

7.3 Trigonometric Substitution

In each of the following trigonometric substitution problems, draw a triangle and label an angle and all three sides corresponding to the trigonometric substitution you select.

Table of Trigonometric Substitution

Expression	Substitution	Identity
$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$	$x = a \sin \theta, -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$	$1 - \sin^2 \theta = \cos^2 \theta$
$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2}$	$x = a \tan \theta, -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$	$1 + \tan^2 \theta = \sec^2 \theta$
$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2}$	$x = a \sec \theta, 0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \text{ or } \pi \leq \theta < \frac{3\pi}{2}$	$1 + \tan^2 \theta = \sec^2 \theta$

1. **Example:** Evaluate $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{9 - x^2}}$.

Thinking about the problem:

What technique of integration should I use to evaluate the integral and why? Have I seen a problem similar to this one before? If so, which technique did I use?

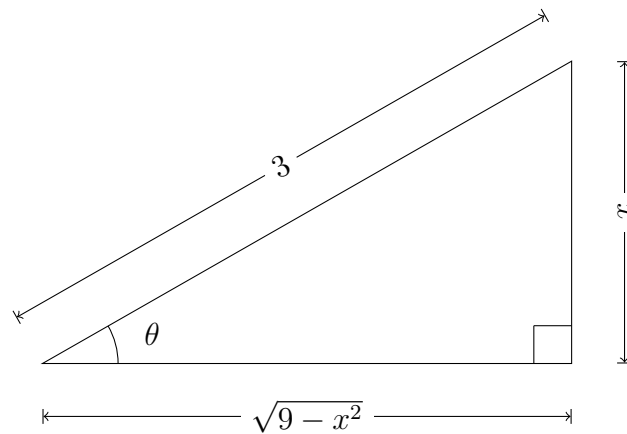
I know that I need to evaluate an indefinite integral, so I know my answer will include $+C$. To determine which technique to use, I will focus on the integrand, i.e., $\frac{1}{\sqrt{9 - x^2}}$.

I think I will use the technique of Trigonometric Substitution to evaluate this integral. I noticed that the denominator of the integrand is $\sqrt{9 - x^2}$, which is a form found in the Table of Trigonometric Substitution. I look at the table and find that the substitution

I want to use is $x = 3 \sin \theta$. I can then simplify my integral with this substitution and integrate.

Doing the problem:

I will evaluate $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{9-x^2}}$ using the technique of Trigonometric Substitution. I will let $x = 3 \sin \theta$ and $dx = 3 \cos \theta d\theta$. Then I can draw a triangle using my choice of substitution and find the following picture:



So the new integral is

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} &= \int \frac{3 \cos \theta d\theta}{\sqrt{9-(3 \sin \theta)^2}} \\ &= \int \frac{3 \cos \theta d\theta}{\sqrt{9(1-\sin^2 \theta)}} \\ &= \int \frac{3 \cos \theta d\theta}{\sqrt{9 \cos^2 \theta}} \\ &= \int \frac{3 \cos \theta d\theta}{3 \cos \theta} \\ &= \int d\theta \\ &= \theta + C.\end{aligned}$$

Since the substitution we used was $x = 3 \sin \theta$, then $\theta = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{x}{3} \right)$. So

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{x}{3} \right) + C.$$

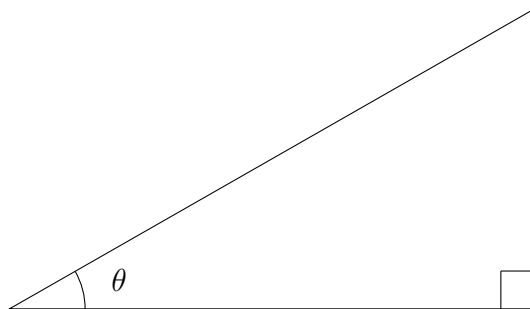
Solutions should show all of your work, not just a single final answer.

2. Evaluate $\int \frac{dx}{(9+x^2)^{3/2}}$.

(a) State the technique of integration you would use to evaluate the integral.

(b) Which substitution would you use for x ? What would dx be?

(c) Based on the choice for x , fill in the triangle:



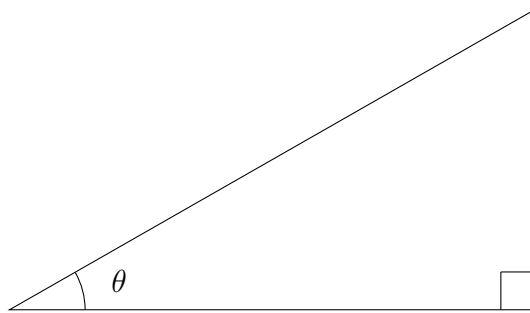
(d) Using (b), write the new integral.

3. Evaluate $\int \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 9}}{x^3} dx$.

(a) State the technique of integration you would use to evaluate the integral.

(b) Which substitution would you use for x ? What would dx be?

(c) Based on the choice for x , fill in the triangle:



(d) Using (b), write the new integral.

(e) Using (c) and (d), evaluate the integral.

4. Evaluate $\int_0^3 \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{9-x^2}} dx$. (*Hint:* When you make a trigonometric substitution, include the bounds of integration in the substitution.)

5. T/F (with justification): To evaluate $\int \frac{dx}{x^2\sqrt{x^2+2}}$ by trigonometric substitution, use $x = 2 \tan \theta$.