

Section 8.4 Trigonometric Substitutions

When working with integrands that contain the following three expressions,

$$\sqrt{a^2 - u^2}, \sqrt{a^2 + u^2}, \text{ and } \sqrt{u^2 - a^2},$$

(difference of squares or sum of squares),

you should consider applying a trigonometric substitution technique. That is, re-write the integral using trigonometric functions based on a particular right triangle defined by the sides of u and a .

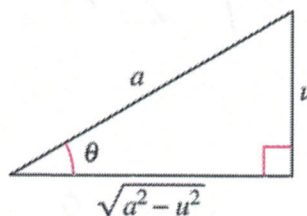
A critical component of this technique is to apply differentiation to our u -substitution function and solve for dx . You might notice that our examples, x is actually a function of θ , so we'll be solving for dx in terms of $d\theta$.

Trigonometric Substitution ($a > 0$)

1. For integrals involving $\sqrt{a^2 - u^2}$, let

$$u = a \sin \theta.$$

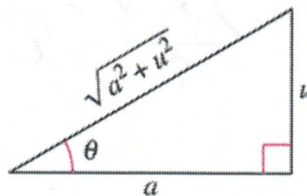
Then $\sqrt{a^2 - u^2} = a \cos \theta$, where
 $-\pi/2 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$.



2. For integrals involving $\sqrt{a^2 + u^2}$, let

$$u = a \tan \theta.$$

Then $\sqrt{a^2 + u^2} = a \sec \theta$, where
 $-\pi/2 < \theta < \pi/2$.

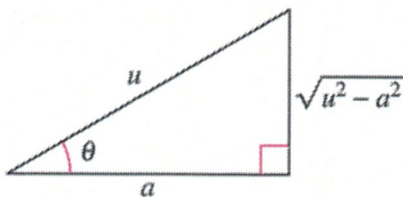


3. For integrals involving $\sqrt{u^2 - a^2}$, let

$$u = a \sec \theta.$$

Then $\sqrt{u^2 - a^2} = \pm a \tan \theta$, where
 $0 \leq \theta < \pi/2$ or $\pi/2 < \theta \leq \pi$.

Use the positive value if $u > a$ and
the negative value if $u < -a$.



NOTE: We will need to carefully create our right triangle in order to see all of the relevant trigonometric functions. Don't forget to label the side of your triangle using *opp*, *adj*, and *hyp*.

KEY: ★★ $\sqrt{9-x^2} = \sqrt{a^2-u^2}$
 $a=3, u=x$

2/6

Ex.1 Integrate: $\int \frac{x}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} dx$

$$= \int [\tan(\theta)] \cdot [3\cos(\theta) d\theta]$$

$$= 3 \cdot \int \frac{\sin(\theta) \cdot \cos(\theta)}{\cos(\theta)} d\theta$$

$$= 3 \int \sin(\theta) d\theta$$

$$= 3 \cdot [-\cos(\theta)] + C$$

$$= -3 \cdot \left[\frac{\sqrt{9-x^2}}{3} \right] + C$$

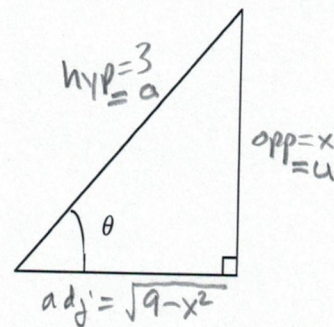
$$= -\sqrt{9-x^2} + C$$

check: $\frac{d}{dx} [-\sqrt{9-x^2} + C]$

$$= -\frac{d}{dx} [(9-x^2)^{1/2}] + 0$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \cdot (9-x^2)^{-1/2} \cdot (-2x)$$

$$= \frac{x}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} \quad \checkmark$$



Let $\frac{x}{3} = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}} = \frac{u}{a}$

$$\frac{x}{3} = \sin(\theta)$$

$$x = 3\sin(\theta)$$

$$\frac{dx}{d\theta} = 3\cos(\theta)$$

$$dx = \frac{dx}{d\theta} \cdot d\theta$$

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

$$\frac{x}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}}$$

$$\frac{x}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} = \tan(\theta)$$

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{\text{adj}}{\text{hyp}}$$

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

KEY: ★★ $\sqrt{4x^2+9} = \sqrt{a^2+u^2}$
 $u^2 = 4x^2 \quad a^2 = 9$
 $u = 2x \quad a = 3$

3/6

Ex.2 Find the antiderivative: $\int \frac{\sqrt{4x^2+9}}{x^4} dx$

$$= \int \frac{[3 \sec(\theta)]}{[\frac{3}{2} \tan(\theta)]^4} \cdot [\frac{3}{2} \sec^2(\theta) d\theta]$$

$$= \frac{9}{2} \cdot \int \frac{\sec^3(\theta) d\theta}{\frac{81}{16} \tan^4(\theta)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{9} \cdot \int \frac{[\cos(\theta)]^3}{[\frac{\sin(\theta)}{\cos(\theta)}]^4} d\theta$$

$$= \frac{8}{9} \int \frac{1}{\cos^3(\theta)} \cdot \frac{\cos^4(\theta)}{\sin^4(\theta)} d\theta$$

$$= \frac{8}{9} \int \frac{\cos(\theta)}{\sin^4(\theta)} d\theta$$

$$= \frac{8}{9} \int \frac{\cos(\theta)}{z^4} \cdot \left(\frac{dz}{\cos(\theta)} \right)$$

$$= \frac{8}{9} \int z^{-4} dz$$

$$= \frac{8}{9} \left[\frac{z^{-3}}{-3} \right] + C$$

$$= -\frac{8}{27 z^3} + C$$

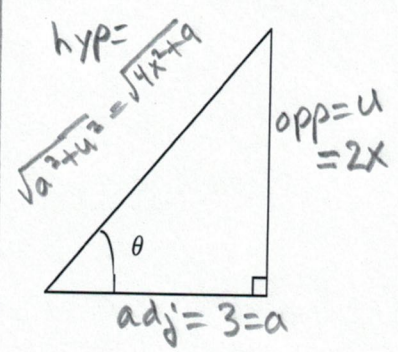
$$= -\frac{8}{27 [\sin(\theta)]^3} + C$$

$$= -\frac{8}{27} \csc^3(\theta) + C$$

$$= \frac{-8}{27} \cdot \left[\frac{\sqrt{4x^2+9}}{2x} \right]^3 + C = \frac{-8}{27} \cdot \frac{(4x^2+9)^{3/2}}{8x^3}$$

$$= -\frac{(4x^2+9)^{3/2}}{27x^3} + C$$

check; ??



Let $\frac{u}{a} = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}}$

$$\frac{2x}{3} = \tan(\theta)$$

$$2x = 3 \tan(\theta)$$

$$x = \frac{3}{2} \tan(\theta)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\theta}(x) = \frac{d}{d\theta} \left[\frac{3}{2} \tan(\theta) \right]$$

$$\frac{dx}{d\theta} = \frac{3}{2} \sec^2(\theta)$$

$$dx = \frac{dx}{d\theta} \cdot d\theta$$

$$dx = \frac{3}{2} \sec^2(\theta) d\theta$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{4x^2+9}}{3} = \frac{\text{hyp}}{\text{adj}} = \sec(\theta)$$

$$\sqrt{4x^2+9} = 3 \sec(\theta)$$

Let $z = \sin(\theta)$

$$\frac{dz}{d\theta} = \cos(\theta)$$

$$\frac{dz}{\cos(\theta)} = d\theta$$

$$\csc(\theta) = \frac{\text{hyp}}{\text{opp}}$$

$$\csc(\theta) = \frac{\sqrt{4x^2+9}}{2x}$$

K=1: ★★ $\sqrt{x^2-9} = \sqrt{u^2-a^2}$
 $u=x, a=3$

4/6

Ex.3 Evaluate: $\int_3^6 \frac{\sqrt{x^2-9}}{x^2} dx = \int_3^6 \left[\frac{\sqrt{x^2-9}}{x} \right] \cdot \left[\frac{1}{x} \right] dx$

$\theta = \frac{\pi}{3}$
 $= \int_{\theta=0}^{\theta=\frac{\pi}{3}} [\sin(\theta)] \cdot \left[\frac{1}{3\sec(\theta)} \right] \cdot [3\sec(\theta)\tan(\theta) d\theta]$

$= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} [\sin(\theta)] \cdot \left[\frac{\sin(\theta)}{\cos(\theta)} \right] d\theta$

$= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \frac{\sin^2(\theta)}{\cos(\theta)} d\theta$

$= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \frac{1-\cos^2(\theta)}{\cos(\theta)} d\theta$

$= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \frac{1}{\cos(\theta)} d\theta - \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \frac{\cos^2(\theta)}{\cos(\theta)} d\theta$

$= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \sec(\theta) d\theta - \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} \cos(\theta) d\theta$

$= \left[\ln|\sec(\theta) + \tan(\theta)| \right]_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}} - \left[\sin(\theta) \right]_0^{\frac{\pi}{3}}$

$= \ln|\sec(\frac{\pi}{3}) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{3})| - \ln|\sec(0) + \tan(0)| \quad \star$
 $- [\sin(\frac{\pi}{3}) - \sin(0)]$

$= [\ln|2 + \sqrt{3}| - \ln|1+0|] - [\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} - 0]$

$= \ln(2 + \sqrt{3}) - \ln(1) - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

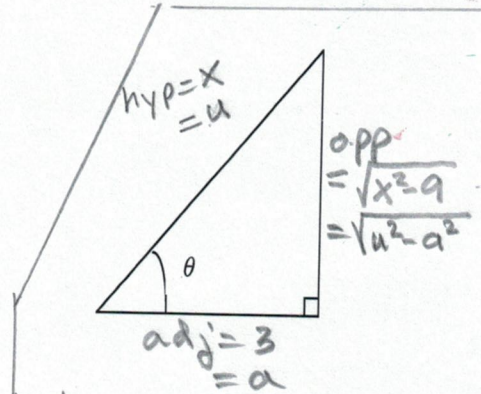
$= \ln(2 + \sqrt{3}) - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

★ $\sec(\frac{\pi}{3}) = \frac{1}{\cos(\frac{\pi}{3})} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}} = 2$

$\tan(\frac{\pi}{3}) = \frac{\sin(\frac{\pi}{3})}{\cos(\frac{\pi}{3})} = \frac{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}}{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{3}$

$\sec(0) = 1$

$\tan(0) = 0$



Let $\frac{u}{a} = \frac{x}{3} = \frac{\text{hyp}}{\text{adj}}$
 $\frac{x}{3} = \sec(\theta)$
 $x = 3\sec(\theta)$
 $\frac{dx}{d\theta} = 3\sec(\theta)\tan(\theta)$
 $dx = \frac{dx}{d\theta} \cdot d\theta$
 $dx = 3\sec(\theta)\tan(\theta) d\theta$

$\frac{\sqrt{x^2-9}}{x} = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}}$
 $\frac{\sqrt{x^2-9}}{x} = \sin(\theta)$

change variables:
 $x = 3\sec(\theta), x = 3$
 $3 = 3\sec(\theta)$
 $1 = \sec(\theta) = \frac{1}{\cos(\theta)}$
 $\cos(\theta) = 1$
 $\theta = 0$
 $x = 3\sec(\theta), x = 6$
 $6 = 3\sec(\theta)$
 $2 = \sec(\theta) = \frac{1}{\cos(\theta)}$
 $\cos(\theta) = \frac{1}{2}$
 $\theta = \frac{\pi}{3}$

KEY: ★★

$$\sqrt{x^2-4} = \sqrt{u^2-a^2}$$
$$x=u, a=2$$

5/6

Ex.4 Integrate: $\int \frac{\sqrt{x^2-4}}{x} dx$

$$= \int [\sin(\theta)] \cdot [2\sec(\theta)\tan(\theta) d\theta]$$

$$= 2 \int \left(\frac{\sin(\theta)}{1}\right) \left(\frac{1}{\cos(\theta)}\right) \cdot [\tan(\theta)] d\theta$$

$$= 2 \int [\tan(\theta)] \cdot [\tan(\theta)] d\theta$$

$$= 2 \int \tan^2(\theta) d\theta$$

$$= 2 \int [\sec^2(\theta) - 1] d\theta$$

$$= 2 \int \sec^2(\theta) d\theta - 2 \int 1 d\theta$$

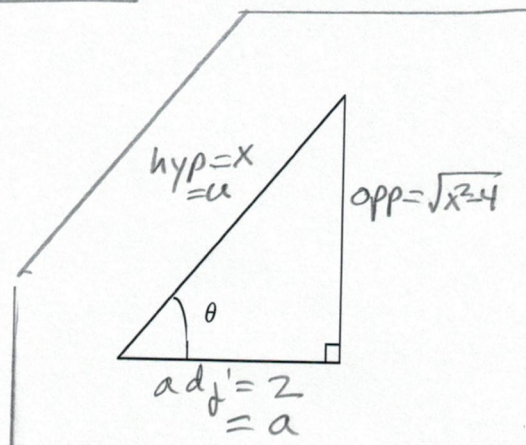
$$= 2 \cdot [\tan(\theta)] - 2 \cdot [\theta] + C$$

← convert to "x"

$$= 2 \cdot \left[\frac{\sqrt{x^2-4}}{2} \right] - 2 \cdot \left[\text{arcsec}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \right] + C$$

$$= \sqrt{x^2-4} - 2 \text{arcsec}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + C$$

check: ??



Let $\frac{u}{a} = \frac{x}{2} = \frac{\text{hyp}}{\text{adj}}$

$$\frac{x}{2} = \sec(\theta)$$

$$x = 2\sec(\theta)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\theta}(x) = \frac{d}{d\theta}[2\sec(\theta)]$$

$$\frac{dx}{d\theta} = 2\sec(\theta)\tan(\theta)$$

$$dx = 2\sec(\theta)\tan(\theta) d\theta$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{x^2-4}}{x} = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}}$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{x^2-4}}{x} = \sin(\theta)$$

use

$$\tan^2(\theta) = \sec^2(\theta) - 1$$

$$\tan(\theta) = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}}$$

$$\tan(\theta) = \frac{\sqrt{x^2-4}}{2}$$

$$\frac{x}{2} = \sec(\theta)$$

$$\text{arcsec}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \text{arcsec}[\sec(\theta)]$$

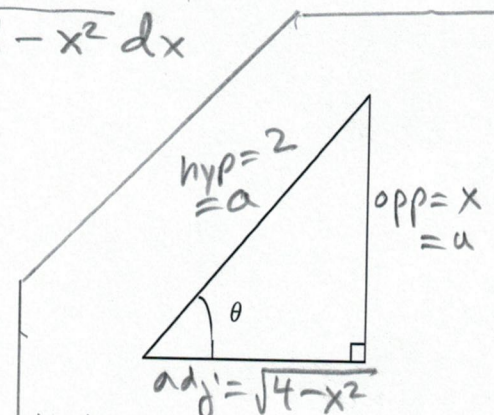
$$\text{arcsec}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \theta$$

KEY : ★★★ $\sqrt{4-x^2} = \sqrt{a^2-u^2}$
 $a=2, u=x$

6/6

Ex.5 Find the antiderivative: $\int \sqrt{16-4x^2} dx = \int \sqrt{4} \cdot \sqrt{4-x^2} dx$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 2 \cdot \int \sqrt{4-x^2} dx \\
 &= 2 \cdot \int [2\cos(\theta)] \cdot [2\cos(\theta) d\theta] \\
 &= 8 \cdot \int \cos^2(\theta) d\theta \\
 &= 8 \cdot \int \left[\frac{1+\cos(2\theta)}{2} \right] d\theta \\
 &= 4 \cdot \int [1+\cos(2\theta)] d\theta \\
 &= 4 \int 1 d\theta + 4 \int \cos(2\theta) d\theta \\
 &= 4 \cdot [\theta] + 4 \int [\cos(z)] \cdot \left(\frac{dz}{2} \right) \\
 &= 4\theta + 2 \cdot \int \cos(z) dz \\
 &= 4\theta + 2 \cdot [\sin(z)] + C \\
 &= 4\theta + 2 \sin(2\theta) + C \\
 &= 4\theta + 2 \cdot [2\sin(\theta)\cos(\theta)] + C \\
 &= 4\theta + 4\sin(\theta)\cos(\theta) + C \\
 &= 4 \cdot \left[\arcsin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \right] + 4 \cdot \left(\frac{x}{2} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{\sqrt{4-x^2}}{2} \right) + C \\
 &= 4\arcsin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + x\sqrt{4-x^2} + C
 \end{aligned}$$



Let $\frac{u}{a} = \frac{opp}{hyp} = \frac{x}{2}$
 $\frac{x}{2} = \sin(\theta)$
 $x = 2\sin(\theta)$
 $\frac{dx}{d\theta} = 2\cos(\theta)$
 $dx = 2\cos(\theta) d\theta$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\sqrt{4-x^2}}{2} &= \frac{adj'}{hyp} \\
 \frac{\sqrt{4-x^2}}{2} &= \cos(\theta) \\
 \sqrt{4-x^2} &= 2\cos(\theta)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\cos^2(\theta) = \frac{1+\cos(2\theta)}{2}$$

$$\sin(2\theta) = 2\sin(\theta)\cos(\theta)$$

Let $z=2\theta$
 $\frac{dz}{d\theta} = 2$
 $\frac{dz}{2} = d\theta$

check:
 ??
 ..

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{x}{2} &= \sin(\theta) \\
 \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) &= \arcsin[\sin(\theta)] \\
 \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) &= \theta
 \end{aligned}$$