

§8.3–Trigonometric Substitution

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Outline

1 Trigonometric substitution

Example

We will learn techniques for solving integrals that contain roots of quadratic functions of x . Here are some examples of the types of integrals we will encounter.

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- $\int (9 - x^2)^{1/2} dx$
- $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{(1 + x^2)^2} dx$
- $\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 16}} dx$

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- For integrals containing the form $\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$, make the substitution

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- Under this substitution, $dx = a \cos(\theta) d\theta$ and

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{a^2 - x^2} &= \sqrt{a^2 - a^2 \sin^2(\theta)} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2(1 - \sin^2(\theta))} \\ &= a \cos(\theta).\end{aligned}$$

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Find the area enclosed by the ellipse: $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$.

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- Under this substitution, $dx = a \sec^2(\theta) d\theta$ and

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{a^2 + x^2} &= \sqrt{a^2 + a^2 \tan^2(\theta)} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2(1 + \tan^2(\theta))} \\ &= a \sec(\theta).\end{aligned}$$

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$$x = a \sec(\theta), \quad 0 < \theta < \pi/2 \quad \text{or} \quad \pi < \theta < 3\pi/2.$$

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- For integrals containing the form $\sqrt{x^2 - a^2}$, make the substitution

$$x = a \sec(\theta), \quad 0 < \theta < \pi/2 \quad \text{or} \quad \pi < \theta < 3\pi/2.$$

- Under this substitution, $dx = a \sec(\theta) \tan(\theta) d\theta$ and

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} &= \sqrt{a^2 \sec^2(\theta) - a^2} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2(\sec^2(\theta) - 1)} \\ &= a \tan(\theta).\end{aligned}$$

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- $\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 16}} dx$

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Solve the integrals:

- $\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 16}} dx$
- $\int_3^6 \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 9}}{x} dx$