

8.3 Trig. Substitution

Math 104 – Rimmer
8.3 Trig. Substitution

1. $\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$

Let $x = a \sin \theta$

Assume $a > 0$.
 $-a \leq x \leq a$

$$x = a \sin \theta \Rightarrow \theta = \arcsin\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)$$

$$-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Quadrant 1

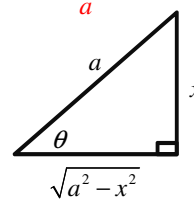
Quadrant 4 but with θ from $-\frac{\pi}{2}$ to 0.

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{a^2 - x^2} &= \sqrt{a^2 - (a \sin \theta)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 (1 - \sin^2 \theta)} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 \cos^2 \theta} \\ &= |a \cos \theta|\end{aligned}$$

$a > 0$ and $\cos \theta \geq 0$ for $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$ so we can drop the absolute value sign

$$\sqrt{a^2 - x^2} = a \cos \theta$$

$$x = a \sin \theta \Rightarrow \frac{x}{a} = \sin \theta$$



Reference Triangle

8.3 Trig. Substitution

Math 104 – Rimmer
8.3 Trig. Substitution

2. $\sqrt{a^2 + x^2}$ or $\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}$

Let $x = a \tan \theta$

Assume $a > 0$.
 $-\infty < x < \infty$

$$x = a \tan \theta \Rightarrow \theta = \arctan\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)$$

$$-\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Quadrant 1

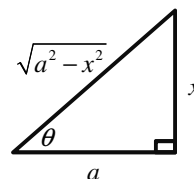
Quadrant 4 but with θ from $-\frac{\pi}{2}$ to 0.

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{a^2 + x^2} &= \sqrt{a^2 + (a \tan \theta)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 + a^2 \tan^2 \theta} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 (1 + \tan^2 \theta)} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 \sec^2 \theta} \\ &= |a \sec \theta|\end{aligned}$$

$a > 0$ and $\sec \theta \geq 0$ for $-\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ so we can drop the absolute value sign

$$\sqrt{a^2 + x^2} = a \sec \theta$$

$$x = a \tan \theta \Rightarrow \frac{x}{a} = \tan \theta$$



Reference Triangle

8.3 Trig. Substitution

Math 104 – Rimmer
8.3 Trig. Substitution

$$3. \sqrt{x^2 - a^2}$$

$$\text{Let } x = a \sec \theta$$

Assume $a > 0$.
 $x < -a$ or $x > a$

$$x = a \sec \theta \Rightarrow \theta = \operatorname{arcsec} \left(\frac{x}{a} \right)$$

$$0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \text{ or } \frac{\pi}{2} < \theta \leq \pi$$

Quadrant 1 Quadrant 2.

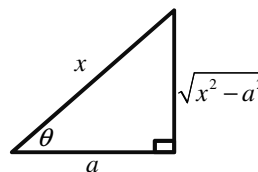
$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{x^2 - a^2} &= \sqrt{(a \sec \theta)^2 - a^2} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 \sec^2 \theta - a^2} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 (\sec^2 \theta - 1)} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 \tan^2 \theta} \\ &= |a \tan \theta| \end{aligned}$$

$a > 0$ but $\tan \theta \geq 0$ for $0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ and $\tan \theta \leq 0$ for $\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta \leq \pi$
so we can't drop the absolute value sign

$$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} = a \tan \theta \text{ for } x > a$$

$$\sqrt{x^2 - a^2} = -a \tan \theta \text{ for } x < -a$$

$$x = a \sec \theta \Rightarrow \frac{x}{a} = \sec \theta$$



Reference Triangle

8.3 Trig. Substitution

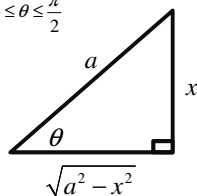
Math 104 – Rimmer
8.3 Trig. Substitution

$$1. \sqrt{a^2 - x^2} \quad \text{Let } x = a \sin \theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{a^2 - x^2} &= \sqrt{a^2 - (a \sin \theta)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 (1 - \sin^2 \theta)} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 \cos^2 \theta} \\ &= a \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$x = a \sin \theta \Rightarrow \frac{x}{a} = \sin \theta$$

$$-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$



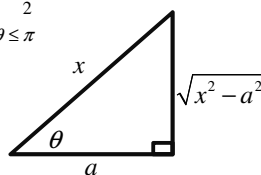
$$2. \sqrt{x^2 - a^2} \quad \text{Let } x = a \sec \theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{x^2 - a^2} &= \sqrt{(a \sec \theta)^2 - a^2} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 \sec^2 \theta - a^2} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 (\sec^2 \theta - 1)} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 \tan^2 \theta} \\ &= a \tan \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$x = a \sec \theta \Rightarrow \frac{x}{a} = \sec \theta$$

$$0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta \leq \pi$$



$$3. \sqrt{x^2 + a^2} \quad \text{Let } x = a \tan \theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{x^2 + a^2} &= \sqrt{(a \tan \theta)^2 + a^2} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 \tan^2 \theta + a^2} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 (\tan^2 \theta + 1)} \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 \sec^2 \theta} \\ &= a \sec \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$x = a \tan \theta \Rightarrow \frac{x}{a} = \tan \theta$$

$$-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

