

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

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

Caution Note that after the substitution you have NO x 's left inside the integral. The new variable on the right hand side is " u ".

Example Find $\int x^3 \cos(x^4 + 2) dx$

Here the "inner" function is $x^4 + 2$ that will be our u , i.e. $u = x^4 + 2$. Then find the differential of u : $du = 4x^3 dx$. Since you only have $x^3 dx$ in your integral, divide both sides of the differential by 4 to get what you exactly need to replace $x^3 dx$ with.

$$\begin{aligned} \int x^3 \cos(x^4 + 2) dx &= \int \cos(x^4 + 2) x^3 dx \\ &= \int \cos u \cdot \frac{1}{4} du \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int \cos u du \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sin u + C \text{ (go back to your original variable)} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sin(x^4 + 2) + C \end{aligned}$$

Example Calculate $\int e^{5x} dx$

The "inner" function here is $5x$ it is inside the exponential function after all. So $u = 5x$, differential $du = 5 dx$. Divide both sides by 5 since you only need dx so $\frac{1}{5} du = dx$.

$$\begin{aligned} \int e^{5x} dx &= \int e^u \left(\frac{1}{5} du\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{5} \int e^u du \\ &= \frac{1}{5} e^u + C \text{ (go back to your original variable)} \\ &= \frac{1}{5} e^{5x} + C \end{aligned}$$