



U-Substitution

The general form of an integrand which requires U-Substitution is $\int f(g(x))g'(x)dx$. This can be rewritten as $\int f(u)du$.

A big hint to use U-Substitution is that there is a composition of functions and there is some relation between two functions involved by way of derivatives.

Example 1

$$\int \sqrt{3x+2} dx$$

Let $u = 3x + 2$. Then $du = 3dx$ and thus $dx = \frac{1}{3}du$. We then consider $\int \sqrt{u}(\frac{1}{3})du$.

$$\frac{1}{3} \int \sqrt{u} du = \frac{1}{3} \frac{u^{3/2}}{3/2} + C = \frac{2}{9} u^{3/2} + C$$

Next we must make sure to have everything in terms of x like we had in the beginning of the problem. From our previous choice of u , we know $u = 3x + 2$.

So our final answer is $\frac{2}{9}(3x+2)^{3/2} + C$.

For indefinite integrals, always make sure to switch back to the variable you started with.

Example 2

$$\int_1^2 x^3 \cos(x^4 + 3) dx$$

Let $u = x^4 + 3$. So $du = 4x^3 dx$. Then $\frac{1}{4} du = x^3 dx$

From here we have two options. We can either switch back to x later and plug in our bounds after or we can change our integral bounds along with our U-Substitution and solve.

Option 1:

If we do not change our bounds, we have $\int_a^b \frac{1}{4} \cos(u) du$. Note that we use a and b as placeholders for now.

$$\int_a^b \frac{1}{4} \cos(u) du = \frac{1}{4} \sin(u) \Big|_a^b$$

By substituting back for x using $u = x^4 + 3$, we have $\frac{1}{4} \sin(x^4 + 3) \Big|_1^2$.

Note, we can put our original bounds back once we have everything in terms of x . Thus we have $\frac{1}{4} \sin(2^4 + 3) - \frac{1}{4} \sin(1^4 + 3) = \frac{1}{4} \sin(19) - \frac{1}{4} \sin(4)$

Option 2:

If we change our bounds, we need $u = x^4 + 3$. If $x = 1$ then $u = 4$. If $x = 2$ then $u = 19$. Now our problem becomes:

$$\int_4^{19} \frac{1}{4} \cos(u) du = \frac{1}{4} \sin(u) \Big|_4^{19} = \frac{1}{4} \sin(19) - \frac{1}{4} \sin(4)$$

In both options we reach the same answer.

Example 3

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

Let $u = 1 + x^2$. Then $du = 2x dx$ and $\frac{1}{2} du = x dx$. Because we have more x 's than our substitution takes care of, we have an additional step. $u = 1 + x^2$ tells us that $x^2 = u - 1$.

$$\int \sqrt{1+x^2} x^5 dx = \int \sqrt{1+x^2} x^2 x^2 x dx = \int \sqrt{u}(u-1)(u-1) \frac{1}{2} du = \frac{1}{2} \int \sqrt{u}(u-1)^2 du$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int \sqrt{u}(u^2 - 2u + 1) du = \frac{1}{2} \int (u^{5/2} - 2u^{3/2} + u^{1/2}) du = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{u^{7/2}}{7/2} - 2 \frac{u^{5/2}}{5/2} + \frac{u^{3/2}}{3/2} \right] + C$$

$$= \frac{u^{7/2}}{7} - 2 \frac{u^{5/2}}{5} + \frac{u^{3/2}}{3} + C = \frac{(1+x^2)^{7/2}}{7} - 2 \frac{(1+x^2)^{5/2}}{5} + \frac{(1+x^2)^{3/2}}{3} + C$$



Integration by Parts

The general form of an integrand which requires integration by parts is $\int f(x)g'(x)dx$. Thus it has the form $\int f(x)g'(x)dx = f(x)g(x) - \int g(x)f'(x)dx$.

Alternatively, we can use $\int u dv = uv - \int v du$

Typically, when deciding which function is u and which is dv we want our u to be something whose derivative becomes easier to deal with.

Example 4

$$\int x \sin x dx$$

We choose our $u = x$ since it's derivative becomes easier than $\sin x$.

Then $u = x$, $du = dx$, $dv = \sin x dx$, and $v = -\cos x$. Following the formula, we have

$$\int u dv = uv - \int v du = x(-\cos x) - \int (-\cos x) dx = -x \cos x + \sin x + C$$

Example 5

$$\int \ln x dx$$

We choose $u = \ln x$ since $\ln x$ becomes easier to work with when we take its derivative. Note that the integrand has another function present, a constant of 1. We can rewrite the problem as $\int \ln x \cdot 1 dx$.

So $u = \ln x$, $du = \frac{1}{x}$, $dv = 1 dx$, and $v = x$.

$$\int u dv = uv - \int v du = \ln(x) \cdot x - \int x \cdot \frac{1}{x} dx = x \ln x - \int 1 dx = x \ln x - x + C$$

Example 6

$$\int t^2 e^t dt$$

Some problems, such as this one, require two steps of integration by parts. Looking at our functions, e^t , does not have an easier derivative or antiderivative to work with. So we choose $u = t^2$. Then $du = 2t dt$, $dv = e^t$, and $v = e^t$. Thus we have

$$\int u dv = uv - \int v du = t^2 e^t - \int e^t (2t) dt$$

The integral that results requires integration by parts once more. We focus on $\int e^t (2t) dt$.

For the next step we will use different variables just so we do not confuse them with the previous step.

Let $w = 2t$ for $\int w dz = wz - \int z dw$. Then $dw = 2 dt$, $dz = e^t$, and $z = e^t$.

$$\int w dz = wz - \int z dw = 2t e^t - \int e^t (2) dt = 2t e^t - 2e^t + C$$

Combining the two parts we have:

$$\int u dv = uv - \int v du = t^2 e^t - \int e^t (2t) dt = t^2 e^t - [2t e^t - 2e^t + C] = t^2 e^t - 2t e^t + 2e^t + C$$

