

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

- In some cases to replace the variable of the function by a trigonometric function transforms the asked integral into an easier one. The most common substitutions are

$$x = a \tan t, \quad x = a \sin t \text{ and } x = a \sec t.$$

- These substitutions are effective in transforming integrals involving

$$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2}, \quad \sqrt{a^2 - x^2} \text{ and } \sqrt{x^2 - a^2}$$

into integrals we can evaluate directly.

(Ankara University) Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives January 4, 2021 1 / 21

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

- Applying  $x = a \tan t$  provides

$$a^2 + x^2 = a^2 + a^2 \tan^2 t = a^2 (1 + \tan^2 t) = a^2 \sec^2 t,$$

- with  $x = a \sin t$  we obtain

$$a^2 - x^2 = a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 t = a^2 (1 - \sin^2 t) = a^2 \cos^2 t$$

- and with  $x = a \sec t$  we obtain

$$x^2 - a^2 = a^2 \sec^2 t - a^2 = a^2 (1 - \sec^2 t) = a^2 \tan^2 t.$$

any substitution we use in an integral should be reversible so that we can change back to the original variable afterward.

(Ankara University) Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives January 4, 2021 2 / 21

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

- For example; if we apply the substitution  $x = a \tan t$ , we want to be able to set  $t = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{x}{a} \right)$  after the integration takes place. Similarly we want to be able to set  $t = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{x}{a} \right)$  and  $t = \sec^{-1} \left( \frac{x}{a} \right)$ . For reversibility;

- $x = a \tan t$  requires  $t = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{x}{a} \right)$  with  $-\frac{\pi}{2} < t < \frac{\pi}{2}$
- $x = a \sin t$  requires  $t = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{x}{a} \right)$  with  $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq t \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$
- $x = a \sec t$  requires  $t = \sec^{-1} \left( \frac{x}{a} \right)$  with  $\begin{cases} 0 \leq t < \frac{\pi}{2} & \text{if } \frac{x}{a} \geq 1 \\ \frac{\pi}{2} < t \leq \pi & \text{if } \frac{x}{a} \leq 1 \end{cases}$ .

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

- To simplify calculations with the substitution  $x = a \sec t$ , we will restrict its use to integrals in which  $\frac{x}{a} \geq 1$ . This will place  $t$  in  $[0, \frac{\pi}{2})$  and make  $\tan t \geq 0$ . We will then have

$$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} = \sqrt{a^2 \tan^2 t} = |a \tan t| = a \tan t,$$

free for absolute values, provided  $a > 0$ .

### • Procedure for a Trigonometric Substitution

- 1. Write down the substitution, calculate the differential  $dx$ , specify the selected values of  $t$  for the substitution.
- 2. Substitute the trigonometric expression and the calculated  $dx$  then simplify the result algebraically.
- 3. Integrate the integral, keep in mind the restrictions on the angle  $t$  for reversibility.
- 4. Draw an appropriate reference triangle to reverse the substitution in the integration result and convert it back to the original variable  $x$ .

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

- **Example 7.** Evaluate the following integrals;

- (a)  $\int \frac{x+8}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} dx$

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

$$(b) \int \frac{dx}{(4-x^2)^{3/2}}$$

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Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives

January 4, 2021

7 / 21

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

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

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Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives

January 4, 2021

8 / 21

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

$$(d) \int \frac{dx}{x\sqrt{x^2 - 9}}$$

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Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives

January 4, 2021

9 / 21

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

$$(e) \int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{25x^2 - 4}}, x > \frac{2}{5}$$

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Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives

January 4, 2021

10 / 21

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

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

$$(g) \int \frac{3dy}{\sqrt{1+9y^2}}$$

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Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives

January 4, 2021

11 / 21

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

- **Remark 1.** If the integrand includes the terms  $\sqrt[n]{ax+b}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$  then apply the substitution with  $t^p = ax + b$  where  $p$  is the least common multiple of  $n_i$ .

- 2. If the integrand includes a rational expression of trigonometric functions applying the substitution  $\tan \frac{x}{2} = t$  may provide a simple function.

- **Example 8.** Evaluate the following integrals;

$$\bullet (a) \int \frac{\sqrt[4]{x+1} + 2}{\sqrt[6]{x+1}} dx$$

$$\bullet (b) \int \frac{\sqrt[3]{x+3} + \sqrt[6]{x+3}}{\sqrt{x+3}} dx$$

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Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives

January 4, 2021

12 / 21

## 8.4. Trigonometric Substitutions

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

- (d)  $\int \frac{dx}{5 + \cos x}$

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Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives

January 4, 2021

13 / 21

## 8.5. Integration of Rational Functions by Partial Fractions

- In this section we will learn to express a rational function as a sum of simpler fractions, called partial fractions, which are easily integrated.
- For instance the rational function

$$\frac{5x - 3}{x^2 - 2x - 3}$$

- can be written as

$$\frac{5x - 3}{x^2 - 2x - 3} = \frac{2}{x+1} + \frac{3}{x-3}.$$

- Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{5x - 3}{x^2 - 2x - 3} dx &= \int \frac{2}{x+1} dx + \int \frac{3}{x-3} dx \\ &= 2 \ln|x+1| + 3 \ln|x-3| + C.\end{aligned}$$

(Ankara University)

Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives

January 4, 2021

14 / 21

## 8.5. Integration of Rational Functions by Partial Fractions

- The method of rewriting rational functions as a sum of simpler fractions is called **the method of partial fractions**. It consists of finding constants  $A$  and  $B$  such that

$$\frac{5x - 3}{x^2 - 2x - 3} = \frac{A}{x + 1} + \frac{B}{x - 3}.$$

- Now pretend for the moment that we do not know what  $A$  and  $B$ .
- The fractions  $\frac{A}{x+1}$  and  $\frac{B}{x-3}$  are called **partial fractions** because their denominators are only part of the original denominator.
- We call  $A$  and  $B$  **undetermined coefficients** until suitable values for them have been found.

(Ankara University) Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives January 4, 2021 15 / 21

## 8.5. Integration of Rational Functions by Partial Fractions



How do we find  $A$  and  $B$ ?

- General Description of the Method** To write a rational function  $f(x) / g(x)$  as a sum of partial fractions depends on the following:
  - The degree of  $f(x)$  must be less than the degree of  $g(x)$ . That is, the fraction must be proper. If it isn't, divide  $f(x)$  by  $g(x)$  and work with the remainder term.
  - Find the factors of  $g(x)$ . Theoretically, any polynomial with real coefficients can be written as a product of real linear factors and real quadratic factors. Sometimes, the factors may be hard to find.

(Ankara University) Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives January 4, 2021 16 / 21

## 8.5. Integration of Rational Functions by Partial Fractions

- **Method of Partial Fractions When  $f(x) / g(x)$  is Proper**

Consider that we don't know the factors of  $g(x)$ . A quadratic polynomial is irreducible if it can not be written as the product of two linear factors with real coefficients. That is, the polynomial has no real roots.

- 1. Let  $x - r$  be a linear factor of  $g(x)$ . Suppose that  $(x - r)^m$  is the highest power of  $x - r$  that divides  $g(x)$ . Then, to this factor, assign the sum of the  $m$  partial fractions:

$$\frac{A_1}{x - r} + \frac{A_2}{(x - r)^2} + \cdots + \frac{A_m}{(x - r)^m}.$$

- Do this for each distinct linear factor of  $g(x)$ . What does happen whenever  $g(x) = (x - r_1)(x - r_2) \cdots (x - r_m)$ ?

## 8.5. Integration of Rational Functions by Partial Fractions

- 2. Let  $x^2 + px + q$  be an irreducible quadratic factor of  $g(x)$  so that  $x^2 + px + q$  has no real roots. Suppose that  $(x^2 + px + q)^n$  is the highest power of this factor that divides  $g(x)$ . Then, to this factor, assign the sum of the  $n$  partial fractions:

$$\frac{B_1x + C_1}{x^2 + px + q} + \frac{B_2x + C_2}{(x^2 + px + q)^2} + \cdots + \frac{B_nx + C_n}{(x^2 + px + q)^n}.$$

- Do this for each quadratic factor of  $g(x)$ . What does happen whenever  $g(x) = (x^2 + px + q)(x^2 + ax + b)$  whenever both of the polynomials are irreducible?

## 8.5. Integration of Rational Functions by Partial Fractions

- 3. Set the original fraction  $f(x) / g(x)$  equal to the sum of all these partial fractions. Clear the resulting equation of fractions and arrange the terms in decreasing powers of  $x$ . What does happen whenever  $g(x) = (x - r)(x^2 + px + q)$  whenever  $x^2 + px + q$  is irreducible?
- 4. Equate the coefficients of corresponding powers of  $x$  and solve the resulting equations for the undetermined coefficients.

(Ankara University) Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives January 4, 2021 19 / 21

## 8.5. Integration of Rational Functions by Partial Fractions

Factors in denominator

$$ax + b$$

$$(ax + b)^n$$

$ax^2 + bx + c$  (irreducible)

$$(ax^2 + bx + c)^m$$

Terms in Partial Fraction Decomposition

$$\frac{A}{ax+b}$$

$$\frac{A_1}{ax+b} + \frac{A_2}{(ax+b)^2} + \cdots + \frac{A_n}{(ax+b)^n}$$

$$\frac{Ax+B}{ax^2+bx+c}$$

$$\frac{A_1x+B_1}{ax^2+bx+c} + \frac{A_2x+B_2}{(ax^2+bx+c)^2} + \cdots + \frac{A_mx+B_m}{(ax^2+bx+c)^m}$$

### Integration of Irrational Functions

1. For  $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{ax^2 + bx + c}}$ , if  $b^2 - 4ac > 0$  and  $a < 0$ ,  $ax^2 + bx + c$  can be written in the form  $k^2 - u^2$  where  $k$  is a constant and  $u$  is a linear expression, and if  $b^2 - 4ac > 0$  and  $a > 0$ ,  $ax^2 + bx + c$  can be written in the form  $u^2 - p$  where  $a$  is a constant and  $u$  is a linear expression.

2.

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{mx + n}{\sqrt{ax^2 + bx + c}} dx &= \frac{m}{2a} \int \frac{2ax + 2a\frac{n}{m}}{\sqrt{ax^2 + bx + c}} dx \\ &= \frac{m}{2a} \int \frac{2ax + b}{\sqrt{ax^2 + bx + c}} dx \\ &\quad + \left(n - \frac{mb}{2a}\right) \int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{ax^2 + bx + c}}\end{aligned}$$

and handle with it by using 1.