

Examples of u-substitutions you do in your head:

1.

$$\int \cos(5x) dx = \frac{1}{5} \sin(5x) + C$$

the mental substitution was  $u = 5x$

2.

$$\int e^{\frac{x}{2}} dx = 2e^{\frac{x}{2}} + C$$

via  $u = \frac{x}{2}$

3.

$$\int \frac{dx}{3x} = \frac{1}{3} \ln(x) + C$$

this is not a substitution because  $\frac{1}{3x} = \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{x}$

4.

$$\int \sec^2(\pi x) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \tan(\pi x) + C$$

5.

$$\int x^3 \sin(x^4) dx = -\frac{1}{4} \cos(x^4) + C$$

via  $u = x^4$

6.

$$\int x e^{3x^2} dx = \frac{1}{6} e^{3x^2} + C$$

via  $u = 3x^2$

Examples of substitutions that you may need to write

1.

$$\int \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx$$

the substitution is  $u = 1 - x^2$ ,  $du = -2x dx$ ,  $-\frac{du}{2} = dx$

$$\int \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = -\frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} du = -\frac{1}{2} \int u^{-1/2} du = -\frac{1}{2} 2u^{1/2} = -\sqrt{1-x^2} + C$$

2.

$$\int \frac{\cos(\sqrt{x})}{\sqrt{x}} dx$$

the substitution is  $u = \sqrt{x}$ ,  $du = \frac{dx}{2\sqrt{x}}$ ,  $2du = \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x}}$

$$\int \frac{\cos(\sqrt{x})}{\sqrt{x}} dx = 2 \int \cos(u) du = 2 \sin(u) = 2 \sin(\sqrt{x}) + C$$

3.

$$\int \tan(x) dx$$

need to recall that  $\tan(x) = \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)}$  making the substitution

$$u = \cos(x), du = -\sin(x) dx, -du = \sin(x) dx$$

$$\int \tan(x) dx = - \int \frac{du}{u} = -\ln(u) = -\ln(\cos(x)) = \ln(\sec(x)) + C$$

the last equality by the property of the log that says  $-\ln(x) = \ln(\frac{1}{x})$  and also remembering that secant is the reciprocal of cosine.

Example of u-sub where du is not there.

$$\int \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{x}}$$

Note, if you look at wolfram's step by step answer there are two things that are not clear, or obvious. The natural inclination is to let  $u = \sqrt{x}$  but it is easier to go to make the entire denominator u

$$u = 1 + \sqrt{x}$$

and solve for  $x$

$$u = 1 + \sqrt{x}, u - 1 = \sqrt{x}, (u - 1)^2 = x, 2(u - 1)du = dx$$

then

$$\int \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{x}} = 2 \int \frac{u - 1}{u} du = 2 \int 1 du - 2 \int \frac{1}{u} du = 2u - 2 \ln(u) = 2\sqrt{x} - 2 \ln(1 + \sqrt{x}) + C$$

it would actually be  $2 + 2\sqrt{x} - 2 \ln(1 + \sqrt{x})$  but 2 is just a constant so we don't write it, it gets combined with the +C at the end.