

Section 5.5: The Indefinite Integral and the Substitution Rule.

We start with a definition. The set of all antiderivatives of a function f is the **the indefinite integral of f with respect to x** , denoted by:

$$\int f(x)dx$$

NOTE: It is important that you do not leave out the dx . Later if/when you go further into Calculus, this component will become more significant.

For example, the indefinite integral of $f(x) = 2x$ is $x^2 + c$, or $\int 2x dx = x^2 + c$.

We then proceed with an important theorem:

Theorem 5 - The Substitution Rule: If $u = g(x)$ is a differentiable function whose range is an interval I and f is continuous on I , then

$$\int f(g(x))g'(x)dx = \int f(u)du.$$

This is essentially the reverse chain rule. When you were taking derivatives, any time a function is composed into another, you had to apply the chain rule. We now have to work backwards: You must come up with the compositions, check to see if it works, and then proceed.

When doing u -substitution, there are a few tips to consider:

- Simplify as much as possible! You could get away with this with the derivative rules, but now it is a complete must for integrals. (This applies to all integration in general.)
- The first step is to recognize your “inner” function. This is usually apparent: It’s usually under a square root, inside a trig function, the exponent of an exponential function, etc.
- You need to completely transform your integral from an integral in terms of x to an integral in terms of u . If there is a mix of x and u terms, you are doing something wrong. Check your work. You may have to try a new “inner function”. [NOTE: Keep in mind that u -substitution might not work.]
- When doing u -substitution, you will be simultaneously working with integrals and derivatives. Be careful not to mix them up.
- Your du term should *always* be in the numerator. A du term in the denominator means you either made an algebraic mistake, or you need to pick a new u .
- After you finish applying the antiderivative rules, remember to do two things at the end: You have to back substitute and you need your $+ c$.

Examples: Compute the following indefinite integrals.

1. $\int ((4x + 9)^{13}) dx$

6. $\int (5x^3 e^{10x^4}) dx$

2. $\int (3x(x^2 + 2)^5) dx$

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

3. $\int \left(\frac{9x^2}{(x^3 + 10)^4} \right) dx$

8. $\int x^{1/3} \sin(x^{4/3} - 8) dx$

4. $\int (5x\sqrt{x^2 + 11}) dx$

9. $\int (6x^2 \sec^2(9x^3 + 4)) dx$

5. $\int \left(\frac{(\ln(6x))^4}{5x} \right) dx$

10. $\int \cot(x) dx$