MATH 134 Calculus 2 with FUNdamentals

Section 5.8: Further Transcendental Functions

This section focuses on a few more integration formulas involving exponential and inverse trig functions. Here, the challenging aspect is not the new formulas, but rather making the correct u-substitution in order to convert the integrand into the required form.

The new integral formulas come from the corresponding formulas for the derivative:

1.
$$\int a^x dx = \frac{a^x}{\ln a} + c$$
 for any real number $a > 0$

2.
$$\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \, dx = \sin^{-1} x + c$$

3.
$$\int \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} dx = \tan^{-1} x + c$$

Note that in formula 1., if we choose a = e, then we obtain $\int e^x dx = e^x + c$ (as expected) because $\ln e = 1$.

Example 1: Evaluate $\int_0^{1/2} \frac{3}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx$.

Answer: Using formula 2., we have

$$\int_0^{1/2} \frac{3}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = 3\sin^{-1}(x) \Big|_0^{1/2} = 3(\sin^{-1}(1/2) - \sin^{-1}(0)) = 3(\pi/6 - 0) = \pi/2.$$

Example 2: Find $\int \frac{1}{9x^2 + 16} dx$ using the substitution $u = \frac{3x}{4}$.

Answer: The hard part here is that we cannot directly apply formula 3. because the denominator isn't in the correct form. The trick is to make a u-substitution so that the new integral can be evaluated with formula 3. Letting $u = \frac{3x}{4}$, we have $du = \frac{3}{4} dx$ or $dx = \frac{4}{3} du$. We also have

$$x = \frac{4u}{3} \implies 9x^2 + 16 = 9\frac{16u^2}{9} + 16 = 16(u^2 + 1).$$

Thus, in the u-variable, the integral transforms to

$$\int \frac{1}{16(u^2+1)} \cdot \frac{4}{3} du = \frac{1}{12} \int \frac{1}{u^2+1} du = \frac{1}{12} \tan^{-1} u + c = \frac{1}{12} \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{3x}{4}\right) + c.$$

In general, the following u-substitutions allow for successful applications of formulas 2 and 3:

• For integrals of the form
$$\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 - b^2 x^2}} dx$$
, use $u = \frac{bx}{a}$.

• For integrals of the form
$$\int \frac{1}{a^2x^2 + b^2} dx$$
, use $u = \frac{ax}{b}$.

Exercises:

1. Evaluate
$$\int_0^1 \frac{4}{x^2 + 1} dx.$$

2. Evaluate
$$\int_0^{1/2} 9^t dt$$

3. Evaluate
$$\int \frac{1}{1+36x^2} dx$$
 using the substitution $u = 6x$.

4. Evaluate
$$\int_0^{\frac{3}{2\sqrt{2}}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{9-4x^2}}$$
 using the substitution $u = \frac{2x}{3}$.

5. Evaluate
$$\int x^2 5^{x^3} dx$$
.

6. Evaluate
$$\int_0^{\sqrt{3}} \frac{x+1}{x^2+1} dx$$
. **Hint:** Split the integrand into two pieces.