

3.3. Trig Substitution

Tuesday, October 2, 2018 8:02 AM

Goal: Find integrals when the integrands contain radicals expressions by using trig substitution.

Strategy for trig substitution

Expression

$$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$$

Trig Sub

$$x = a \sin \theta$$

$$-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Identity

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

$$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2}$$

$$x = a \tan \theta$$

$$-\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

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

$$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2}$$

$$x = a \sec \theta$$

$$0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \text{ or}$$

$$\pi \leq \theta < \frac{3\pi}{2}$$

$$\sqrt{a^2 \sec^2 \theta - a^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{a^2 (\sec^2 \theta - 1)}$$

$$= |a| \sqrt{\tan^2 \theta}$$

$$= |a| \tan \theta$$

E.g. Find $\int \sqrt{9 - x^2} dx$

Trig Sub: $x = 3 \sin \theta$; $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$

$$dx = 3 \cos \theta d\theta$$

Plug in: $\int \sqrt{9 - 9 \sin^2 \theta} \cdot 3 \cos \theta d\theta$

$$= \int \sqrt{9(1 - \sin^2 \theta)} \cdot 3 \cos \theta d\theta$$

$$= \int 3 \cdot \cos \theta \cdot 3 \cos \theta d\theta = 9 \int \cos^2 \theta d\theta$$

Power Reduction

$$= \frac{9}{2} \int [1 + \cos(2\theta)] d\theta$$

$$= \frac{9}{2} \left(\theta + \frac{\sin(2\theta)}{2} \right) + C$$

$$= \frac{9}{2} \theta + \frac{9}{4} \sin(2\theta) + C$$

* How do we get back to x

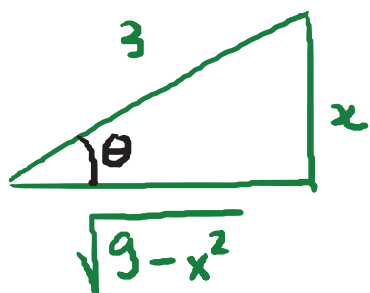
$$x = 3 \sin \theta \rightarrow \sin \theta = \frac{x}{3} \rightarrow \theta = \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{3}\right)$$

$$= \frac{9}{2} \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{3}\right) + \frac{9}{4} \sin\left(2 \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{3}\right)\right) + C$$

↪ further simplification

$$\sin(2\theta) = 2 \boxed{\sin \theta} \cos \theta = \frac{2}{9} x \cdot \sqrt{9 - x^2}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{x}{3} = \sin \theta} \rightarrow \frac{x}{3}$$



$$\boxed{\cos \theta = \frac{\sqrt{9-x^2}}{3}}$$

Completely simplified answer:

$$\boxed{\frac{9}{2} \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{3}\right) + \frac{1}{2} x \cdot \sqrt{9-x^2} + C}$$

Process of Trig Sub:

① Make the appropriate substitution

② Get an integral in terms of $\theta \rightarrow$ evaluate the integral.

③ Use identities or geometry to express the answer in terms of x . (inverse trig (trig) can always be simplified)

E.g. $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{4+x^2}}$

E.g. $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2-a^2}}$; a is a constant and $a > 0$.

E.g. $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{4+x^2}}$

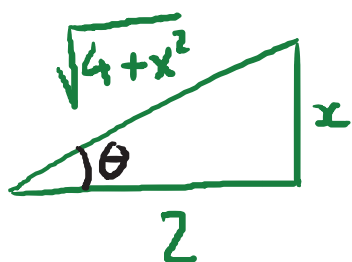
let $x = 2 \tan \theta$; $-\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$

$dx = 2 \sec^2 \theta d\theta$

$= \int \frac{\cancel{2 \sec^2 \theta}}{\cancel{2 \sec \theta}} d\theta = \int \sec \theta d\theta$

Formula $= \ln |\sec \theta + \tan \theta| + C$

$$x = 2 \tan \theta \rightarrow \tan \theta = \frac{x}{2} = \frac{\text{opp.}}{\text{adj.}}$$



$$\sec \theta = \frac{1}{\cos \theta} = \frac{\text{hyp.}}{\text{adj.}} = \frac{\sqrt{4+x^2}}{2}$$

Final Answer:

$$\ln \left| \frac{\sqrt{4+x^2}}{2} + \frac{x}{2} \right| + C$$

E.g.

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

Let $x = a \sec \theta$, $0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$;

$\pi \leq \theta < \frac{3\pi}{2}$

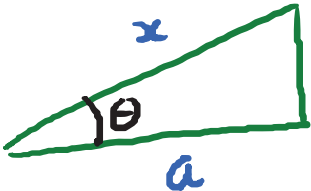
$$dx = a \sec \theta \tan \theta d\theta$$

$$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} = \sqrt{a^2(\sec^2 \theta - 1)} = a \tan \theta$$

$$\int \frac{\cancel{a \sec \theta} \cancel{\tan \theta} d\theta}{\cancel{a \tan \theta}} = \int \sec \theta d\theta$$

$$= \ln |\sec \theta + \tan \theta| + C$$

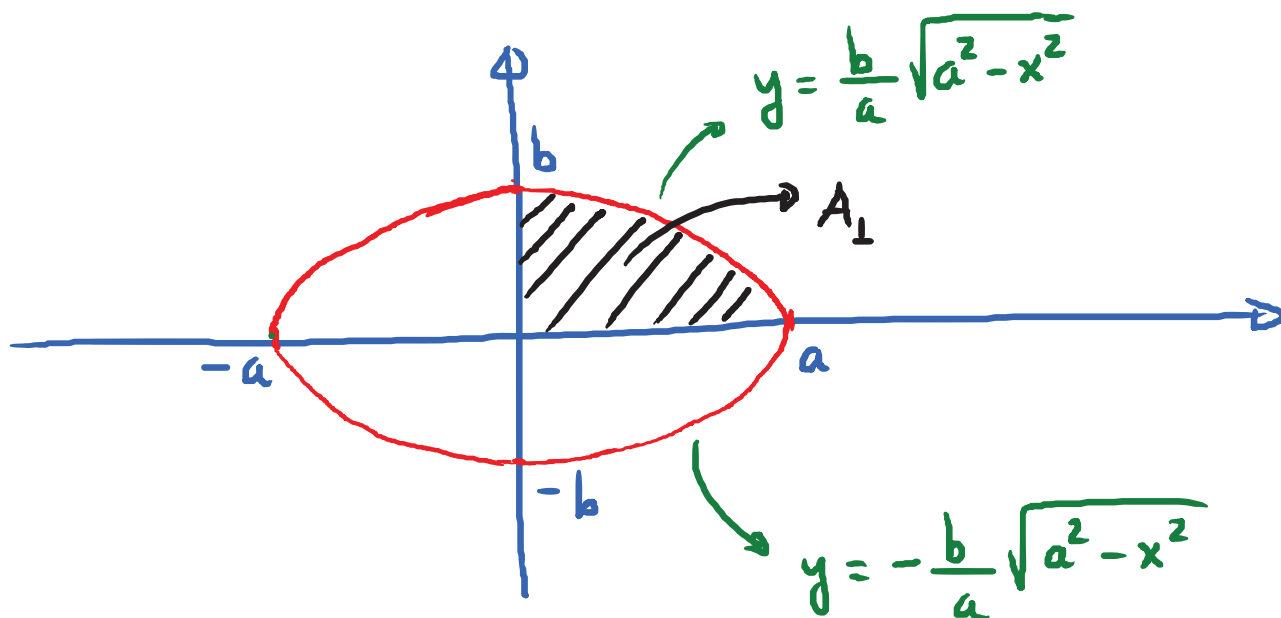
$$x = a \sec \theta \rightarrow \sec \theta = \frac{x}{a}$$



$$\tan \theta = \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - a^2}}{a}$$

Answer: $\ln \left| \frac{x}{a} + \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - a^2}}{a} \right| + C$

E.g.



Ellipse: $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1.$

Find the area of this ellipse.