



Trig Substitution

Note: In this table, a and a^2 are positive constants.

Expression	Triangle	Substitution	Useful Formulas
$a^2 - x^2$		$x = a \sin \theta$ $dx = a \cos \theta d\theta$	$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2} = a \cos \theta$ $a^2 - x^2 = a^2 \cos^2 \theta$
$a^2 + x^2$		$x = a \tan \theta$ $dx = a \sec^2 \theta d\theta$	$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2} = a \sec \theta$ $a^2 + x^2 = a^2 \sec^2 \theta$
$x^2 - a^2$		$x = a \sec \theta$ $dx = a \sec \theta \tan \theta d\theta$	$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} = a \tan \theta$ $x^2 - a^2 = a^2 \tan^2 \theta$

For general quadratics $ax^2 + bx + c$, first complete the square, to reduce to one of the above.

Try these:

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|--|---|---|
| 1. $\int \frac{\sqrt{4-x^2}}{x} dx$ | 2. $\int \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2-4}} dx$ | 3. $\int \frac{x+3}{x^2+2x+5} dx$ (*) |
| 4. $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{6-4x-2x^2}}$ (*) | 5. $\int \sqrt{9-8x^2} dx$ | 6. $\int (a^2-x^2)^{3/2} dx$ |
| 7. $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2-9}}$ | 8. $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{4x-4x^2}}$ (*) | 9. $\int \frac{\sqrt{x^2-9}}{x} dx$ |
| 10. $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2+6x+13}}$ (*) | 11. $\int \frac{x^4+1}{x^2+1} dx$ | 12. $\int \frac{x^3 dx}{(6x^2+12x-5)^{3/2}}$ (**) |

(*) and (**) indicate problems of greater difficulty. You should be able to do the ones marked (*). The last is a somewhat longer than the others, and is optional.