

- MLP assignments are ALL reopened. They close the night before the final (Wednesday night).
- FINAL! is next Thursday, in class. Covers §3.10-5.5.
- one more quiz next week, probably Tuesday

5.5 Substitution Rule

Idea: Suppose we have $F(g(x))$, where F is an antiderivative of f . Then

$$\frac{d}{dx} [F(g(x))] = F'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x) = f(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$$

and $\int f(g(x)) \cdot g'(x) dx = F(g(x)) + C$

Substitution Rule for Indefinite Integrals

Let $u = g(x)$, where g' is continuous on an interval, and let f be continuous on the corresponding range of g . On that interval,

$$\int f(g(x))g'(x) dx = \int f(u) du.$$

u -Substitution is the Chain Rule, backwards.

Example

Evaluate $\int 8x \cos(4x^2 + 3) dx$.

Solution: Look for a function whose derivative also appears.

$$u(x) = 4x^2 + 3$$

$$\text{and } u'(x) = \frac{du}{dx} = 8x$$

$$\implies du = 8x dx.$$

Now rewrite the integral and evaluate. Replace u at the end with its expression in terms of x .

$$\begin{aligned}\int 8x \cos(4x^2 + 3) \, dx &= \int \cos(\underbrace{4x^2 + 3}_u) \underbrace{8x \, dx}_{du} \\ &= \int \cos u \, du \\ &= \sin u + C \\ &= \sin(4x^2 + 3) + C\end{aligned}$$

We can check the answer – by the Chain Rule,

$$\frac{d}{dx} (\sin(4x^2 + 3) + C) = 8x \cos(4x^2 + 3).$$

Procedure for Substitution Rule (Change of Variables)

1. Given an indefinite integral involving a composite function $f(g(x))$, identify an inner function $u = g(x)$ such that a constant multiple of $g'(x)$ appears in the integrand.
2. Substitute $u = g(x)$ and $du = g'(x) dx$ in the integral.
3. Evaluate the new indefinite integral with respect to u .
4. Write the result in terms of x using $u = g(x)$.

Warning: Not all integrals yield to the Substitution Rule.

Exercise

Evaluate the following integrals. Check your work by differentiating each of your answers.

1. $\int \sin^{10} x \cos x \, dx$

2. $-\int \frac{\csc x \cot x}{1 + \csc x} \, dx$

3. $\int \frac{1}{(10x - 3)^2} \, dx$

4. $\int (3x^2 + 8x + 5)^8 (3x + 4) \, dx$

Variations on Substitution Rule

There are times when the u -substitution is not obvious or that more work must be done.

Example

Evaluate $\int \frac{x^2}{(x+1)^4} dx$.

Solution: Let $u = x + 1$. Then $x = u - 1$ and $du = dx$. Hence,

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

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

Exercise

Check it.

This type of strategy works, usually, on problems where u can be written as a linear function of x .

Substitution Rule for Definite Integrals

We can use the Substitution Rule for Definite Integrals in two different ways:

1. Use the Substitution Rule to find an antiderivative F , and then use the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus to evaluate $F(b) - F(a)$.
2. Alternatively, once you have changed variables from x to u , you may also change the limits of integration and complete the integration with respect to u . Specifically, if $u = g(x)$, the lower limit $x = a$ is replaced by $u = g(a)$ and the upper limit $x = b$ is replaced by $u = g(b)$.

The second option is typically more efficient and should be used whenever possible.

Example

Evaluate $\int_0^4 \frac{x}{\sqrt{9+x^2}} dx$.

Solution: Let $u = 9 + x^2$. Then $du = 2x dx$. Because we have changed the variable of integration from x to u , the limits of integration must also be expressed in terms of u . Recall, u is a function of x (the $g(x)$ in the Chain Rule). For this example,

$$x = 0 \implies u(0) = 9 + 0^2 = 9$$

$$x = 4 \implies u(4) = 9 + 4^2 = 25$$

We had $u = 9 + x^2$ and $du = 2x \, dx \implies \frac{1}{2}du = x \, dx$. So:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^4 \frac{x}{\sqrt{9+x^2}} \, dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int_9^{25} \frac{du}{\sqrt{u}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{u^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \bigg|_9^{25} \\ &= \sqrt{25} - \sqrt{9} \\ &= 5 - 3 = 2.\end{aligned}$$

Exercise

Evaluate $\int_0^2 \frac{2x}{(x^2 + 1)^2} dx$.

5.5 Book Problems

9-39 (odds), 53-63 (odds)