



Exploring Substitution

I. Introduction

We use the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, Part 2 to evaluate a definite integral. If f is continuous on $[a, b]$ and F is any antiderivative of f (that is $F' = f$), then $\int_a^b f(x) dx = F(b) - F(a)$. But this is very limiting as we quickly run out of functions with “known” antiderivatives. How do we integrate more interesting functions such as $\int \frac{dx}{x \ln x}$ or $\int_0^2 5x(x^2 + 1)^6 dx$? These integrals each have a form that allows us to use the *substitution method or rule* for evaluation. The substitution method for integration is frequently used to integrate functions. It involves introducing a change in variable. This might sound as though we’re creating a more complicated integral but in fact, the change in variable creates a *simpler* integral with a known antiderivative.

The Substitution Rule: If $u = g(x)$ is a differentiable function whose range is an interval I and f is continuous on I , then

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

The integral on the left is the product of a composite function and the derivative of the “inner” part of that composite function. The substitution rule is often referred to as “the chain rule in reverse.” Use the substitution, $u = g(x)$ and show (mathematically) that the integrals in the substitution rule are equal.

II. A Simple Example

Evaluate: $\int \sqrt{1 - 5x} dx$. Here, the integrand is a composite function with the “inner” function, $g(x) = 1 - 5x$.

The “outer” function is the square root. Let $u = 1 - 5x$ and find the derivative $\frac{du}{dx}$. Use the expressions for u and du to make substitutions in $\int \sqrt{1 - 5x} dx$ and create a simpler integral in u .

III. Another Substitution Example

Evaluate $\int x\sqrt{x+3} dx$. Here, we see the integrand still has a “leftover” factor containing x after our u and du substitutions. Solve for x using the u substitution equation to find a substitution for this expression in x .

IV. Substitution Method for Definite Integral

Here, you have two choices. 1. Evaluate the corresponding *indefinite* integral, then use the Evaluation Theorem (FTC, Part 2). 2. Change the limits of integration to corresponding u -values and proceed (without going back to the original variable). Method 2 often leads to simpler calculations.

The Substitution Rule for Definite Integrals: If g' is continuous on $[a, b]$ and f is continuous on the range of

$$u = g(x), \text{ then } \int_a^b f(g(x))g'(x)dx = \int_{g(a)}^{g(b)} f(u)du$$

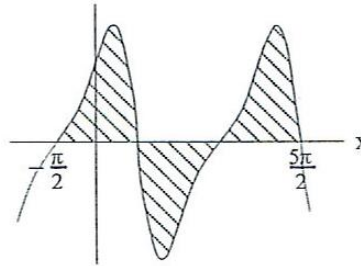
Evaluate $\int_0^{\pi/2} e^{-\cos\theta} \sin\theta d\theta$

V. Graphical Interpretation of Substitution

In the substitution process, we take an integral written in one variable (usually x) and convert it to a simpler integral written in another variable (usually u .) This process is common in mathematics. It is known as a change in variable or “transformation”: it is taking a problem and “mapping” it to another form. In the context of the mathematical “space” of a problem, the substitution method takes an integral written in “ x -space” and transforms it to one written in “ u -space.”

Consider the definite integral $\int_{-\pi/2}^{5\pi/2} 4e^{\sin x} \cos x \, dx$. Graphically, this definite integral represents the area under

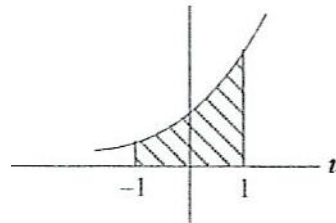
$4e^{\sin x} \cos x$ on $\left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{5\pi}{2}\right]$. In x -space, the area looks like:



We make the substitutions $u = \sin x$ and $du = \cos x \, dx$ and then change the lower and upper limits:

$\begin{matrix} x = -\frac{\pi}{2}, & u = 1 \\ x = \frac{5\pi}{2}, & u = -1 \end{matrix}$ to transform the definite integral to: $\int_{-1}^1 4e^u \, du$. Graphically, this definite integral represents

the area under $4e^u$ on $[-1, 1]$. In u -space, the area looks like:



In mapping the problem from the x -space to the u -space, the definite integral got simpler which means the area represented by the definite integral also got simpler. The quantity of shaded area remains the same. This is easily verified using the Integral function on your calculator. Enter $Y_1 = 4e^{\sin x} \cos x$ and $Y_2 = 4e^x$ into the

calculator. Compare the values of $fnInt\left(Y_1, x, -\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{5\pi}{2}\right)$ and $fnInt(Y_2, x, -1, 1)$. We find:

$$\int_{-\pi/2}^{5\pi/2} 4e^{\sin x} \cos x \, dx = \int_{-1}^1 4e^u \, du \approx 9.4016$$

Evaluate each integral clearly indicating the substitution(s) used. You may use your textbook, lab, notes and peer collaboration. You must submit your own individual assignment, however. No calculators unless noted.

1. $\int \frac{\sec^2\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)}{x^2} dx$

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

3. $\int_{\pi/6}^{\pi/3} \sin x \cos^2 x dx$ *First change the limits of integration as in the substitution rule for definite integrals then*

evaluate in the new variable with the corresponding upper and lower limits (do not return to the expression in x). Final solution should be a simplified, exact value; do not use decimal answers.

4. (a) Evaluate $\int_4^9 \frac{(\sqrt{x}-1)^2}{2\sqrt{x}} dx$, using the substitution method. Clearly show all your substitutions and your changed limits of integration.

(b) Sketch and shade the exact areas represented by both the original integral and your “transformed” integral. You may use your calculator to get the graphs. Clearly label and number the axes to reflect the area over which each integral is being evaluated.



(c) Use the *fnInt* function on your calculator to compare the values of the two integrals.

5. Application: A spherical rubber ball is being filled with air at a constant rate. At time, $t = 0$ the radius of the ball is 1 cm. ($V = \text{volume}$ in cm^3 , $r = \text{radius}$ in cm, and $t = \text{time}$ in minutes.)

(a) Use $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$. Find the formula for the rate of change in volume with respect to radius, $\frac{dV}{dr}$.

(b) Find the formula that models the rate of change in the volume of the ball with respect to time, $\frac{dV}{dt}$. (Note, radius is also a function of time so use *implicit differentiation*. Your formula should contain both r and $\frac{dr}{dt}$)

(c) The radius of the ball is increasing at a rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ cm per minute. Rewrite the rate of change formula in (b) explicitly in terms of t .

(d) How much did the volume of the ball increase between $t = 2$ minutes and $t = 4$ minutes? Although this can be found without calculus, use integration to solve the problem.