

6.5: The substitution rule

The Substitution Rule for indefinite integrals: If $u = g(x)$ is a differentiable function, then

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

Note that $du = g'(x)dx$ is differential.

The correct substitution depends on the integral:

$\int (g(x))^n g'(x) dx$	$\int e^{g(x)} g'(x) dx$	$\int \frac{g'(x)}{g(x)} dx$
$\int \cos(g(x)) g'(x) dx$	$\int \sin(g(x)) g'(x) dx$	$\int \sec^2(g(x)) g'(x) dx$
$\int \sec(g(x)) \tan(g(x)) g'(x) dx$	$\int \csc^2(g(x)) g'(x) dx$	$\int \csc(g(x)) \cot(g(x)) g'(x) dx$

EXAMPLE 1. Evaluate each of the following integrals:

1. $\int x(x^2 + 2012)^{2012} dx$

2. $\int 18x^2 \sqrt[4]{6x^3 + 5} dx$

3. $\int \cos(3x) \sin^{10}(3x) dx$

4. $\int (8x - 1)e^{4x^2 - x} dx$

5. $\int \sec^2(5y)(5 - \tan(5y))^5 \, dy$

6. $\int \frac{x}{7x^2 + 12} \, dx$

7. $\int \tan x \, dx$

The Substitution Rule for definite integrals: If $u = g(x)$ is a differentiable function, then

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

EXAMPLE 2. Evaluate each of the following integrals:

1. $\int_{e^2}^{e^6} \frac{(\ln x)^4}{x} \, dx$

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

$$3. \int_0^{0.5} (\sin(\pi y) - e^y) \, dy$$