x) = \cos x$ so that $du = -\sin x \, dx$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int (1 - \cos^2 x)^2 \cos^2 x \sin x \, dx &= - \int (1 - \cos^2 x)^2 \cos^2 x (-\sin x \, dx) \\ &= - \int (1 - u^2)^2 u^2 du \\ &= - \int (1 - 2u^2 + u^4) u^2 du \\ &= - \int (u^2 - 2u^4 + u^6) du \\ &= -\frac{1}{3}u^3 + \frac{2}{5}u^5 - \frac{1}{7}u^7 + C = -\frac{1}{3}\cos^3 x + \frac{2}{5}\cos^5 x - \frac{1}{7}\cos^7 x + C \end{aligned}$$

- c) In this case, both the powers of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$ are odd, so we may choose to either substitute $\sin^2 x$ with $(1 - \cos^2 x)$ or substitute $\cos^2 x$ with $(1 - \sin^2 x)$. We first substitute $\sin^2 x$ with $(1 - \cos^2 x)$ and yield:

$$\int \sin^3 x \cos^3 x \, dx = \int \sin^2 x \cos^3 x \sin x \, dx = \int (1 - \cos^2 x) \cos^3 x \sin x \, dx$$

Let $u(x) = \cos x$ so that $du = -\sin x \, dx$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int (1 - \cos^2 x) \cos^3 x \sin x \, dx &= - \int (1 - \cos^2 x) \cos^3 x (-\sin x \, dx) \\ &= - \int (1 - u^2) u^3 du \\ &= - \int (u^3 - u^5) du \\ &= -\frac{1}{4}u^4 + \frac{1}{6}u^6 + C = -\frac{1}{4}\cos^4 x + \frac{1}{6}\cos^6 x + C \end{aligned}$$

Alternatively, we can substitute $\cos^2 x$ with $(1 - \sin^2 x)$ and yield:

$$\int \sin^3 x \cos^3 x \, dx = \int \sin^3 x \cos^2 x \cos x \, dx = \int \sin^3 x (1 - \sin^2 x) \cos x \, dx$$

Let $u(x) = \sin x$ so that $du = \cos x \, dx$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sin^3 x (1 - \sin^2 x) \cos x \, dx &= \int u^3 (1 - u^2) du \\ &= \int (u^3 - u^5) du \\ &= \frac{1}{4}u^4 - \frac{1}{6}u^6 + C = \frac{1}{4}\sin^4 x - \frac{1}{6}\sin^6 x + C \end{aligned}$$

At first glance, these two approaches do not seem to arrive at the same answer. However, we can manipulate the former one as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{1}{4}\cos^4 x + \frac{1}{6}\cos^6 x + C &= -\frac{1}{4}(\cos^2 x)^2 + \frac{1}{6}(\cos^2 x)^3 + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{4}(1 - \sin^2 x)^2 + \frac{1}{6}(1 - \sin^2 x)^3 + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{4}(1 - 2\sin^2 x + \sin^4 x) + \frac{1}{6}(1 - 3\sin^2 x + 3\sin^4 x - \sin^6 x) + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2}\sin^2 x - \frac{1}{4}\sin^4 x + \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{2}\sin^2 x + \frac{1}{2}\sin^4 x - \frac{1}{6}\sin^6 x + C \\ &= \frac{1}{4}\sin^4 x - \frac{1}{6}\sin^6 x + \left(C - \frac{1}{12}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the two expressions actually imply the same set of antiderivatives since C is just an arbitrary integration constant.

From the examples above, we see that in $\int \sin^m x \cos^n x \, dx$ where either m or n is odd, we can use the identity $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$ to reduce the odd-powered trigonometric function to a power of 1, then use U-substitution as desired. The only problem left is when both m and n are even, which we will see in the next example.

Example 6.13

Find the following antiderivative:

$$\int \sin^2 x \cos^2 x \, dx$$

Solution 6.13

Here since both powers are even, substitution between $\sin^2 x$ and $\cos^2 x$ will never give us a power-1 remainder of $\sin x$ or $\cos x$. One way out is to use the double angle identities we mentioned in the beginning of this subsection. We substitute $\cos^2 x$ with $\frac{1+\cos 2x}{2}$ and $\sin^2 x$ with $\frac{1-\sin 2x}{2}$ and yield:

$$\int \sin^2 x \cos^2 x \, dx = \int \frac{1+\cos 2x}{2} \frac{1-\cos 2x}{2} \, dx = \frac{1}{4} \int (1 - \cos^2 2x) \, dx$$

The second term in the integrand is still an even-powered product of trigonometric functions ($m = 0, n = 2$), so we apply the double angle identity again, now substituting $\cos^2 2x$ with $\frac{1+\cos 4x}{2}$:

$$\frac{1}{4} \int (1 - \cos^2 2x) \, dx = \frac{1}{4} \int \left(1 - \frac{1+\cos 4x}{2}\right) \, dx = \frac{1}{8} \int (1 - \cos 4x) \, dx$$

Now we can finally let $u(x) = 4x$ so that $du = 4dx$ and yield

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{8} \int (1 - \cos 4x) \, dx &= \frac{1}{32} \int (1 - \cos 4x)(4dx) \\ &= \frac{1}{32} \int (1 - \cos u) \, du \\ &= \frac{1}{32}(u - \sin u) + C = \frac{1}{8}x - \frac{1}{32} \sin 4x + C \end{aligned}$$

In this example, we see that each time we use the double angle identity, the power of the trigonometric functions will be cut in half. Therefore, as long as we repeatedly use the double

angle identities when we see even powers, the power will eventually be reduced to an odd number, under which we can derive the antiderivative using the techniques we have developed earlier.

Exercise 6.14

Find the following antiderivatives:

a) $\int \sin^2 x \, dx$

b) $\int \cos^4 x \, dx$

c) $\int \sin^4 x \cos^2 x \, dx$

Solution 6.14

- a) Here we want to find the antiderivative of a even-powered sine / cosine function, so we start with the double angle identity and yield

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

Now we can let $u(x) = 2x$, so that $du = 2dx$ and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \int (1 - \cos 2x) \, dx &= \frac{1}{4} \int (1 - \cos 2x)(2dx) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int (1 - \cos u)du \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(u - \sin u) + C = \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{4} \sin 2x + C \end{aligned}$$

- b) This antiderivative also has an integrand of even-powered sine / cosine function, so we still start with the double angle identity and yield

$$\begin{aligned} \int \cos^4 x \, dx &= \int (\cos^2 x)^2 \, dx \\ &= \int \left(\frac{1 + \cos 2x}{2}\right)^2 \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int (1 + 2 \cos 2x + \cos^2 2x) \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int dx + \frac{1}{2} \int \cos 2x \, dx + \frac{1}{4} \int \cos^2 2x \, dx \end{aligned}$$

The third term is still an even-powered sine / cosine function, so we apply the double

angle identity again

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4} \int dx + \frac{1}{2} \int \cos 2x \, dx + \frac{1}{4} \int \cos^2 2x \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int dx + \frac{1}{2} \int \cos 2x \, dx + \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{1 + \cos 4x}{2} \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int dx + \frac{1}{2} \int \cos 2x \, dx + \frac{1}{8} \int (1 + \cos 4x) \, dx \end{aligned}$$

Now we can let $u(x) = 2x, du = 2dx$ and $v(x) = 4x, dv = 4dx$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4} \int dx + \frac{1}{2} \int \cos 2x \, dx + \frac{1}{8} \int (1 + \cos 4x) \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int dx + \frac{1}{4} \int \cos 2x(2dx) + \frac{1}{32} \int (1 + \cos 4x)(4dx) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int dx + \frac{1}{4} \int \cos u \, du + \frac{1}{32} \int (1 + \cos v) \, dv \\ &= \frac{1}{4}x + \frac{1}{4} \sin u + \frac{1}{32}(v + \sin v) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{4}x + \frac{1}{4} \sin 2x + \frac{1}{32}(4x + \sin 4x) + C \\ &= \frac{3}{8}x + \frac{1}{4} \sin 2x + \frac{1}{32} \sin 4x + C \end{aligned}$$

- c) This integrand is a product of even-powered sine and cosine functions, so we start from the double angle identities

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sin^4 x \cos^2 x \, dx &= \int (\sin^2 x)^2 \cos^2 x \, dx \\ &= \int \left(\frac{1 - \cos 2x}{2}\right)^2 \frac{1 + \cos 2x}{2} \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int (1 - \cos 2x)^2 (1 + \cos 2x) \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int (1 - 2\cos 2x + \cos^2 2x)(1 + \cos 2x) \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int (1 - \cos 2x - \cos^2 2x + \cos^3 2x) \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int dx - \frac{1}{8} \int \cos 2x \, dx - \frac{1}{8} \int \cos^2 2x \, dx + \frac{1}{8} \int \cos^3 2x \, dx \end{aligned}$$

Now the third term is still a even-powered cosine function, so we apply the double angle formula again. Also, the fourth term is a third power of $\cos 2x$, so we substitute

$\cos^2 2x$ with $(1 - \sin^2 2x)$ to reduce its power to 1.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{8} \int dx - \frac{1}{8} \int \cos 2x dx - \frac{1}{8} \int \cos^2 2x dx + \frac{1}{8} \int \cos^3 2x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int dx - \frac{1}{8} \int \cos 2x dx - \frac{1}{8} \int \frac{1 + \cos 4x}{2} dx + \frac{1}{8} \int \cos^2 2x \cos 2x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int dx - \frac{1}{8} \int \cos 2x dx - \frac{1}{16} \int (1 + \cos 4x) dx + \frac{1}{8} \int (1 - \sin^2 2x) \cos 2x dx \end{aligned}$$

Now we can let $u(x) = 2x$, $du = 2dx$ and $v(x) = 4x$, $dv = 4dx$ and $w(x) = \sin 2x$, $dw = 2 \cos 2x dx$, so we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{8} \int dx - \frac{1}{8} \int \cos 2x dx - \frac{1}{16} \int (1 + \cos 4x) dx + \frac{1}{8} \int (1 - \sin^2 2x) \cos 2x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int dx - \frac{1}{16} \int \cos 2x (2dx) - \frac{1}{64} \int (1 + \cos 4x) (4dx) + \frac{1}{16} \int (1 - \sin^2 2x)(2 \cos 2x dx) \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int dx - \frac{1}{16} \int \cos u du - \frac{1}{64} \int (1 + \cos v) dv + \frac{1}{16} \int (1 - w^2) dw \\ &= \frac{1}{8}x - \frac{1}{16} \sin u - \frac{1}{64}(v + \sin v) + \frac{1}{16} \left(w - \frac{1}{3}w^3 \right) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{8}x - \frac{1}{16} \sin 2x - \frac{1}{64}(4x + \sin 4x) + \frac{1}{16} \left(\sin 2x - \frac{1}{3} \sin^3 2x \right) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{16}x - \frac{1}{64} \sin 4x - \frac{1}{48} \sin^3 2x + C \end{aligned}$$

Now we have closed the loop and guaranteed that any antiderivatives shaped as

$$\int \sin^m x \cos^n x dx, m \in \mathbb{N}, n \in \mathbb{N}$$

can be found using U-substitution and trigonometric identities. We will summarize our strategy as follows:

1. If either m or n is odd: Reduce the odd power to 1 by substituting $\cos^2 x$ with $(1 - \sin^2 x)$ or $\sin^2 x$ with $(1 - \cos^2 x)$. Then set $u(x)$ as the trigonometric function that was *not* substituted.
2. If both m and n are even: Use the double angle identity to substitute both the sine and cosine functions, so that the angles doubles but the powers are cut in half.

6.2.4 Trigonometric substitution

Up until now, when we are doing variable substitutions for an antiderivative with respect to x , we are always looking a function of x that can be defined as u . However, in certain circumstances, we would want define x as a function of u , so that we can better manipulate the

integrand. For example, suppose we would like to find the following antiderivative:

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

If you have memorized the derivative of inverse trigonometric functions, you would recognize that the antiderivative should be $\arcsin x + C$. But now suppose we do not know the derivative of arcsine by heart, how do we tackle this antiderivative? U-substitution with $u(x) = 1 - x^2$ would not work, since $du = -2x dx$ and we are missing an x term in the integrand to compensate for the substitution of differentials.

The most unpleasant bit of this integrand is the $1 - x^2$ within the square root, which is very difficult to maneuver. It would be great if we could find a viable substitution that eliminates the square root. A practical choice is letting $x = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, so that

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

where the last equality holds since $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$ so $\cos \theta$ is always non-negative. Before we proceed on, we have to check if our variable substitution makes sense. Since $1 - x^2$ is within a square root under reciprocal, x can only be within $(-1, 1)$. Therefore, for every possible value of x , there will be only one value of $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$ that satisfies $x = \sin \theta$, so our substitution checks out.

Now mimicking the procedure in U-substitution, we can formally write our derivation as follows: Let $x = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, then $dx = x'(\theta)d\theta = \cos \theta d\theta$, so we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx &= \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\sin^2 \theta}} \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int d\theta = \theta + C = \arcsin x + C \end{aligned}$$

Note that in the last step we have to substitute θ back into terms of x , which would be $\arcsin x$ based on our definition of θ . With this technique in mind, let us look at some examples where substitution with sine or cosine functions would be useful:

Example 6.15

Find the following antiderivatives:

a) $\int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx$ b) $\int \frac{1}{(1-x^2)^{3/2}} dx$ c) $\int x^2 \sqrt{1-x^2} dx$ d) $\int \sqrt{9-4x^2} dx$

Solution 6.15

- a) Here U -substitution with $u(x) = 1 - x^2$ won't work, since the remainder in the integrand would be x^2 , which is not a multiple of $u'(x) = -2x$. Looking at the $\sqrt{1-x^2}$,

a reasonable substitution would be $x = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$. This leads to $dx = \cos \theta d\theta$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx &= \int \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\sqrt{1-\sin^2 \theta}} \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\cos \theta} \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \sin^2 \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{1-\cos 2\theta}{2} d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int (1-\cos 2\theta) d\theta \end{aligned}$$

Note that we are using the techniques we learned in the previous subsection to antidifferentiate $\sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \theta$, which requires the double angle formula since both powers are even. Now we do U-substitution where $u(\theta) = 2\theta$ and $du = 2d\theta$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \int (1-\cos 2\theta) d\theta &= \frac{1}{4} \int (1-\cos 2\theta)(2d\theta) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int (1-\cos u) du \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(u - \sin u) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(2\theta - \sin 2\theta) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\theta - \frac{1}{4}\sin 2\theta + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\arcsin x - \frac{1}{4}\sin(2\arcsin x) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\arcsin x - \frac{1}{4}(2\sin(\arcsin x)\cos(\arcsin x)) + C \end{aligned}$$

In the last equality we used double angle formula to simplify $\sin(2\arcsin x)$. It is intuitive that $\sin(\arcsin x) = x$, so $\cos(\arcsin x) = \sqrt{1-\sin^2(\arcsin x)} = \sqrt{1-x^2}$. Here the square root is taken to be positive since $\arcsin x$ is within $[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$. Therefore, our final answer would be

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2}\arcsin x - \frac{1}{4}(2\sin(\arcsin x)\cos(\arcsin x)) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\arcsin x - \frac{1}{4}(2x\sqrt{1-x^2}) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\arcsin x - \frac{1}{2}(x\sqrt{1-x^2}) + C \end{aligned}$$

- b) Here U -substitution with $u(x) = 1 - x^2$ won't work, since there is no remainder in the integrand to accomodate $u'(x) = -2x$. Since there is a $(1 - x^2)^{3/2} = (\sqrt{1 - x^2})^3$, we will thus try a trigonometric substitution of $x = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$. This leads to $dx = \cos \theta d\theta$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{1}{(1 - x^2)^{3/2}} dx &= \int \frac{1}{(\sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta})^3} \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{1}{\cos^3 \theta} \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \sec^2 \theta d\theta \\ &= \tan \theta + C = \tan(\arcsin x) + C\end{aligned}$$

Now in the previous problem we derived that $\sin(\arcsin x) = x$ and $\cos(\arcsin x) = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$. Therefore,

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

- c) Here U -substitution with $u(x) = 1 - x^2$ also doesn't work. Since there is a $\sqrt{1 - x^2}$, we will thus try a trigonometric substitution of $x = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$. This leads to $dx = \cos \theta d\theta$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned}\int x^2 \sqrt{1 - x^2} dx &= \int \sin^2 \theta \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta} \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \sin^2 \theta \cdot \cos \theta \cdot \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{1 - \cos 2\theta}{2} \frac{1 + \cos 2\theta}{2} d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int (1 - \cos^2 2\theta) d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int \left(1 - \frac{1 + \cos 4\theta}{2}\right) d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int (1 - \cos 4\theta) d\theta\end{aligned}$$

Note that we are using the double angle identity to antiderivative $\sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \theta$, since both powers for sine and cosine are even. Now we do U-substitution where $u(\theta) = 4\theta$

and $du = 4d\theta$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{1}{8} \int (1 - \cos 4\theta) d\theta &= \frac{1}{32} \int (1 - \cos 4\theta)(4d\theta) \\
 &= \frac{1}{32} \int (1 - \cos u) du \\
 &= \frac{1}{32} (u - \sin u) + C \\
 &= \frac{1}{8} \theta - \frac{1}{32} \sin 4\theta + C \\
 &= \frac{1}{8} \arcsin x - \frac{1}{32} \sin(4 \arcsin x) + C \\
 &= \frac{1}{8} \arcsin x - \frac{1}{32} [2 \sin(2 \arcsin 2x) \cos(2 \arcsin 2x)] + C \\
 &= \frac{1}{8} \arcsin x - \frac{1}{32} [2 \cdot [2 \sin(\arcsin x) \cos(\arcsin x)] \\
 &\quad \cdot [1 - 2 \sin^2(\arcsin x)]] + C
 \end{aligned}$$

In the last two equalities we repeatedly used double angle formulae, aiming to simplify $\sin(4 \arcsin x)$. From the previous problem we have $\sin(\arcsin x) = x$, and $\cos(\arcsin x) = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$. Therefore, our final answer would be:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{1}{8} \arcsin x - \frac{1}{32} [2 \cdot [2 \sin(\arcsin x) \cos(\arcsin x)] \cdot [1 - 2 \sin^2(\arcsin x)]] + C \\
 &= \frac{1}{8} \arcsin x - \frac{1}{32} [2 \cdot [2x \sqrt{1 - x^2}] \cdot [1 - 2x^2]] + C \\
 &= \frac{1}{8} \arcsin x - \frac{1}{8} x(1 - 2x^2) \sqrt{1 - x^2} + C
 \end{aligned}$$

- d) For this problem, the expression in the square root is not the classical $1 - x^2$, so direct substitution with $x = \sin \theta$ would not make sense. However, we can slightly manipulate the integrand by

$$\int \sqrt{9 - 4x^2} dx = 3 \int \sqrt{1 - 4x^2/9} dx = 3 \int \sqrt{1 - (2x/3)^2} dx$$

Now it looks like if we can let $2x/3 = \sin \theta$, or equivalently $x = \frac{3}{2} \sin \theta$, then we can let the expression in the square root be $1 - \sin^2 \theta = \cos^2 \theta$. Therefore, we try a trigonometric substitution of $x = \frac{3}{2} \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$. This leads to $dx = \frac{3}{2} \cos \theta d\theta$, and

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 3 \int \sqrt{1 - (2x/3)^2} dx &= 3 \int \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta} \cdot \frac{3}{2} \cos \theta d\theta \\
 &= 3 \int \cos \theta \cdot \frac{3}{2} \cos \theta d\theta \\
 &= \frac{9}{2} \int \cos^2 \theta d\theta \\
 &= \frac{9}{2} \int \frac{1 + \cos 2\theta}{2} d\theta \\
 &= \frac{9}{4} \int (1 + \cos 2\theta) d\theta
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we can use a U-substitution of $u(x) = 2\theta$, so that $du = 2d\theta$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{9}{4} \int (1 + \cos 2\theta) d\theta &= \frac{9}{8} \int (1 + \cos 2\theta)(2d\theta) \\
 &= \frac{9}{8} \int (1 + \cos u) du \\
 &= \frac{9}{8} (u + \sin u) + C \\
 &= \frac{9}{8} (2\theta + \sin 2\theta) + C \\
 &= \frac{9}{4} \arcsin\left(\frac{2}{3}x\right) + \frac{9}{8} \sin\left[2 \arcsin\left(\frac{2}{3}x\right)\right] + C \\
 &= \frac{9}{4} \arcsin\left(\frac{2}{3}x\right) + \frac{9}{8} \cdot 2 \sin\left[\arcsin\left(\frac{2}{3}x\right)\right] \cos\left[\arcsin\left(\frac{2}{3}x\right)\right] + C
 \end{aligned}$$

With arguments similar to the previous problems, we have $\sin[\arcsin(2x/3)] = 2x/3$ and $\cos[\arcsin(2x/3)] = \sqrt{1 - (2x/3)^2}$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{9}{4} \arcsin\left(\frac{2}{3}x\right) + \frac{9}{8} \cdot 2 \sin\left[\arcsin\left(\frac{2}{3}x\right)\right] \cos\left[\arcsin\left(\frac{2}{3}x\right)\right] + C \\
 &= \frac{9}{4} \arcsin\left(\frac{2}{3}x\right) + \frac{9}{8} \cdot 2 \cdot \frac{2}{3}x \cdot \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{2}{3}x\right)^2} + C \\
 &= \frac{9}{4} \arcsin\left(\frac{2}{3}x\right) + \frac{1}{2}x\sqrt{9 - 4x^2} + C
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that in d) above we transformed our integrand $\sqrt{9 - 4x^2}$ into the form of $3\sqrt{1 - (2x/3)^2}$ before we did the substitution $\frac{2}{3}x = \sin \theta$. It is also valid to see straight from the original integrand that in order to eliminate the square root, we have to let $x = \frac{3}{2} \sin \theta$, so that we have $x^2 = 9 \sin^2 \theta$ and $\sqrt{9 - 9 \sin^2 \theta} = 3 \cos \theta$. These two approaches lead to the same trigonometric function substitution.

More generally, to eliminate the square root for $\sqrt{a^2 - b^2x^2}$ (where a and b are taken to be

positive), we can use the trigonometric substitution:

$$x = \frac{a}{b} \sin \theta, \quad \theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$$

so that $\sqrt{a^2 - b^2 x^2} = \sqrt{a^2 - b^2 (\frac{a}{b} \sin \theta)^2} = \sqrt{a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta} = a \cos \theta$.

Exercise 6.16

Find the following antiderivatives:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a) $\int \frac{\sqrt{1-x^2}}{x^2} dx$ | b) $\int \sqrt{25 - 16(3x+2)^2} dx$ | c) $\int x^2 \sqrt{16 - 9(x+1)^2} dx$ |
| d) $\int \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx$ | e) $\int \frac{x^3}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx$ | f) $\int \sqrt{2x - x^2} dx$ |

Solution 6.16

- a) Here U-substitution with $u = 1 - x^2$ would not work since $du = -2x dx$ and the remainder of the integrand is $1/x^2$. To eliminate the square root with trigonometric substitution, we let $x = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, so that $dx = \cos \theta d\theta$. Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{\sqrt{1-x^2}}{x^2} dx &= \int \frac{\sqrt{1-\sin^2 \theta}}{\sin^2 \theta} \cdot \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} \cdot \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{1-\sin^2 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta \\ &= \int \left(\frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} - 1 \right) d\theta \end{aligned}$$

Here it seems that we're stuck, since we do not know how to antiderivative $1/\sin^2 \theta$. One way to proceed on is to look for integration formulae, which will give you

$$\int \csc u du = -\cot u + C$$

Another way is to note that we *know* how to antiderivative $1/\cos^2 \theta = \sec^2 \theta$, which is $\tan \theta$. Using the identity $\sin \theta = \cos(\pi/2 - \theta)$, we have

$$\int \left(\frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} - 1 \right) d\theta = \int \left(\frac{1}{\cos^2(\pi/2 - \theta)} - 1 \right) d\theta$$

so we can let $u = \pi/2 - \theta$ and $du = -d\theta$, and yield

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int \left(\frac{1}{\cos^2(\pi/2 - \theta)} - 1 \right) d\theta &= - \int \left(\frac{1}{\cos^2(\pi/2 - \theta)} - 1 \right) (-d\theta) \\
 &= - \int \left(\frac{1}{\cos^2 u} - 1 \right) du \\
 &= - \int (\sec^2 u - 1) du \\
 &= -(\tan u - u) + C^* \\
 &= -\tan(\pi/2 - \theta) + (\pi/2 - \theta) + C^* \\
 &= -\cot \theta + (\pi/2 - \theta) + C^* \\
 &= -\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} - \theta + \pi/2 + C^*
 \end{aligned}$$

Now $x = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, we have $\theta = \arcsin x$, $\sin \theta = x$ and $\cos \theta = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 -\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} - \theta + \pi/2 + C^* &= -\frac{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}{x} - \arcsin x + \pi/2 + C^* \\
 &= -\frac{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}{x} - \arcsin x + C
 \end{aligned}$$

- b) Here the expression in the square root has a derivative of a degree-1 polynomial, so U-substitution of $u = 25 - 16(3x+2)^2$ will not work. To eliminate the square root using trigonometric substitution, we see it would be necessary to let $3x+2 = \sqrt{\frac{25}{16}} \sin \theta = \frac{5}{4} \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, so we have $dx = \frac{5}{12} \cos \theta d\theta$ and yield

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int \sqrt{25 - 16(3x+2)^2} dx &= \int \sqrt{25 - 16\left(\frac{5}{4} \sin^2 \theta\right)^2} \cdot \frac{5}{12} \cos \theta d\theta \\
 &= \int \sqrt{25 - 25 \sin^2 \theta} \cdot \frac{5}{12} \cos \theta d\theta \\
 &= \int 5 \cos \theta \cdot \frac{5}{12} \cos \theta d\theta \\
 &= \frac{25}{12} \int \cos^2 \theta d\theta \\
 &= \frac{25}{12} \int \frac{1 + \cos 2\theta}{2} d\theta \\
 &= \frac{25}{24} \int (1 + \cos 2\theta) d\theta
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we can let $u = 2\theta$ so that $du = 2d\theta$, which yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{25}{24} \int (1 + \cos 2\theta) d\theta &= \frac{25}{48} \int (1 + \cos 2\theta)(2d\theta) \\ &= \frac{25}{48} \int (1 + \cos u) du \\ &= \frac{25}{48}(u + \sin u) + C \\ &= \frac{25}{48}(2\theta + \sin 2\theta) + C \\ &= \frac{25}{24}\theta + \frac{25}{48}2\sin\theta\cos\theta + C \\ &= \frac{25}{24}\theta + \frac{25}{24}\sin\theta\cos\theta + C \end{aligned}$$

Since in the first substitution we let $3x + 2 = \frac{5}{4}\sin\theta$ with $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, we have $\theta = \arcsin(\frac{4}{5}(3x+2))$, so that $\sin\theta = \frac{4}{5}(3x+2)$ and $\cos\theta = \sqrt{1 - (\frac{4}{5}(3x+2))^2} = \frac{1}{5}\sqrt{25 - 4(3x+2)^2}$. Therefore we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{25}{24}\theta + \frac{25}{24}\sin\theta\cos\theta + C &= \frac{25}{24}\arcsin\left(\frac{4}{5}(3x+2)\right) + \frac{25}{24} \cdot \frac{4}{5}(3x+2) \cdot \frac{1}{5}\sqrt{25 - 4(3x+2)^2} + C \\ &= \frac{25}{24}\arcsin\left(\frac{4}{5}(3x+2)\right) + \frac{1}{6}(3x+2)\sqrt{25 - 4(3x+2)^2} + C \end{aligned}$$

where we let $C = C^* + \pi/2$ to simplify the expression.

- c) Here U-substitution does not work, since if we let the expression in the square root be u , we have $u = 16 - 9(x+1)^2$ and $du = -18(x+1)dx$. However, the remainder of the integrand is x^2 , which cannot be expressed as a multiple of $(x+1)$. Therefore, we try trigonometric substitution here. Since we have a square root term $\sqrt{16 - 9(x+1)^2}$, the trigonometric substitution that eliminates the square root would be $x+1 = \frac{4}{3}\sin\theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$. This implies that $dx = \frac{4}{3}\cos\theta d\theta$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\int x^2 \sqrt{16 - 9(x+1)^2} dx \\ &= \int \left(\frac{4}{3}\sin\theta - 1\right)^2 \sqrt{16 - 9\left(\frac{4}{3}\sin\theta\right)^2} \cdot \frac{4}{3}\cos\theta d\theta \\ &= \int \left(\frac{4}{3}\sin\theta - 1\right)^2 \sqrt{16 - 16\sin^2\theta} \cdot \frac{4}{3}\cos\theta d\theta \\ &= \int \left(\frac{4}{3}\sin\theta - 1\right)^2 \cdot 4\cos\theta \cdot \frac{4}{3}\cos\theta d\theta \\ &= \int \left(\frac{16}{9}\sin^2\theta - \frac{8}{3}\sin\theta + 1\right) \cdot \frac{16}{3}\cos^2\theta d\theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{256}{27} \int \sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \theta d\theta - \frac{128}{9} \int \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta d\theta + \frac{16}{3} \int \cos^2 \theta d\theta \\
&= \frac{256}{27} \int \frac{1-\cos 2\theta}{2} \frac{1+\cos 2\theta}{2} d\theta - \frac{128}{9} \int \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta d\theta + \frac{16}{3} \int \frac{1+\cos 2\theta}{2} d\theta \\
&= \frac{64}{27} \int (1-\cos^2(2\theta)) d\theta - \frac{128}{9} \int \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta d\theta + \frac{8}{3} \int (1+\cos 2\theta) d\theta \\
&= \frac{64}{27} \int \left(1 - \frac{1+\cos 4\theta}{2}\right) d\theta - \frac{128}{9} \int \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta d\theta + \frac{8}{3} \int (1+\cos 2\theta) d\theta \\
&= \frac{32}{27} \int (1-\cos 4\theta) d\theta - \frac{128}{9} \int \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta d\theta + \frac{8}{3} \int (1+\cos 2\theta) d\theta
\end{aligned}$$

Now it is evident that for the first antiderivative we should let $u = 4\theta, du = 4d\theta$, for the second we should let $v = \cos \theta, dv = -\sin \theta d\theta$, for the third we should let $w = 2\theta, dw = 2d\theta$, so we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{32}{27} \int (1-\cos 4\theta) d\theta - \frac{128}{9} \int \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta d\theta + \frac{8}{3} \int (1+\cos 2\theta) d\theta \\
&= \frac{8}{27} \int (1-\cos 4\theta)(4d\theta) + \frac{128}{9} \int \cos^2 \theta (-\sin \theta d\theta) + \frac{4}{3} \int (1+\cos 2\theta)(2d\theta) \\
&= \frac{8}{27} \int (1-\cos u) du + \frac{128}{9} \int v^2 dv + \frac{4}{3} \int (1+\cos w) dw \\
&= \frac{8}{27}(u - \sin u) + \frac{128}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{3}v^3 + \frac{4}{3}(w + \sin w) + C \\
&= \frac{8}{27}(4\theta - \sin 4\theta) + \frac{128}{27} \cos^3 \theta + \frac{4}{3}(2\theta + \sin 2\theta) + C \\
&= \frac{8}{27}(4\theta - 2\sin 2\theta \cos 2\theta) + \frac{128}{27}(1 - \sin^2 \theta) \cos \theta + \frac{4}{3}(2\theta + 2\sin \theta \cos \theta) + C \\
&= \frac{8}{27}[4\theta - 4\sin \theta \cos \theta(1 - 2\sin^2 \theta)] + \frac{128}{27}(1 - \sin^2 \theta) \cos \theta + \frac{4}{3}(2\theta + 2\sin \theta \cos \theta) + C \\
&= \frac{104}{27}\theta + \cos \theta \left(-\frac{32}{27}\sin \theta + \frac{64}{27}\sin^3 \theta + \frac{128}{27} - \frac{128}{27}\sin^2 \theta + \frac{8}{3}\sin \theta\right) + C \\
&= \frac{104}{27}\theta + \frac{1}{27}\cos \theta(128 + 40\sin \theta - 128\sin^2 \theta + 64\sin^3 \theta) + C
\end{aligned}$$

Now since $x+1 = \frac{4}{3}\sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, we have $\theta = \arcsin(\frac{3}{4}(x+1))$, and $\sin \theta = \frac{3}{4}(x+1)$, $\cos \theta = \sqrt{1 - (\frac{3}{4}(x+1))^2} = \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{16 - 9(x+1)^2}$. Therefore we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{104}{27}\theta + \frac{\cos \theta}{27}(128 - 40\sin \theta - 128\sin^2 \theta + 64\sin^3 \theta) + C \\
&= \frac{104}{27}\arcsin\left(\frac{3}{4}(x+1)\right) + \\
&\quad \frac{1}{27} \cdot \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{16 - 9(x+1)^2} \left(128 + 40 \cdot \frac{3}{4}(x+1) - 128 \cdot \frac{9}{16}(x+1)^2 + 64 \cdot \frac{27}{64}(x+1)^3\right) + C
\end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{104}{27} \arcsin\left(\frac{3}{4}(x+1)\right) + \frac{\sqrt{16 - 9(x+1)^2}}{108} (128 + 30(x+1) - 72(x+1)^2 + 27(x+1)^3) + C$$

- d) Here U-substitution actually works. If we let $u = 1 - x^2$, then $du = -2x dx$, where $-2x$ is a multiple of the integrand remainder x . Therefore, we can write:

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

Alternatively, we can still use trigonometric substitution of $x = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, so that $dx = \cos \theta d\theta$ and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx &= \int \frac{\sin \theta}{\sqrt{1-\sin^2 \theta}} (\cos \theta d\theta) \\ &= \int \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} (\cos \theta d\theta) \\ &= \int \sin \theta d\theta = -\cos \theta + C \end{aligned}$$

Now since $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, we have $\cos \theta = \sqrt{1-\sin^2 \theta} = \sqrt{1-x^2}$, therefore

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

The two approaches yield the same results.

- e) This is a case where U-substitution does not seem to work initially, but in fact actually works with clever substitution of the integrand remainder. Let $u = 1 - x^2$ and $du = -2x dx$. We then have

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

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

Alternatively, since there is a $\sqrt{1-x^2}$ in the integrand, we can try the trigonometric substitution $x = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, so that $dx = \cos \theta d\theta$. Now we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\int \frac{x^3}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx &= \int \frac{\sin^3 \theta}{\sqrt{1-\sin^2 \theta}} \cdot \cos \theta d\theta \\
&= \int \frac{\sin^3 \theta}{\cos \theta} \cdot \cos \theta d\theta \\
&= \int \sin^3 \theta d\theta \\
&= \int (1 - \cos^2 \theta) \cdot \sin \theta d\theta
\end{aligned}$$

Now we can let $u = \cos \theta$ so that $du = -\sin \theta$, so we yield

$$\begin{aligned}
\int (1 - \cos^2 \theta) \cdot \sin \theta d\theta &= - \int (1 - \cos^2 \theta) \cdot (-\sin \theta d\theta) = - \int (1 - u^2) du \\
&= -u + \frac{1}{3}u^3 + C \\
&= -\cos \theta + \frac{1}{3}\cos^3 \theta + C
\end{aligned}$$

Since $x = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, we have $\cos \theta = \sqrt{1-\sin^2 \theta} = \sqrt{1-x^2}$, therefore

$$-\cos \theta + \frac{1}{3}\cos^3 \theta + C = -\sqrt{1-x^2} + \frac{1}{3}(\sqrt{1-x^2})^3 + C$$

which is identical to what we have derived using U-substitution from the get-go.

- f) Here U-substitution setting $u = 2x - x^2$ does not work since $du = 2 - 2x$ does not appear in the integrand remainder. At face value, it does not seem like we can use trigonometric substitution in this case. However, note that

$$\sqrt{2x-x^2} = \sqrt{-(x^2-2x)} = \sqrt{-(x^2-2x+1)+1} = \sqrt{1-(x-1)^2}$$

Therefore, we may try trigonometric substitution of $x - 1 = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, so that $dx = \cos \theta d\theta$. We thus have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sqrt{2x - x^2} dx &= \int \sqrt{1 - (x-1)^2} dx \\ &= \int \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta} \cdot \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \cos \theta \cdot \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \cos^2 \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{1 + \cos 2\theta}{2} d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int (1 + \cos 2\theta) d\theta \end{aligned}$$

We can now let $u = 2\theta$, $du = 2d\theta$, so we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \int (1 + \cos 2\theta) d\theta &= \frac{1}{4} \int (1 + \cos 2\theta) 2d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int (1 + \cos u) du \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (u + \sin u) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (2\theta + \sin 2\theta) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (2\theta + 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta) + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \theta + \frac{1}{2} \sin \theta \cos \theta + C \end{aligned}$$

Since $x - 1 = \sin \theta$ where $\theta \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, we have $\theta = \arcsin(x - 1)$ and $\sin \theta = x - 1$, $\cos \theta = \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta} = \sqrt{1 - (x-1)^2} = \sqrt{2x - x^2}$. Therefore we have

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

Until now, we have shown that when there is $\sqrt{a^2 - b^2 x^2}$ in the integrand, we can try to do a trigonometric substitution $x = \frac{a}{b} \sin \theta$ to eliminate the square root. This substitution makes use of the identity

$$\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1$$

Likewise, we can exploit another identity relating $\sec \theta$ to $\tan \theta$:

$$\sec^2 \theta = \tan^2 \theta + 1$$

So if the integrand contains $\sqrt{x^2 + 1}$, we can let $x = \tan \theta$ where $\theta \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$, so that $dx = \sec^2 \theta d\theta$ and

$$\sqrt{x^2 + 1} = \sqrt{\tan^2 \theta + 1} = \sqrt{\sec^2 \theta} = |\sec \theta| = \sec \theta$$

where the last equality holds since $\theta \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$, so $\cos \theta$ is always positive, and thus $\sec \theta$ is also always positive.

Before we proceed on, we also have to check if our variable substitution makes sense: note that $\sqrt{x^2 + 1}$ is defined for all x , and for any values of x , we can always find a single $\theta \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$ that satisfies $x = \tan \theta$, so our substitution checks out.

In the more general but complicated case where we have $\sqrt{b^2x^2 + a^2}$ in the integrand (where a and b are all assumed positive), we can still rely on the $\sec^2 \theta = \tan^2 \theta + 1$ identity, but now we will have to use the substitution $x = \frac{a}{b} \tan \theta$ where $\theta \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$, so that $dx = \frac{a}{b} \sec^2 \theta d\theta$ and we have

$$\sqrt{b^2x^2 + a^2} = \sqrt{b^2 \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^2 \tan^2 \theta + a^2} = \sqrt{a^2(\tan^2 \theta + 1)} = \sqrt{a^2 \sec^2 \theta} = a \sec \theta$$

Lastly, we can also move the terms of the trigonometric identity around and yield

$$\tan^2 \theta = \sec^2 \theta - 1$$

So if the integrand contains $\sqrt{x^2 - 1}$, we can let $x = \sec \theta$ where $\theta \in [0, \pi/2) \cup (\pi/2, \pi]$, so that $dx = \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta$ and

$$\sqrt{x^2 - 1} = \sqrt{\sec^2 \theta - 1} = \sqrt{\tan^2 \theta} = |\tan \theta|$$

Before we deal with the absolute value, we first check if our variable substitution makes sense. $\sqrt{x^2 - 1}$ is defined for $x \geq 1$ and $x \leq -1$. When $x \geq 1$, we can find a single $\theta \in [0, \pi/2)$ that satisfies $x = \sec \theta$. When $x \leq -1$, we can find a single $\theta \in (\pi/2, \pi]$ that satisfies $x = \sec \theta$. Therefore, our substitution checks out.

Unfortunately, here the absolute value becomes more nuanced. When $x \geq 1$, meaning that $\theta \in [0, \pi/2)$, we have $\tan \theta > 0$, so $\sqrt{x^2 - 1} = \tan \theta$. However, when $x \leq -1$, meaning that $\theta \in (\pi/2, \pi]$, we have $\tan \theta < 0$, so $\sqrt{x^2 - 1} = -\tan \theta$. Therefore, in principle, we have to check the range of x before doing the secant substitution so that we know whether to use $\tan \theta$ or $-\tan \theta$. However, in this course when doing antiderivatives, we keep the above in mind but conveniently assume that we're interested in the antiderivative where $x \geq 1$, so we can let $\sqrt{x^2 - 1} = \tan \theta$. Later when we talk about definite integrals, we will circle back and talk about how this absolute value nuance can turn up important.

We still have a more general but complicated case where we have $\sqrt{b^2x^2 - a^2}$ in the integrand (where a and b are all assumed positive). In this case, we will have to use the substitution $x = \frac{a}{b} \sec \theta$ where $\theta \in [0, \pi/2) \cup (\pi/2, \pi]$, so that $dx = \frac{a}{b} \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta$ and we have

$$\sqrt{b^2x^2 - a^2} = \sqrt{b^2 \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^2 \sec^2 \theta - a^2} = \sqrt{a^2(\sec^2 \theta - 1)} = \sqrt{a^2 \tan^2 \theta} = a|\tan \theta|$$

As with before, the sign of $\tan \theta$ depends on if $x \geq \frac{a}{b}$ or $x \leq -\frac{a}{b}$, and here in antiderivatives we will assume that $x \geq \frac{a}{b}$ so $\tan \theta > 0$.

In summary, we can use the following table to determine which trigonometric substitution to use based on the form of the square root in the integrand:

Square root form	Substitution	Post-substitution	Differential	Range for θ
$\sqrt{a^2 - b^2x^2}$	$x = \frac{a}{b} \sin \theta$	$a \cos \theta$	$dx = \cos \theta d\theta$	$[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$
$\sqrt{b^2x^2 + a^2}$	$x = \frac{a}{b} \tan \theta$	$a \sec \theta$	$dx = \sec^2 \theta d\theta$	$(-\pi/2, \pi/2)$
$\sqrt{b^2x^2 - a^2}$	$x = \frac{a}{b} \sec \theta$	$\pm a \tan \theta$	$dx = \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta$	$[0, \pi/2) \cup (\pi/2, \pi]$

We will now see several examples for trigonometric substitutions with tangent and secant functions.

Example 6.17

Find the following antiderivatives:

a) $\int \frac{x^2}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}} dx$

b) $\int \frac{\sqrt{4x^2+9}}{x^4} dx$

c) $\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2-4x+8}} dx$

d) $\int \frac{1}{x^2\sqrt{x^2-1}} dx, x > 1$

e) $\int (x^2 - 4)^{-\frac{3}{2}} dx, x > 2$

f) $\int \frac{\sqrt{9x^2-16}}{x^2} dx, x \geq \frac{4}{3}$

Solution 6.17

- a) Here U-substitution does not work since if $u = 1 + x^2$, then $du = 2x dx$, but the remainder in the integrand is x^2 and not a multiple of $2x$. Since there is a $\sqrt{1+x^2}$ in the denominator implied by the $3/2$ exponent, we hereby try trigonometric substitution with $x = \tan \theta$, where $\theta \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$. Then we have $dx = \sec^2 \theta d\theta$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{x^2}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}} dx &= \int \frac{\tan^2 \theta}{(1+\tan^2 \theta)^{3/2}} \cdot \sec^2 \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{\tan^2 \theta}{(\sqrt{1+\tan^2 \theta})^3} \cdot \sec^2 \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{\tan^2 \theta}{\sec^3 \theta} \cdot \sec^2 \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{\tan^2 \theta}{\sec \theta} d\theta = \int \frac{\sec^2 \theta - 1}{\sec \theta} d\theta = \int (\sec \theta - \cos \theta) d\theta \end{aligned}$$

The antiderivative of $\sec \theta$ is not trivial, and can be found in the table of integration formulae:

$$\int \sec x dx = \ln |\tan x + \sec x| + C$$

This can be shown by an obscure U-substitution:

$$\sec x \, dx = \int \sec x \frac{\tan x + \sec x}{\tan x + \sec x} \, dx = \int \frac{\sec^2 x + \tan x \sec x}{\tan x + \sec x} \, dx$$

Now let $u = \tan x + \sec x$, then we have $du = (\sec^2 x + \tan x \sec x)dx$, so that

$$\int \frac{\sec^2 x + \tan x \sec x}{\tan x + \sec x} \, dx = \int \frac{1}{u} du = \ln |u| + C = \ln |\tan x + \sec x| + C$$

Getting back to our original antiderivative, we have

$$\int (\sec \theta - \cos \theta) \, d\theta = \ln |\tan \theta + \sec \theta| - \sin \theta + C$$

Since we defined $x = \tan \theta$ where $\theta \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$, we have $\sec \theta = \sqrt{\tan^2 \theta + 1} = \sqrt{x^2 + 1}$ and $\sin \theta = \tan \theta \cos \theta = \frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta} = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1}}$. Therefore, our antiderivative becomes

$$\ln |\tan \theta + \sec \theta| - \sin \theta + C = \ln |x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1}| - \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1}} + C$$

- b) Here U-substitution does not work since if $u = 4x^2 + 9$, then $du = 8x \, dx$, but the remainder in the integrand is $1/x^4$ and not a multiple of $8x$. Since there is a $\sqrt{4x^2 + 9}$ in the numerator, we try trigonometric substitution with $x = \sqrt{\frac{9}{4}} \tan \theta = \frac{3}{2} \tan \theta$, where $\theta \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$. Then we have $dx = \frac{3}{2} \sec^2 \theta \, d\theta$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{\sqrt{4x^2 + 9}}{x^4} \, dx &= \int \frac{\sqrt{4(\frac{3}{2})^2 \tan^2 \theta + 9}}{(\frac{3}{2})^4 \tan^4 \theta} \cdot \frac{3}{2} \sec^2 \theta \, d\theta \\ &= \frac{8}{27} \int \frac{\sqrt{9 \tan^2 \theta + 9}}{\tan^4 \theta} \cdot \sec^2 \theta \, d\theta \\ &= \frac{8}{27} \int \frac{3 \sec \theta}{\tan^4 \theta} \cdot \sec^2 \theta \, d\theta \\ &= \frac{8}{9} \int \frac{\sec^3 \theta}{\tan^4 \theta} \, d\theta \\ &= \frac{8}{9} \int \frac{\cos^4 \theta}{\sin^4 \theta} \frac{1}{\cos^3 \theta} \, d\theta \\ &= \frac{8}{9} \int \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin^4 \theta} \, d\theta \end{aligned}$$

Since there is a single $\cos \theta$ in the numerator, we can use U-substitution: let $u = \sin \theta, du = \cos \theta d\theta$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{8}{9} \int \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin^4 \theta} d\theta &= \frac{8}{9} \int \frac{1}{\sin^4 \theta} (\cos \theta d\theta) \\ &= \frac{8}{9} \int u^{-4} du \\ &= \frac{8}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{-4+1} u^{-4+1} + C \\ &= -\frac{8}{27} u^{-3} + C = -\frac{8}{27} (\sin \theta)^{-3} + C \end{aligned}$$

Since we defined $x = \frac{3}{2} \tan \theta$, where $\theta \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$, we have

$$\sin \theta = \tan \theta \cos \theta = \frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta} = \frac{\tan \theta}{\sqrt{\tan^2 \theta + 1}} = \frac{\frac{2}{3}x}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{2}{3}x\right)^2 + 1}} = \frac{2x}{\sqrt{4x^2 + 9}}$$

Therefore, our antiderivative becomes

$$-\frac{8}{27} (\sin \theta)^{-3} + C = -\frac{8}{27} \left(\frac{2x}{\sqrt{4x^2 + 9}} \right)^{-3} + C = -\frac{8}{27} \frac{(4x+9)^{3/2}}{8x^3} + C = -\frac{(4x+9)^{3/2}}{27x^3} + C$$

- c) Here it is not intuitive what trigonometric substitution we should use. We should thus rewrite the integrand by completing the squares:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 4x + 8}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x+2)^2 + 4}}$$

Therefore, the expression in the square root is in the form of $b^2x^2 + a^2$, so we should let $x+2 = 2 \tan \theta$, so that $dx = 2 \sec^2 \theta d\theta$ and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 4x + 8}} dx &= \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x+2)^2 + 4}} dx \\ &= \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2 \tan \theta)^2 + 4}} \cdot 2 \sec^2 \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{1}{2 \sec \theta} \cdot 2 \sec^2 \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \sec \theta d\theta = \ln |\tan \theta + \sec \theta| + C \end{aligned}$$

Since we defined $x + 2 = 2 \tan \theta$ where $\theta \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$, we have $\tan \theta = \frac{1}{2}(x + 2)$ and $\sec \theta = \sqrt{\tan^2 \theta + 1} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{2}(x + 2)\right)^2 + 1} = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(x + 2)^2 + 4}$. Therefore, we yield

$$\begin{aligned}\ln |\tan \theta + \sec \theta| + C &= \ln \left| \frac{1}{2}(x + 2) + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(x + 2)^2 + 4} \right| + C \\ &= \ln |(x + 2) + \sqrt{(x + 2)^2 + 4}| - \ln 2 + C \\ &= \ln |(x + 2) + \sqrt{(x + 2)^2 + 4}| + C^*\end{aligned}$$

where we define $C^* = C - \ln 2$ to simplify notations.

- d) Here U-substitution does not work since if $u = x^2 - 1$, then $du = 2x dx$, but the remainder in the integrand is $1/x^2$ and not a multiple of $2x$. Since there is a $\sqrt{x^2 - 1}$ in the denominator, we try trigonometric substitution with $x = \sec \theta$, where $\theta \in [0, \pi/2) \cup (\pi/2, \pi]$. Then we have $dx = \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta$ and

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{1}{x^2 \sqrt{x^2 - 1}} dx &= \int \frac{1}{\sec^2 \theta \sqrt{\sec^2 \theta - 1}} \cdot \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{1}{\sec^2 \theta |\tan \theta|} \cdot \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta\end{aligned}$$

Here we assume that $x > 1$ so that $\tan \theta > 0$, so we can omit the absolute value

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{1}{\sec^2 \theta |\tan \theta|} \cdot \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta &= \int \frac{1}{\sec^2 \theta \tan \theta} \cdot \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{1}{\sec \theta} d\theta \\ &= \int \cos \theta d\theta = \sin \theta + C\end{aligned}$$

Since we defined $x = \sec \theta$ where $\theta \in [0, \pi/2) \cup (\pi/2, \pi]$ and assumed that $x > 1$, we have $\theta \in (0, \pi/2)$, so $\sin \theta > 0$. Therefore,

$$\sin \theta = \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \theta} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{\sec^2 \theta}} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{x^2}} = \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{|x|} = \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{x}$$

Plugging in back to our antiderivative, we have

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

- e) Since there is implicitly a $\sqrt{x^2 - 4}$ implied by the power of $-3/2$, we may try a trigonometric substitution with $x = 2 \sec \theta$, where $\theta \in [0, \pi/2) \cup (\pi/2, \pi]$. Then we have

$dx = 2 \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \int (x^2 - 4)^{-3/2} dx &= \int ((2 \sec \theta)^2 - 4)^{-3/2} \cdot 2 \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{1}{[\sqrt{4(\sec^2 \theta - 1)}]^3} \cdot 2 \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta \\ &= \int \frac{1}{[2|\tan \theta|]^3} \cdot 2 \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{\tan \theta \sec \theta}{|\tan \theta|^3} d\theta \end{aligned}$$

Here we assume that $x > 2$ so that $\tan \theta > 0$, so we can omit the absolute value

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{\tan \theta \sec \theta}{|\tan \theta|^3} d\theta &= \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{\tan \theta \sec \theta}{\tan^3 \theta} d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{\sec \theta}{\tan^2 \theta} d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta \cos \theta} d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta \end{aligned}$$

Since there is a single $\cos \theta$ in the numerator and $\sin^2 \theta$ for the rest of the integrand, we can use U-substitution where $u = \sin \theta$, $du = \cos \theta d\theta$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta &= \frac{1}{4} \int (\sin \theta)^{-2} (\cos \theta d\theta) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int u^{-2} du \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{-2+1} u^{-2+1} + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{u} + C = -\frac{1}{4 \sin \theta} + C \end{aligned}$$

Since we defined $x = 2 \sec \theta$ where $\theta \in [0, \pi/2) \cup (\pi/2, \pi]$ and assumed that $x > 2$, we have $\theta \in (0, \pi/2)$, so $\sin \theta > 0$. Therefore,

$$\sin \theta = \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \theta} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{\sec^2 \theta}} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{4}{x^2}} = \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 4}}{|x|} = \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 4}}{x}$$

Plugging this back to the antiderivative, we yield

$$-\frac{1}{4 \sin \theta} + C = -\frac{x}{4 \sqrt{x^2 - 4}} + C$$

- f) Here U-substitution does not work, since letting $u = 9x^2 - 16$ leads to $du = 18x dx$, yet the remainder of the integrand, $1/x^2$, is not a multiple of $18x$. Since there is a $\sqrt{9x^2 - 16}$ in the numerator, we hereby try the trigonometric substitution $x = \sqrt{\frac{16}{9}} \sec \theta = \frac{4}{3} \sec \theta$, so that $dx = \frac{4}{3} \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta$. We thus yield

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{\sqrt{9x^2 - 16}}{x^2} dx &= \int \frac{\sqrt{9(\frac{4}{3})^2 \sec^2 \theta - 16}}{(\frac{4}{3})^2 \sec^2 \theta} \cdot \frac{4}{3} \tan \theta \sec \theta d\theta \\ &= \frac{3}{4} \int \sqrt{16(\sec^2 \theta - 1)} \cdot \frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta} d\theta \\ &= \frac{3}{4} \int 4|\tan \theta| \cdot \frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta} d\theta \\ &= 3 \int |\tan \theta| \cdot \frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta} d\theta\end{aligned}$$

Here we assume that $x \geq \frac{4}{3}$ so that $\tan \theta \geq 0$, so we can omit the absolute value

$$\begin{aligned}3 \int |\tan \theta| \cdot \frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta} d\theta &= 3 \int \tan \theta \cdot \frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta} d\theta \\ &= 3 \int \frac{\tan^2 \theta}{\sec \theta} d\theta \\ &= 3 \int \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\cos^2 \theta} \cdot \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= 3 \int \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\cos \theta} d\theta \\ &= 3 \int \frac{1 - \cos^2 \theta}{\cos \theta} d\theta \\ &= 3 \int (\sec \theta - \cos \theta) d\theta \\ &= 3(\ln |\tan \theta + \sec \theta| - \sin \theta) + C\end{aligned}$$

Since we defined $x = \frac{4}{3} \sec \theta$ where $\theta \in [0, \pi/2) \cup (\pi/2, \pi]$ and assumed that $x \geq \frac{4}{3}$, we have $\theta \in [0, \pi/2)$ and $\tan \theta \geq 0$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\tan \theta &= \sqrt{\sec^2 \theta - 1} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2 x^2 - 1} = \frac{\sqrt{9x^2 - 16}}{4} \\ \sin \theta &= \tan \theta \cos \theta = \frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta} = \frac{\sqrt{9x^2 - 16}/4}{3x/4} = \frac{\sqrt{9x^2 - 16}}{3x}\end{aligned}$$

Plugging the above back to the antiderivative and we yield

$$\begin{aligned}
 3(\ln |\tan \theta + \sec \theta| - \sin \theta) + C &= 3\left(\ln \left|\frac{\sqrt{9x^2 - 16}}{4} + \frac{3}{4}x\right| - \frac{\sqrt{9x^2 - 16}}{3x}\right) + C \\
 &= 3\left(\ln |\sqrt{9x^2 - 16} + 3x| - \ln 4 - \frac{\sqrt{9x^2 - 16}}{3x}\right) + C \\
 &= 3 \ln |\sqrt{9x^2 - 16} + 3x| - \frac{\sqrt{9x^2 - 16}}{x} - 3 \ln 4 + C \\
 &= 3 \ln |\sqrt{9x^2 - 16} + 3x| - \frac{\sqrt{9x^2 - 16}}{x} + C^*
 \end{aligned}$$

where in the last line we let $C^* = C - 3 \ln 4$ to simplify the expression.

6.3 Antidifferentiation techniques: Partial Fractions

In this section, we will talk about antidifferentiation of a special category of integrand: rational functions, which are functions shaped as

$$f(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$$

where $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$ are both polynomials. Before we dive into the strategy, let us look at an example:

Example 6.18

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

Solution 6.18

If we were to use U-substitution right out of the bat, then it makes the most sense if we let $u = x^2 - 1$. This does not work since $du = 2x dx$ and the numerator is a polynomial of degree 2. Now we are out of moves, we must try to find a way to modify our integrand. Since this is a rational function and the numerator has degree the same as or larger than the denominator (which is called an *improper* rational function), we can try long division and yield

$$\int \frac{2x^2 + 3x - 3}{x^2 - 1} dx = \int \frac{2(x^2 - 1) + (3x - 1)}{x^2 - 1} dx = \int \left(2 + \frac{3x - 1}{x^2 - 1}\right) dx$$

Now it seems like things are getting better, since we are dealing with degree-1 polynomial in the numerator now. However, U-substitution of $u = x^2 - 1$ still does not quite work, since the numerator is still not a multiple of $2x$. Eminent students may argue that we can split the numerator into $3x$ and -1 , then we can use U-substitution to antidifferentiate $\frac{3x}{x^2-1}$. The problem is that we would still have a $\frac{-1}{x^2-1}$ term left in the integrand, which is pretty cumbersome.

Now we use a clever trick to further modify the integrand. Since we can factor $x^2 - 1$ into $(x + 1)(x - 1)$, we can write

$$\frac{3x - 1}{x^2 - 1} = \frac{3x - 1}{(x + 1)(x - 1)} = \frac{2}{x + 1} + \frac{1}{x - 1}$$

Now the fraction has been reduced to two fractions with degree-1 polynomial at the denominator, we can easily solve for their antiderivatives using U-substitution or just

eyeballing. Therefore we have

$$\int \left(2 + \frac{3x - 1}{x^2 - 1}\right) dx = \int \left(2 + \frac{2}{x+1} + \frac{1}{x-1}\right) dx = 2x + 2 \ln|x+1| + \ln|x-1| + C$$

The trick we have just done is called **partial fraction decomposition**, which decomposes a larger fraction into smaller fractions with lower degree denominators. More generally, to find the antiderivative for a rational function (with numerator degree less than denominator degree, or we should do long division first), if the denominator of the function can be factorized into products of distinct degree-1 polynomials (or, linear factors), we can do partial fraction decomposition as follows

$$\frac{P(x)}{(a_1x+b_1)(a_2x+b_2)\dots(a_nx+b_n)} = \frac{A_1}{a_1x+b_1} + \frac{A_2}{a_2x+b_2} + \dots + \frac{A_n}{a_nx+b_n}$$

where A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n can be found by reducing the right hand side to a common denominator then comparing the numerators of both sides. Now since the right hand side is a sum of fractions shaped as $\frac{c}{ax+b}$, their antiderivative would be a sum of natural logarithms.

We will now try out the following antiderivatives with partial fractions:

Example 6.19

Find the following antiderivatives

$$\text{a) } \int \frac{1}{(x-3)(x-2)} dx \quad \text{b) } \int \frac{3x}{(x-1)(x+2)} dx \quad \text{c) } \int \frac{x^2+8x+1}{x^2+3x-4} dx$$

Solution 6.19

Find the following antiderivatives

- a) The integrand is a proper (numerator degree < denominator degree) rational function and the denominator is already factorized, so we can proceed on to the partial fraction decomposition. We first assume the following decomposition:

$$\frac{1}{(x-3)(x-2)} = \frac{A_1}{x-3} + \frac{A_2}{x-2}$$

To solve for A_1 and A_2 , we reduce the right hand side to a common denominator:

$$\frac{A_1}{x-3} + \frac{A_2}{x-2} = \frac{A_1(x-2) + A_2(x-3)}{(x-3)(x-2)}$$

Therefore, we have

$$1 = A_1(x-2) + A_2(x-3)$$

Letting $x = 3$ will eliminate A_2 from the right, so we have

$$1 = A_1$$

Letting $x = 2$ will in turn eliminate A_1 from the right, yielding

$$1 = -A_2 \Rightarrow A_2 = -1$$

Therefore, we have

$$\int \frac{1}{(x-3)(x-2)} dx = \int \left(\frac{1}{x-3} - \frac{1}{x-2} \right) dx = \ln|x-3| - \ln|x-2| + C$$

- b) The integrand is still a proper rational function, and the denominator is factorize, so we assume the following partial fraction decomposition:

$$\frac{3x}{(x-1)(x+2)} = \frac{A_1}{x-1} + \frac{A_2}{x+2}$$

To solve for A_1 and A_2 , we reduce the right hand side to a common denominator:

$$\frac{A_1}{x-1} + \frac{A_2}{x+2} = \frac{A_1(x+2) + A_2(x-1)}{(x-1)(x+2)}$$

Therefore, we have

$$3x = A_1(x+2) + A_2(x-1)$$

Letting $x = 1$ will eliminate A_2 from the right, so we have

$$3 = 3A_1 \Rightarrow A_1 = 1$$

Letting $x = -2$ will in turn eliminate A_1 from the right, yielding

$$-6 = -3A_2 \Rightarrow A_2 = 2$$

Therefore, we have

$$\int \frac{3x}{(x-1)(x+2)} dx = \int \left(\frac{1}{x-1} + \frac{2}{x+2} \right) dx = \ln|x-1| + \ln|x+2| + C$$

- c) The integrand is an improper rational function, so we do long division and yield

$$\int \frac{x^2 + 8x + 1}{x^2 + 3x - 4} dx = \int \frac{(x^2 + 3x - 4) \cdot 1 + (5x + 5)}{x^2 + 3x - 4} dx = \int \left(1 + \frac{5x + 5}{(x-1)(x+4)} \right) dx$$

The remaining fraction is now a proper rational function, so we can proceed on performing partial fraction decomposition, assuming that:

$$\frac{5x + 5}{(x - 1)(x + 4)} = \frac{A_1}{x - 1} + \frac{A_2}{x + 4}$$

To solve for A_1 and A_2 , we reduce the right hand side to a common denominator:

$$\frac{A_1}{x - 1} + \frac{A_2}{x + 4} = \frac{A_1(x + 4) + A_2(x - 1)}{(x - 1)(x + 4)}$$

Therefore, we have

$$5x + 5 = A_1(x + 4) + A_2(x - 1)$$

Letting $x = 1$ will eliminate A_2 from the right, so we have

$$10 = 5A_1 \Rightarrow A_1 = 2$$

Letting $x = -4$ will in turn eliminate A_1 from the right, yielding

$$-15 = -35A_2 \Rightarrow A_2 = 3$$

Therefore, we have

$$\int \left(1 + \frac{5x + 5}{(x - 1)(x + 4)}\right) dx = \int \left(1 + \frac{2}{x - 1} + \frac{3}{x + 4}\right) dx = x + 2 \ln|x - 1| + 3 \ln|x + 4| + C$$

In the above, we have covered the case where the denominator can be factorized into distinct linear factors. However, in the case where the linear factors are not distinct, i.e. there are powers of linear factors such as $(x - 1)(x + 1)^2$, the situation becomes a little bit tricky. Say the denominator factors as $(x - 1)(x + 1)^2$ and the numerator is $ax^2 + bx + c$ so that the fraction is proper, then it does not make sense to assume

$$\frac{ax^2 + bx + c}{(x - 1)(x + 1)^2} = \frac{A_1}{x - 1} + \frac{A_2}{x + 1} + \frac{A_3}{x + 1}$$

since we will not be able to tell A_2 and A_3 apart, and it also does not make sense to assume

$$\frac{ax^2 + bx + c}{(x - 1)(x + 1)^2} = \frac{A_1}{x - 1} + \frac{A_2}{x + 1}$$

since now the right hand side has two unknowns (A_1 and A_2), but we have to match three polynomial coefficients on the left (a , b and c), so there is no guaranteed solution.

A clever solution is to assume the following partial fraction decomposition incorporating the reciprocal of the squared factor polynomial:

$$\frac{ax^2 + bx + c}{(x - 1)(x + 1)^2} = \frac{A_1}{x - 1} + \frac{A_2}{x + 1} + \frac{A_3}{(x + 1)^2}$$

so now we have three unknowns (A_1 , A_2 and A_3) with three polynomial coefficients to match. After solving A_1 , A_2 , A_3 by reducing the right hand side to the same denominator, the antiderivative for the first two terms are still natural logarithms, and one antiderivative for the last term is $-\frac{A_3}{x+1}$ from U-substitution or eyeballing.

More generally, if there are powers of linear factors in the denominator, say $(x - a)^r$, we can introduce r partial fractions $\frac{A_1}{x-a}$, $\frac{A_2}{(x-a)^2}$, ..., $\frac{A_r}{(x-a)^r}$ and proceed on solving the unknown coefficients using the same technique as before. We hereby demonstrate with some examples with higher degree polynomials in the denominator:

Example 6.20

Find the following antiderivatives

$$\text{a) } \int \frac{1}{(x-3)(x-2)^2} dx \quad \text{b) } \int \frac{5x^2+13x+6}{x(x+1)^2} dx \quad \text{c) } \int \frac{x-6}{x^3-4x} dx$$

Solution 6.20

- a) The integrand is a proper rational function and the denominator is already factorized, so we can proceed on to the partial fraction decomposition. Since there is a $(x - 2)^2$ in the denominator, we first assume the following decomposition:

$$\frac{1}{(x-3)(x-2)^2} = \frac{A_1}{x-3} + \frac{A_2}{x-2} + \frac{A_3}{(x-2)^2}$$

To solve for A_1 , A_2 and A_3 , we reduce the right hand side to a common denominator:

$$\frac{A_1}{x-3} + \frac{A_2}{x-2} + \frac{A_3}{(x-2)^2} = \frac{A_1(x-2)^2 + A_2(x-3)(x-2) + A_3(x-3)}{(x-3)(x-2)^2}$$

Therefore, we have

$$1 = A_1(x-2)^2 + A_2(x-3)(x-2) + A_3(x-3)$$

Letting $x = 3$ will eliminate A_2 and A_3 from the right, so we have

$$1 = A_1$$

Letting $x = 2$ will in turn eliminate A_1 and A_2 from the right, yielding

$$1 = -2A_3 \Rightarrow A_3 = -1$$

Now we can let x be any other arbitrary number to solve for A_2 . Say we let $x = 1$,

$$1 = A_1 + 2A_2 - 2A_3 = 2A_2 + 3 \Rightarrow A_2 = -1$$

Therefore, we have

$$\int \frac{1}{(x-3)(x-2)^2} dx = \int \left(\frac{1}{x-3} - \frac{1}{x-2} - \frac{1}{(x-2)^2} \right) dx = \ln|x-3| - \ln|x-2| + \frac{1}{x-2} + C$$

- b) The integrand is a proper rational function since the numerator is degree-2 and the denominator is degree-3. Also note the denominator is already factorized, so we can proceed on to the partial fraction decomposition. Since there is a $(x+1)^2$ in the denominator, we first assume the following decomposition:

$$\frac{5x^2 + 13x + 6}{x(x+1)^2} = \frac{A_1}{x} + \frac{A_2}{x+1} + \frac{A_3}{(x+1)^2}$$

To solve for A_1 , A_2 and A_3 , we reduce the right hand side to a common denominator:

$$\frac{A_1}{x} + \frac{A_2}{x+1} + \frac{A_3}{(x+1)^2} = \frac{A_1(x+1)^2 + A_2x(x+1) + A_3x}{x(x+1)^2}$$

Therefore, we have

$$5x^2 + 13x + 6 = A_1(x+1)^2 + A_2x(x+1) + A_3x$$

Letting $x = 0$ will eliminate A_2 and A_3 from the right, so we have

$$6 = A_1$$

Letting $x = -1$ will in turn eliminate A_1 and A_2 from the right, yielding

$$-2 = -A_3 \Rightarrow A_3 = 2$$

Now we can let x be any other arbitrary number to solve for A_2 . Say we let $x = 1$,

$$24 = 4A_1 + 2A_2 + A_3 = 2A_2 + 26 \Rightarrow A_2 = -1$$

Therefore, we have

$$\int \frac{5x^2 + 13x + 6}{x(x-1)^2} dx = \int \left(\frac{6}{x} - \frac{1}{x-1} + \frac{2}{(x-1)^2} \right) dx = 6 \ln|x| - \ln|x-1| - \frac{2}{x-1} + C$$

- c) The integrand is again a proper rational function. Since U-substitution does not seem to work, we try using partial fractions to solve this antiderivative. Before we decompose the fraction into partial fractions, we factorize the denominator

$$x^3 - 4x = x(x^2 - 4) = x(x+2)(x-2)$$

Since the denominator contains distinct linear factors, we can assume

$$\frac{x-6}{x^3-4x} = \frac{x-6}{x(x+2)(x-2)} = \frac{A_1}{x} + \frac{A_2}{x+2} + \frac{A_3}{x-2}$$

To solve for A_1 , A_2 and A_3 , we reduce the right hand side to a common denominator:

$$\frac{A_1}{x} + \frac{A_2}{x+2} + \frac{A_3}{(x-2)} = \frac{A_1(x+2)(x-2) + A_2x(x-2) + A_3x(x+2)}{x(x+2)(x-2)}$$

Therefore, we have

$$x-6 = A_1(x+2)(x-2) + A_2x(x-2) + A_3x(x+2)$$

Letting $x = 0$ will eliminate A_2 and A_3 from the right, so we have

$$-6 = -4A_1 \Rightarrow A_1 = \frac{3}{2}$$

Letting $x = -2$ will in turn eliminate A_1 and A_3 from the right, yielding

$$-8 = 8A_2 \Rightarrow A_2 = -1$$

Finally, letting $x = 2$ will eliminate A_1 and A_2 from the right, so we have

$$-4 = 8A_3 \Rightarrow A_3 = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Therefore, we have

$$\int \frac{x-6}{x^3-4x} dx = \int \left(\frac{3/2}{x} - \frac{1}{x+2} - \frac{1/2}{x-2} \right) dx = \frac{3}{2} \ln|x| - \ln|x+2| - \frac{1}{2} \ln|x-2| + C$$

Until now, we are able to antidifferentiate rational functions as long as their denominators can be factorized into products of linear factors, with or without powers. However, there is still one possibility that we overlooked: the denominator may also contain irreducible degree-2 polynomials factors (or, quadratic factors). For example, if the denominator was $(x^3 - 1)$, then the best we can do is to factor it as $(x - 1)(x^2 + x + 1)$, where $(x^2 + x + 1)$ cannot be further factorized since it has a negative discriminant.

Fortunately, partial fraction decomposition still works with quadratic factors, but for the partial fraction representing the quadratic factor, the numerator is no longer a constant A , but a degree-1 polynomial $Bx + C$. For example, in the above we have factored $(x^3 - 1)$ into $(x - 1)(x^2 + x + 1)$, then we can assume the following partial fraction decomposition:

$$\frac{ax^2 + bx + c}{(x-1)(x^2+x+1)} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+x+1}$$

and antidifferentiate the partial fractions after solving for A, B, C .

Antidifferentiation of partial fractions with quadratic factors is a little bit more nuanced but still doable. The general procedure has three steps: (1) transform the denominator into the form of $(x + p)^2 + q^2$ by completing the squares (2) factor out $(x + p)$ from the denominator using long division (3) the fraction is now in the form $\frac{B(x+p)+D}{(x+p)^2+q^2} = \frac{B(x+p)}{(x+p)^2+q^2} + \frac{D/q^2}{(\frac{x+p}{q})^2+1}$, so the first term can be antidifferentiated using U-substitution for the denominator, and the second term can be antidifferentiated into an arctangent function using U-substitution for $(\frac{x+p}{q})$. For example,

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{x+3}{x^2+2x+5} dx &= \int \frac{x+3}{(x+1)^2+4} dx \\ &= \int \frac{(x+1)+2}{(x+1)^2+4} dx \\ &= \int \frac{x+1}{(x+1)^2+4} dx + \int \frac{2}{(x+1)^2+4} dx \\ &= \int \frac{x+1}{(x+1)^2+4} dx + \int \frac{1/2}{(\frac{x+1}{2})^2+1} dx\end{aligned}$$

For the first antiderivative, we let $u = (x+1)^2+4$, $du = (2x+2)dx$; for the second antiderivative, we let $v = (x+1)/2$, $dv = dx/2$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}&\int \frac{x+1}{(x+1)^2+4} dx + \int \frac{1/2}{(\frac{x+1}{2})^2+1} dx \\ &= \int \frac{1/2}{(x+1)^2+4} (2x+2)dx + \int \frac{1}{(\frac{x+1}{2})^2+1} \frac{1}{2}dx \\ &= \int \frac{1}{2u} du + \frac{1}{v^2+1} dv \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \ln|u| + \arctan v + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \ln|x^2+2x+5| + \arctan\left(\frac{x+1}{2}\right) + C\end{aligned}$$

In the following, we will look at more examples with quadratic factors in the denominator:

Example 6.21

Find the following antiderivative

$$\int \frac{x+9}{(x-1)(x^2+4x+5)} dx$$

Solution 6.21

The integrand is a proper rational function with denominator factorized. The factor $(x^2 + 4x + 5)$ cannot be further factorized since its discriminant is $4^2 - 4 \cdot 5 = -4 < 0$. We therefore start finding the partial fraction decomposition of this fraction, assuming the following

$$\frac{x+9}{(x-1)(x^2+4x+5)} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+4x+5}$$

To solve for A_1 , A_2 and A_3 , we reduce the right hand side to a common denominator:

$$\frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+4x+5} = \frac{A(x^2+4x+5) + (Bx+C)(x-1)}{(x-1)(x^2+4x+5)}$$

Therefore, we have

$$x+9 = A(x^2+4x+5) + (Bx+C)(x-1)$$

Letting $x = 1$ eliminates B and C on the right hand side, yielding

$$10 = 10A \Rightarrow A = 1$$

Letting $x = 0$ eliminates B , along with $A = 1$ we have

$$9 = 1 \cdot 5 - C \Rightarrow C = -4$$

Now we plugin a random x to solve for B , say $x = -1$

$$8 = 1 \cdot 2 + (-B - 4)(-2) \Rightarrow B = -1$$

Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{x+9}{(x-1)(x^2+4x+5)} dx &= \int \left(\frac{1}{x-1} - \frac{x+4}{x^2+4x+5} \right) dx \\ &= \int \left(\frac{1}{x-1} - \frac{x+4}{(x+2)^2+1} \right) dx \\ &= \int \left(\frac{1}{x-1} - \frac{(x+2)+2}{(x+2)^2+1} \right) dx \\ &= \int \frac{1}{x-1} dx - \int \frac{x+2}{(x+2)^2+1} dx - \int \frac{2}{(x+2)^2+1} dx \end{aligned}$$

For the second antiderivative, we let $u = (x+2)^2 + 1$, $du = 2(x+2)$; for the third antiderivative, we let $v = x+2$, $dv = dx$. So now we have

$$\int \frac{1}{x-1} dx - \int \frac{x+2}{(x+2)^2+1} dx - \int \frac{2}{(x+2)^2+1} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \int \frac{1}{x-1} dx - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{(x+2)^2 + 1} (2x+2)dx - 2 \int \frac{1}{(x+2)^2 + 1} dx \\
&= \int \frac{1}{x-1} dx - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{u} du - 2 \int \frac{1}{v^2 + 1} dv \\
&= \ln|x-1| - \frac{1}{2} \ln|u| - 2 \arctan v + C \\
&= \ln|x-1| - \frac{1}{2} \ln|x^2 + 4x + 5| - 2 \arctan(x+2) + C
\end{aligned}$$

Exercise 6.22

Find the following antiderivative

$$\int \frac{6x^2}{x^4 - x^3 - x + 1} dx$$

Solution 6.22

Since the integrand is a proper rational function and U-substitution does not seem to work, we start with factorization of the denominator, noting that $(x-1)$ is a factor of $x^4 - x^3 - x + 1$ since $(1)^4 - (1)^3 - (1) + (1) = 0$:

$$x^4 - x^3 - x + 1 = (x-1)(x^3 - 1) = (x-1)(x-1)(x^2 + x + 1) = (x-1)^2(x^2 + x + 1)$$

Since there is a squared $(x-1)$ in the factorization and a quadratic factor $(x^2 + x + 1)$, we assume the following partial fraction decomposition:

$$\frac{6x^2}{(x-1)^2(x^2 + x + 1)} = \frac{A_1}{x-1} + \frac{A_2}{(x-1)^2} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2 + x + 1}$$

To solve for A_1 , A_2 , B and C , we reduce the right hand side to a common denominator:

$$\frac{A_1}{x-1} + \frac{A_2}{(x-1)^2} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+x+1} = \frac{A_1(x-1)(x^2+x+1) + A_2(x^2+x+1) + (Bx+C)(x-1)^2}{(x-1)^2(x^2+x+1)}$$

Therefore, we have

$$6x^2 = A_1(x-1)(x^2+x+1) + A_2(x^2+x+1) + (Bx+C)(x-1)^2$$

Letting $x = 1$ eliminates A_1 , B and C on the right hand side, yielding

$$6 = 3A_2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad A_2 = 2$$

Now there is no obvious values of x that can give us direct solutions to A_1, B and C , so we pick three values $x = 0, -1, 2$ and plug into both sides:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= -A_1 + 2 + C \\ 6 &= -2A_1 + 2 + -4B + 4C \\ 24 &= 7A_1 + 14 + 2B + C \end{aligned}$$

Solving the system of equations we have $A_1 = 2, B = -2, C = 0$. Therefore, for the antiderivative we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{6x^2}{x^4 - x^3 - x + 1} dx &= \int \left(\frac{2}{x-1} + \frac{2}{(x-1)^2} - \frac{2x}{x^2+x+1} \right) dx \\ &= \int \left(\frac{2}{x-1} + \frac{2}{(x-1)^2} - \frac{2x}{(x+\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}} \right) dx \\ &= \int \left(\frac{2}{x-1} + \frac{2}{(x-1)^2} - \frac{2(x+\frac{1}{2})-1}{(x+\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}} \right) dx \\ &= \int \left(\frac{2}{x-1} + \frac{2}{(x-1)^2} - \frac{2(x+\frac{1}{2})}{(x+\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}} + \frac{1}{(x+\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}} \right) dx \\ &= \int \frac{2}{x-1} dx + \int \frac{2}{(x-1)^2} dx - \int \frac{2(x+\frac{1}{2})}{(x+\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}} dx + \int \frac{1}{(x+\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}} dx \\ &= \int \frac{2}{x-1} dx + \int \frac{2}{(x-1)^2} dx - \int \frac{2(x+\frac{1}{2})}{(x+\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}} dx + \int \frac{4/3}{(\frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{3}})^2 + 1} dx \end{aligned}$$

For the first and second antiderivative we will omit U-substitution and just eyeball the answer. For the third antiderivative we let $u = (x + \frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}, du = 2(x + \frac{1}{2})dx$ and for the fourth antiderivative we let $v = \frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{3}}, dv = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}dx$. Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\int \frac{2}{x-1} dx + \int \frac{2}{(x-1)^2} dx - \int \frac{2(x+\frac{1}{2})}{(x+\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}} dx + \int \frac{4/3}{(\frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{3}})^2 + 1} dx \\ &= 2 \int \frac{1}{x-1} dx - 2 \int \frac{-1}{(x-1)^2} dx - \int \frac{1}{(x+\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}} 2\left(x+\frac{1}{2}\right) dx + \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \int \frac{1}{(\frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{3}})^2 + 1} \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} dx \\ &= 2 \int \frac{1}{x-1} dx - 2 \int \frac{-1}{(x-1)^2} dx - \int \frac{1}{u} du + \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \int \frac{1}{v^2+1} dv \\ &= 2 \ln|x-1| - 2 \frac{1}{x-1} - \ln|u| + \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \arctan v + C \\ &= 2 \ln|x-1| - 2 \frac{1}{x-1} - \ln|x^2+x+1| + \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \arctan\left(\frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) + C \end{aligned}$$

There is still another rare case for the denominator which we have not gone through: when the quadratic factors are not distinct and have powers, eg. $(x-1)(x^2+1)^2$. In this case, just as

what we have done for powered linear factors, we would include two terms with $(x^2 + 1)$ in the partial fractions, one with denominator $(x^2 + 1)$, and one with denominator $(x^2 + 1)^2$. For example, for $\frac{ax^4+bx^3+cx^2+d}{(x-1)(x^2+1)^2}$, we would assume:

$$\frac{ax^4+bx^3+cx^2+d}{(x-1)(x^2+1)^2} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{B_1x+C_1}{x^2+1} + \frac{B_2x+C_2}{(x^2+1)^2}$$

and then solve for A, B_1, C_1, B_2, C_2 accordingly.

More generally, if there are powers of quadratic factors in the denominator, say $(x^2 + ax + b)^r$, we can introduce r partial fractions $\frac{B_1x+C_1}{x^2+ax+b}, \frac{B_2x+C_2}{(x^2+ax+b)^2}, \dots, \frac{B_rx+C_r}{(x^2+ax+b)^r}$ and proceed on solving the unknown coefficients using the same technique as before. However, this would involve heavy computations, so we only need to know the concept and will not demonstrate with examples here.

6.4 Antidifferentiation techniques: Integration by Parts

In this last section on antidifferentiation techniques, we are going to talk about an important approach that focuses on integrands involving *products* of functions, for example

$$\int xe^x \, dx \quad \int e^x \cos x \, dx \quad \int x^2 \ln x \, dx$$

This technique, which is termed **Integration by Parts**, leverages the product rule of differentiation that we are familiar of:

$$\frac{d(uv)}{dx} = \frac{du}{dx}v + u\frac{dv}{dx}$$

We may rearrange the terms a bit and yield

$$u\frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{d(uv)}{dx} - \frac{du}{dx}v$$

Now if we antidifferentiate both sides with respect to x :

$$\begin{aligned} \int u\frac{dv}{dx} \, dx &= \int \frac{d(uv)}{dx} \, dx - \int \frac{du}{dx}v \, dx \\ &= uv - \int \frac{du}{dx}v \, dx \end{aligned}$$

where in the last line we did not write $+C$ since the constant can be absorbed into the integration constant of the remaining antiderivative. This implies that if you have an antiderivative shaped as the left hand side, with integrand shaped as a product of two functions (u and dv/dx) and you can antidifferentiate one of them (dv/dx), then you can try using this identity to transform it into another antiderivative that you may be able to evaluate ($\int v(du/dx)dx$). To see how this works, let's look at the following example:

Example 6.23

Find $\int x \sin x \, dx$

Solution 6.23

For this type of integrand, none of our previous techniques work. Since the integrand is a product of two functions x and $\sin x$, we may try to use integration by parts to solve it. Recall the formula for integration by parts is

$$\int u\frac{dv}{dx} \, dx = uv - \int \frac{du}{dx}v \, dx$$

If we let $u = x$ and $dv/dx = \sin x$, then $du/dx = 1$ and $v = -\cos x + C$ (where we can just

take one of the antiderivative and let $C = 0$), so we have

$$\begin{aligned}\int x \sin x \, dx &= x(-\cos x) - \int 1 \cdot (-\cos x) \, dx \\ &= -x \cos x - (-\sin x) + C \\ &= -x \cos x + \sin x + C\end{aligned}$$

Note that here if we instead let $u = \sin x$ and $dv/dx = x$, so that $du/dx = \cos x$ and $v = x^2/2$, then we yield

$$\begin{aligned}\int \sin x \cdot x \, dx &= \sin x \cdot \frac{1}{2}x^2 - \int \cos x \cdot \frac{1}{2}x^2 \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2}x^2 \sin x - \frac{1}{2} \int x^2 \cos x \, dx\end{aligned}$$

which does not make things easier. Therefore, a careful choice of u and dv/dx is needed for integration by parts to be successful, and sometimes it requires experience for us to foresee which choice would work. A rough guideline is that since after applying integration by parts, the integrand of the remaining antiderivative is $(du/dx)v$, we would want the following:

1. To be able to antidifferentiate dv/dx without a lot of mess
2. To let du/dx have a simpler form than u .

Based on this guideline, we would then want $u = x$ and $dv/dx = \sin x$ since $du/dx = 1$ is simpler than x and we can antidifferentiate $\sin x$ with no fuss.

As of now, we are writing the formula of integration by parts using dx as differentials. Alternatively, we can use the fact that

$$\frac{dv}{dx} \, dx = dv \quad \frac{du}{dx} \, dx$$

and substitute the differentials with du and dv , which yields a more commonly used presentation of integration by parts

$$\int u \, dv = uv - \int v \, du$$

This form of presentation is more concise but obscure if you are not adept in manipulating differentials, but in essence both forms are equivalent. We will now do some exercises for integration by parts:

Exercise 6.24

Find the following antiderivatives:

a) $\int xe^{2x} \, dx$ b) $\int x^3 \ln x \, dx$ c) $\int x \sec^2 x \, dx$ d) $\int x \cos^2 x \, dx$

Solution 6.24

1. U-substitution does not work here, and the integrand is a product of two functions, so we may try integration by parts. We now have the choice of setting $u = x, dv/dx = e^{2x}$ or $u = e^{2x}, dv/dx = x$. Since the latter would lead to $v = x^2/2$ that is more complicated than $dv/dx = x$, we opt for the first setting. Now since $u = x, dv/dx = e^{2x}$, we have $du/dx = 1, v = e^{2x}/2$, where the antiderivation of e^{2x} can be done either by eyeballing or U-substitution letting $w = 2x$. Now we can apply integration by parts and yield

$$\begin{aligned}\int xe^{2x} dx &= x \cdot \frac{1}{2}e^{2x} - \int 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2}e^{2x} dx \\&= \frac{1}{2}xe^{2x} - \frac{1}{2} \int e^{2x} dx \\&= \frac{1}{2}xe^{2x} - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}e^{2x} + C \\&= \frac{1}{2}xe^{2x} - \frac{1}{4}e^{2x} + C = \frac{1}{4}(2x+1)e^{2x}\end{aligned}$$

2. U-substitution does not work here, and the integrand is a product of two functions, so we may try integration by parts. We now have the choice of setting $u = x^3, dv/dx = \ln x$ or $u = \ln x, dv/dx = x^3$. For the former we do not even know how to antiderivative $\ln x$, so we are forced to use the latter setting. Now since $u = \ln x, dv/dx = x^3$, we have $du/dx = 1/x, v = x^4/4$. Now we can apply integration by parts and yield

$$\begin{aligned}\int \ln x \cdot x^3 dx &= \ln x \cdot \frac{1}{4}x^4 - \int \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{1}{4}x^4 dx \\&= \frac{1}{4}x^4 \ln x - \frac{1}{4} \int x^3 dx \\&= \frac{1}{4}x^4 \ln x - \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{4}x^4 + C \\&= \frac{1}{4}x^4 \ln x - \frac{1}{16}x^4 + C\end{aligned}$$

3. U-substitution still doesn't work here, and the integrand is a product of two functions, so we may try integration by parts. We now have the choice of setting $u = x, dv/dx = \sec^2 x$ or $u = \sec^2 x, dv/dx = x$. For the latter, v would be more complicated than dv/dx , and the derivative of $\sec^2 x$ is pretty yucky, so we opt for the former setting, where we actually know how to antiderivative $\sec^2 x$, which is $\tan x$. Now since $u = x, dv/dx = \sec^2 x$, we have $du/dx = 1, v = \tan x$, so we can apply integration by

parts and yield

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int x \cdot \sec^2 x \, dx &= x \cdot \tan x - \int 1 \cdot \tan x \, dx \\
 &= x \tan x - \int \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \, dx \\
 &= x \tan x + \int \frac{1}{\cos x} (-\sin x \, dx) \quad (\text{Let } w = \cos x) \\
 &= x \tan x + \int \frac{1}{w} dw \\
 &= x \tan x + \ln |w| + C = x \tan x + \ln |\cos x| + C
 \end{aligned}$$

4. U-substitution still doesn't work here, and the integrand is a product of two functions, so we may try integration by parts. Note that here we have $\cos^2 x$ in the integrand, which is a little bit hard to maneuver when either we want to antidifferentiate or differentiate it. Therefore, we can pretreat it with the double angle formula:

$$\int x \cos^2 x \, dx = \int x \cdot \frac{1 + \cos 2x}{2} \, dx = \frac{1}{2} \int x \, dx + \frac{1}{2} \int x \cos 2x \, dx$$

Now for the second antiderivative, we will use integration by parts and let $u = x$ and $dv/dx = \cos 2x$. This leads to $du/dx = 1$ and $v = (\sin 2x)/2$, and we yield

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{1}{2} \int x \, dx + \frac{1}{2} \int x \cos 2x \, dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int x \, dx + \frac{1}{2} \left(x \cdot \frac{1}{2} \sin 2x - \int 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \sin 2x \right) \, dx \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \int x \, dx + \frac{1}{4} x \sin 2x - \frac{1}{4} \int \sin 2x \, dx \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} x^2 + \frac{1}{4} x \sin 2x + \frac{1}{8} \cos 2x + C
 \end{aligned}$$

In the previous examples, the choice of u and dv/dx in integration by parts are relatively straightforward, and we only needed to apply integration by parts once to arrive at our desired antiderivative. However, at times the choice of u and dv/dx would be obscure and sometimes we need to apply integration by parts multiple times before we have a viable antiderivative to work on. We will demonstrate some of the examples below:

Example 6.25

Find the following integrals

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| a) $\int \ln x \, dx$ | b) $\int \arctan x \, dx$ | c) $\int (\ln x)^2 \, dx$ |
| d) $\int x^2 \cos x \, dx$ | e) $\int e^x \sin x \, dx$ | f) $\int \sec^3 x \, dx$ |

Solution 6.25

- a) At first glance, integration by parts should not work since the integrand cannot be split into two parts for us to determine which is u and which is dv/dx . However, we can force the integrand to be a product of two functions by writing

$$\int \ln x \, dx = \int 1 \cdot \ln x \, dx$$

We now have the choice of setting $u = 1, dv/dx = \ln x$ or $u = \ln x, dv/dx = 1$. The former is not sensible since we are finding the antiderivative of $\ln x$ in the first place. Therefore we let $u = \ln x, dv/dx = 1$, so we have $du/dx = 1/x, v = x$. Now we can apply integration by parts and yield

$$\begin{aligned} \int \ln x \cdot 1 \, dx &= \ln x \cdot x - \int \frac{1}{x} \cdot x \, dx \\ &= x \ln x - \int 1 \, dx \\ &= x \ln x - x + C \end{aligned}$$

- b) As with the previous problem, to use integration by parts, we can construct a product form in the integrand by writing

$$\int \arctan x \, dx = \int 1 \cdot \arctan x \, dx$$

Now we can let $u = \arctan x$ and $dv/dx = 1$ since setting $dv/dx = \arctan x$ does not make sense. Therefore, we have $du/dx = \frac{1}{x^2+1}$ and $v = x$, which we insert into the formula for integration by parts:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \arctan x \cdot 1 \, dx &= \arctan x \cdot x - \int \frac{1}{x^2+1} \cdot x \, dx \\ &= x \arctan x - \int \frac{x}{x^2+1} \, dx \\ &= x \arctan x - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{x^2+1} (2x \, dx) \end{aligned}$$

where in the last equality we prep the differential for U-substitution. Now we can let $w = x^2 + 1$ so that $dw = 2x \, dx$:

$$\begin{aligned} x \arctan x - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{x^2+1} (2x \, dx) &= x \arctan x - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{w} \, dw \\ &= x \arctan x - \frac{1}{2} \ln |w| + C \\ &= x \arctan x - \frac{1}{2} \ln |x^2 + 1| + C \end{aligned}$$

- c) In order to use integration by parts, one way to rewrite the integrand is $(\ln x)^2 = (\ln x)(\ln x)$, so that we can let $u = \ln x, dv/dx = \ln x$. Using the result from the first problem, we have $du/dx = 1/x, v = x \ln x - x$ and plug them into the formula for integration by parts:

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

Alternatively, we can rewrite the integrand as $(\ln x)^2 = (\ln x)^2 \cdot 1$, so that we can let $u = (\ln x)^2, dv/dx = 1$. In this case we yield $du/dx = 2 \ln x/x, v = x$, and we can use integration by parts:

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

which gives us the same result as before.

- d) Here for integration by parts, we have the choice of setting $u = x^2, dv/dx = \cos x$ or $u = \cos x, dv/dx = x^2$. Since the latter would lead to $v = x^3/3$ that is more complicated than x^2 , we opt for the former setting that leads to $du/dx = 2x, v = \sin x$, so we have

$$\int x^2 \cos x dx = x^2 \sin x - \int 2x \sin x dx$$

The antiderivative on the right hand side can be tackled by using integration by parts again. We can let $u = 2x, dv/dx = \sin x$ so that $du/dx = 2, v = -\cos x$, so we have

$$\begin{aligned}x^2 \sin x - \int 2x \sin x dx &= x^2 \sin x - \left(2x(-\cos x) - \int 2(-\cos x) dx \right) \\&= x^2 \sin x - \left(-2x \cos x + 2 \int \cos x dx \right) \\&= x^2 \sin x + 2x \cos x - 2 \sin x + C\end{aligned}$$

Note that here by repeatedly using integration by parts, the integrand goes from $x^2 \cos x$ to $2x \sin x$ then $(-\cos x)$, which we can finally antidifferentiate. In essence, since integration by parts differentiates one part of the integrand and antidifferentiates

the other part, as long as the differentiation provides simplification (for polynomials, it reduces its power) and the antiderivation does not complicate the integrand (for sine and cosine functions, it just alternates between them), we can repeatedly apply integration by parts and gradually simplify the integrand to a form that we can deal with. Therefore, this approach of repeated integration by parts can be used for antiderivations of the following forms:

$$\int x^n \sin(kx) dx ; \quad \int x^n \cos(kx) dx ; \quad \int x^n e^{kx} dx$$

- e) Here to apply integration by parts, we have to decide either to let $u = e^x, dv/dx = \sin x$ or $u = \sin x, dv/dx = e^x$. Since it is more straightforward to antiderivative e^x , we opt for $u = \sin x, dv/dx = e^x$ so that $du/dx = \cos x, v = e^x$, and then yield

$$\int \sin x \cdot e^x dx = \sin x \cdot e^x - \int \cos x \cdot e^x dx$$

Now we have $\int e^x \cos x dx$ on the right hand side, which is very similar to our original integrand, so we use the same approach for integration by parts and let $u = \cos x, dv/dx = e^x$, so that $du/dx = -\sin x, v = e^x$ and thus

$$\begin{aligned} \int e^x \sin x dx &= e^x \sin x - \int \cos x \cdot e^x dx \\ &= e^x \sin x - \left(\cos x \cdot e^x - \int (-\sin x) \cdot e^x dx \right) \\ &= e^x \sin x - e^x \cos x - \int e^x \sin x dx \end{aligned}$$

Notice $\int e^x \sin x dx$ appears on both sides, so we can rearrange the equation and yield

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \int e^x \sin x dx &= e^x \sin x - e^x \cos x + C^* \\ \int e^x \sin x dx &= \frac{1}{2}(e^x \sin x - e^x \cos x) + C \end{aligned}$$

where we define $C = 2C^*$ for brevity. In this example, after using integration by parts twice, we get back to our original antiderivative and can then solve for the antiderivative using algebra, which is pretty awesome.

- f) For this antiderivative, in order to apply integration by parts, we split the integrand into $(\sec x)(\sec^2 x)$. Now if we set $dv/dx = \sec x$, we would get $v = \ln |\sec x + \tan x|$,

which is prettly yucky. Therefore, we let $u = \sec x, dv/dx = \sec^2 x$ so that $du/dx = \sec x \tan x, v = \tan x$ and we can apply the formula for integration by parts:

$$\begin{aligned}\int \sec^3 x \, dx &= \int \sec x \cdot \sec^2 x \, dx \\&= \sec x \cdot \tan x - \int \sec x \tan x \cdot \tan x \, dx \\&= \sec x \tan x - \int \sec x \tan^2 x \, dx \\&= \sec x \tan x - \int \sec x (\sec^2 x - 1) \, dx \\&= \sec x \tan x - \int \sec^3 x \, dx + \int \sec x \, dx\end{aligned}$$

Note that we again have our original antiderivative $\int \sec^3 x \, dx$ on both sides, so we can rearrange the equation and yield:

$$\begin{aligned}2 \int \sec^3 x \, dx &= \sec x \tan x + \int \sec x \, dx \\2 \int \sec^3 x \, dx &= \sec x \tan x + \ln |\sec x \tan x| + C^* \\ \int \sec^3 x \, dx &= \frac{1}{2}(\sec x \tan x + \ln |\sec x \tan x|) + C\end{aligned}$$

where we define $C = 2C^*$ for brevity. Note that this approach can be used to derive the antiderivative for other powers of secant functions (except power of 1).