

— with Life Science Applications  
**The Substitution Rule**  
(Section 7.1)

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## Section 7.1: The Substitution Rule

The substitution rule is the chain rule in integral form.

We therefore begin by recalling the chain rule.

Suppose that we wish to differentiate

$$f(x) = (6x^2 + 3)^3.$$

This is clearly a situation in which we need to use the chain rule.

We set  $u = 6x^2 + 3$  so that  $f(u) = u^3$ .

The chain rule, using Leibniz notation, tells us that

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \frac{df}{du} \frac{du}{dx} = 3u^2 \cdot (6 \cdot 2x) = 3(6x^2 + 3)^2(12x).$$

Reversing these steps and integrating along the way, we get

$$\int 3(6x^2 + 3)^2(12x) dx = \int 3u^2 du = u^3 + C = (6x^2 + 3)^3 + C.$$

In the first step, we substituted  $u$  for  $6x^2 + 3$  and used  $du = 12x dx$ .

This substitution simplified the integrand.

At the end, we substitute back  $6x^2 + 3$  for  $u$  to get the final answer in terms of  $x$ .

We summarize this discussion, by stating the following **general principle**:

### Substitution Rule for Indefinite Integrals

If  $u = g(x)$ , then

$$\int \underbrace{f[g(x)]}_u \underbrace{g'(x) dx}_{du} = \int f(u) du.$$

**Example 1**

Evaluate the indefinite integral  $\int \cos x \sin x \, dx$

- by using the substitution  $u = \cos x$ ;
- by using the substitution  $u = \sin x$ ;
- by using the trigonometric identity  $\sin(2x) = 2 \sin x \cos x$ .

Compare your answers.

Consider the indefinite integral  $\int \cos x \cdot \sin x \, dx$ .

(I) If we set  $u = \cos x$  then  $\frac{du}{dx} = -\sin x$  so that

$$\underline{\sin x \cdot dx = -du}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Thus: } \int \underbrace{\cos x}_u \cdot \underbrace{\sin x \, dx}_{-du} &= \int -u \, du = -\int u \, du = -\frac{1}{2}u^2 + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}(\cos x)^2 + C_1 = \underline{\underline{-\frac{1}{2}\cos^2 x + C_1}} \end{aligned}$$

(II) If we set  $u = \sin x$  then  $\frac{du}{dx} = \cos x$  so that

$$\underline{\cos x \, dx = du}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Thus: } \int \underbrace{\cos x}_{du} \cdot \underbrace{\sin x}_u \, dx &= \int u \, du = \frac{1}{2}u^2 + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(\sin x)^2 + C_2 = \underline{\underline{\frac{1}{2}\sin^2 x + C_2}} \end{aligned}$$

Notice that the 2 answers are consistent as we know that there is the trigonometric identity

$$\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x = 1 \quad . \quad \text{Thus}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2} \cos^2 x + C_1 \quad \underset{\text{first solution}}{=} \quad = -\frac{1}{2} (1 - \sin^2 x) + C_1 = \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 x + \underbrace{C_1 - \frac{1}{2}}_{C_2}$$

(III) Recall the trig. identity  $\boxed{\cos x \sin x = \frac{1}{2} \sin(2x)}$ . Thus

$$\int \cos x \sin x \, dx = \int \frac{1}{2} \sin(2x) \, dx \quad . \quad \text{Set } \underline{u = 2x} \text{ so that } \underline{du = 2 \, dx}$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{2} \sin(u) \cdot \frac{1}{2} du = \int \frac{1}{4} \sin(u) \, du = \frac{1}{4} \int \sin(u) \, du$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} (-\cos(u)) + C_3 = \underline{\underline{-\frac{1}{4} \cos(2x) + C_3}}$$

This answer is consistent with the others:  $\boxed{\cos(2x) = \cos^2 x - \sin^2 x}$

## Example 2

Evaluate the indefinite integral  $\int (2x + 1)e^{x^2+x} dx$ .

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

Set  $u = x^2 + x$  so that  $\frac{du}{dx} = 2x + 1$  ;

hence  $(2x+1) dx = du$  .

Thus  $\int (2x+1) e^{x^2+x} \cdot dx = \int e^u du =$   
 $= e^u + C = \boxed{e^{x^2+x} + C}$

Substitute back



## Substitution Rule for Definite Integrals

Part II of the FTC says that when we evaluate a definite integral, we must find an antiderivative of the integrand and then evaluate the antiderivative at the limits of integration.

When we use the substitution  $u = g(x)$  to find an antiderivative of an integrand, the antiderivative will be given in terms of  $u$  at first.

To complete the calculation, we can proceed in either of two ways:

- (1) we can leave the antiderivative in terms of  $u$  and change the limits of integration according to  $u = g(x)$ ;
- (2) we can substitute  $g(x)$  for  $u$  in the antiderivative and then evaluate the antiderivative at the limits of integration in terms of  $x$ .

# Substitution Rule for Definite Integrals

The first method (1) is the more common one, and we summarize the procedure as follows:

## Substitution Rule for Definite Integrals

If  $u = g(x)$ , then

$$\int_a^b \underbrace{f[g(x)]}_u \underbrace{g'(x) dx}_{du} = \int_{g(a)}^{g(b)} f(u) du.$$

**Example 3** (Online Homework # 6)

Evaluate the definite integral  $\int_1^{e^5} \frac{dx}{x(1 + \ln x)}$ .

$$\int_1^{e^5} \frac{dx}{x(1+\ln x)} = \text{rewrite it as} = \int_1^{e^5} \frac{1}{(1+\ln x)} \cdot \frac{1}{x} dx$$

and notice that if we set  $u = 1 + \ln x$  then  $\frac{du}{dx} = \frac{1}{x}$ .

Thus the integral becomes

$$\int \underbrace{\frac{1}{(1+\ln x)}}_{\frac{1}{u}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{1}{x} dx}_{du} = \int \frac{1}{u} du.$$

We also need to change the limits of integration!

$$x=1 \rightsquigarrow u=1+\ln x \rightsquigarrow u=1+\ln(1)=1$$

$$x=e^5 \rightsquigarrow u=1+\ln x \rightsquigarrow u=1+\ln(e^5)=1+5=6$$

$$\therefore \int_1^6 \frac{1}{u} \cdot du = \left. \ln|u| \right|_1^6 = \ln(6) - \underbrace{\ln(1)}_{=0} = \boxed{\ln(6)} \approx \underline{\underline{1.79176}}$$

## Example 4 (Online Homework # 8)

Consider the indefinite integral  $\int \frac{3}{3 + e^x} dx$ .

- The most appropriate substitution to simplify this integral is  $u = f(x)$  where  $f(x) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .

We then have  $dx = g(u)du$  where  $g(u) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .

(**Hint:** you need to back substitute for  $x$  in terms of  $u$  for this part.)

- After substituting into the original integral we obtain  $\int h(u) du$  where  $h(u) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .

- To evaluate this integral rewrite the numerator as  $3 = u - (u - 3)$ .

Simplify, then integrate, thus obtaining  $\int h(u) du = H(u)$  where

$H(u) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + C$ .

**Example 4, cont.ed** (Online Homework # 8)

- After substituting back for  $u$  we obtain our final answer

$$\int \frac{3}{3 + e^x} dx = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + C.$$

(1) Consider  $\int \frac{3}{3+e^x} dx$  we try the following substitution

$u = \underline{3+e^x}$ . (This is our  $f(x)$ .) Thus  $\frac{du}{dx} = e^x$  or

$du = e^x dx$ . Notice that  $\underline{e^x = u-3}$  so that

becomes  $du = (u-3) dx \rightsquigarrow \boxed{dx = \frac{1}{u-3} du}$

Thus  $g(u) = \frac{1}{u-3}$ .

(2) After substituting we obtain

$$\int \frac{3}{3+e^x} dx = \int \frac{3}{u} \cdot \frac{1}{(u-3)} \cdot du = \int \underbrace{\frac{3}{u(u-3)}}_{h(u)} du$$

(3) We are suggested to rewrite the numerator as

$$3 = u - (u-3)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Therefore } \int \frac{3}{u(u-3)} du &= \int \frac{u - (u-3)}{u(u-3)} du = \\
 &= \int \left[ \frac{u}{u(u-3)} - \frac{u-3}{u(u-3)} \right] du = \int \left[ \frac{1}{u-3} - \frac{1}{u} \right] du \\
 &= \ln|u-3| - \ln|u| + C = \underbrace{\ln \left| \frac{u-3}{u} \right|}_{H(u)} + C
 \end{aligned}$$

(4) after substituting back  $u = 3 + e^x$ , we obtain

$$\int \frac{3}{3+e^x} dx = \boxed{\ln \left| \frac{e^x}{3+e^x} \right| + C}$$

$$\underline{\underline{\text{or}}} \quad \underline{\underline{x - \ln(3+e^x) + C}}$$



**Example 5** (Online Homework # 9)

Consider the definite integral  $\int_0^1 x^2 \sqrt{5x + 6} dx$ .

- Then the most appropriate substitution to simplify this integral is  $u = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ . Then  $dx = f(x)du$  where  $f(x) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .
- After making the substitution and simplifying we obtain the integral

$$\int_a^b g(u) du$$

where  $g(u) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ ,  $a = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$  and  $b = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ .

- This definite integral has value =  $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .

(1) Consider  $\int_0^1 x^2 \sqrt{5x+6} dx$ . The most appropriate substitution seems to be  $u = 5x+6$  so that

$$\frac{du}{dx} = 5 \quad \text{or} \quad \boxed{dx = \frac{1}{5} du}$$

For the substitution notice that we also need to write  $x$  in terms of  $u$ !

$$u = 5x+6 \rightsquigarrow x = \frac{u-6}{5} \quad \text{Thus}$$

$$\int_0^1 x^2 \sqrt{5x+6} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= 5x+6 \\ dx &= \frac{1}{5} du \\ x &= \frac{u-6}{5} \end{aligned}$$

$$\int_6^{11} \left(\frac{u-6}{5}\right)^2 \sqrt{u} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{5} du\right)$$

$$\begin{cases} x=1 \rightsquigarrow u=5x+6 \rightsquigarrow u=11 \\ x=0 \rightsquigarrow u=5x+6 \rightsquigarrow u=6 \end{cases}$$

for the limits of integration

(2) So, after making the substitutions we obtain:

$$\int_6^{11} \left(\frac{u-6}{5}\right)^2 \cdot \sqrt{u} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{5} du\right) = \int_6^{11} \frac{1}{125} (u-6)^2 \cdot \sqrt{u} \cdot du$$

$$= \int_6^{11} \frac{1}{125} (u^2 - 12u + 36) \sqrt{u} \cdot du = \int_6^{11} \underbrace{\frac{1}{125} (u^{5/2} - 12u^{3/2} + 36u^{1/2})}_{g(u)} du$$

multiply out 6

$$(3) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{125} \left( \frac{2}{7} u^{7/2} - \frac{24}{5} u^{5/2} + 36 \cdot \frac{2}{3} u^{3/2} \right)}_{\text{anti derivative}} \Bigg|_6^{11}$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{125} \cdot (210.5583 - 80.6232) \approx \frac{129.9351}{125}$$

$$\approx \boxed{1.03948}$$

**Example 6** (similar to Example 5)

Consider the definite integral  $\int_1^2 x^5 \sqrt{x^3 + 2} dx$ .

- Then the most appropriate substitution to simplify this integral is  $u = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ . Then  $dx = f(x)du$  where  $f(x) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .
- After making the substitution and simplifying we obtain the integral

$$\int_a^b g(u) du$$

where  $g(u) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ ,  $a = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$  and  $b = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ .

- This definite integral has value =  $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .

This example  $\int_1^2 x^5 \sqrt{x^3+2} dx$  is similar to Example 5

Set  $\boxed{u = x^3 + 2}$ ; so that  $\frac{du}{dx} = 3x^2$  or  $\boxed{x^2 dx = \frac{1}{3} du}$

Thus we can rewrite the integral as:

$$\int_1^2 x^5 \sqrt{x^3+2} dx = \int_1^2 \underbrace{x^3}_{u-2} \cdot \underbrace{\sqrt{x^3+2}}_{\sqrt{u}} \cdot \underbrace{x^2 dx}_{\frac{1}{3} du}$$

Thus

$$= \int_3^{10} \frac{1}{3} (u-2) \sqrt{u} du$$

as  $x=1 \rightsquigarrow u=3$   
 $x=2 \rightsquigarrow u=10$

$$= \int_3^{10} \left( \frac{1}{3} u^{3/2} - \frac{2}{3} u^{1/2} \right) du = \left[ \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{5} u^{5/2} - \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{3} u^{3/2} \right]_3^{10}$$
$$\cong 28.109 - (-0.231) \cong \underline{\underline{28.34}}$$

**Example 7** (Online Homework # 11)

Consider the indefinite integral  $\int \frac{1}{3x + 7\sqrt{x}} dx$ .

- Then the most appropriate substitution to simplify this integral is  $u = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ . Then  $dx = f(x)du$  where  $f(x) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .
- After making the substitution and simplifying we obtain the integral

$$\int g(u) du$$

where  $g(u) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .

- This last integral is:  $= \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + C$ .  
(Leave out constant of integration from your answer.)
- After substituting back for  $u$  we obtain the following final form of the answer:  $= \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + C$ .

Consider the integral  $\int \frac{1}{3x+7\sqrt{x}} dx$ .

The idea to solve this integral is to notice that  $\frac{d}{dx}(\sqrt{x}) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$ . How does this help? Rewrite the integral as follows:

$$\int \frac{1}{3x+7\sqrt{x}} dx = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}(3\sqrt{x}+7)} dx$$

Now set  $\boxed{u = 3\sqrt{x} + 7}$ , so that  $\frac{du}{dx} = 3 \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$ .

Thus  $\boxed{dx = \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{x} du}$ . After making the

substitution we obtain:  $\int \underbrace{\frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{u}}_{g(u)} du$ .

$$= \frac{2}{3} \ln|u| + C = \boxed{\frac{2}{3} \ln|3\sqrt{x} + 7| + C}$$