

Q1: What trig substitution would be useful for $\int \frac{x}{8+2(x-1)^2} dx$?

A) $x = \sqrt{8}\sin \theta$

B) $x = \sqrt{2}\tan \theta$

C) $x = \sqrt{8}\tan \theta$

D) $x = 1 + 2\tan \theta$

E) $x = 1 - 2\sin \theta$

Answer $\int \frac{x}{8+2(x-1)^2} dx = \int \frac{x}{2(4+(x-1)^2)} dx$ (let $x - 1 = u$, $dx = du$)

$= \int \frac{u+1}{2(4+u^2)} du$. Then let $u = 2\tan \theta$, so that $4 + u^2 = 4(1 + \tan^2 \theta) = 4\sec^2 \theta$

So $x - 1 = u = 2\tan \theta$, or $x = 1 + 2\tan \theta$.

(If you practice with these substitutions, you might do the u -substitution in your head and just directly let $x = 1 + 2\tan \theta$.)

Partial Fractions

Suppose $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$ are polynomials; $\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$ is called a rational function.

We want to look as a method to find $\int \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} dx$.

- a) Mathematically, the method always works, but
- b) the algebra involved (not the calculus) may make a problem too difficult without some computer assistance. We will look at relatively simple examples of the method.

The method is called partial fractions because we will write

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \text{---} + \text{---} + \dots + \text{---} = \text{a sum of simpler fractions (simpler parts) that we already know how to integrate.}$$

This sum of fractions will be called the partial fraction decomposition of $\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$, and

$$\int \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} dx = \int \text{---} dx + \int \text{---} dx + \dots + \int \text{---} dx$$

The goal, of course, is that the integrals on the right will be easier to do.

STEP 0) The preliminary thing required is that we work with a rational function where the degree of the numerator is less than the degree of the denominator. If that's not true at the beginning, we do a long division of polynomials to make it so;

Example $\frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 - 8x - 2}{x^2 - 2x - 3}$ where degree of numerator (3) is large than degree of denominator.

			2x	+ 1		
x²	- 2x	- 3	2x³	- 3x²	- 8x	- 2
			2x³	- 4x²	- 6x	
				x²	- 2x	- 2
				x²	- 2x	- 3
						1

The division stops when the degree of the remainder is less than the degree of the divisor $x^2 - 2x - 3$

Then $\frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 - 8x - 2}{x^2 - 2x - 3} = \text{quotient} + \frac{\text{remainder}}{\text{divisor}} = 2x + 1 + \frac{1}{x^2 - 2x - 3}$

So $\int \frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 - 8x - 2}{x^2 - 2x - 3} dx = \int 2x + 1 dx + \int \frac{1}{x^2 - 2x - 3} dx$
 $\uparrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \uparrow$
 easy: a polynomial degree of numerator (1)
 $\qquad \qquad \qquad < \text{degree of denominator (2)}$

Q2: $\int \frac{2x^3 + 2x^2 + 1}{x + 1} dx = \int (\text{polynomial } S(x)) + \left(\frac{R}{x+1}\right) dx$ where R is a constant.

What is R ?

- A) 0 B) 1 C) 2 D) -1 E) -2

Answer The long division gives a remainder $R = 1$; in fact

$$\frac{2x^3 + 2x^2 + 1}{x + 1} = 2x^2 + \frac{1}{x + 1}$$

STEP 1) Completely factor the denominator $Q(x)$.

Doing this might be difficult, in practice. But in theory, it is a consequence a theorem called The Fundamental Theorem of Algebra (*often proved in Math 430*) that $Q(x)$ can always be factored (using only real numbers) into a product of linear factors (like, say, $2x - 5$) and irreducible quadratic factors (like, say, $x^2 + x + 1$).

Here, “irreducible” just means “can't be factored further into linear factors.” You can tell if a quadratic $ax^2 + bx + c$ is irreducible by using the quadratic formula to find the roots of $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$. There are real roots r_1 and r_2 is equivalent to saying the quadratic factors as $a(x - r_1)(x - r_2)$.

If we allowed imaginary roots – not of interest in this course – then $ax^2 + bx + c$ would always have roots r_1 and r_2 (perhaps imaginary) and factor as $a(x - r_1)(x - r_2)$

So, in theory, $Q(x) = (\) (\) (\) \dots (\)$ where each factor $(\)$ is linear or irreducible quadratic. Some of these factors might be repeated.

$$\begin{aligned}
Q(x) &= (x-3)(2x+1) && \text{or} \\
Q(x) &= (x-3)(x-3)(2x+1) = (x-3)^2(2x+1) && \text{or} \\
&&& \text{or} \\
Q(x) &= (x-3)(2x+1)(x^2+x+1)^3(x^2+x+2)^2
\end{aligned}$$

STEP 2) The appearance of the partial fraction decomposition depends on the “mix” of factors of $Q(x)$. We need to consider 4 different possibilities:

- CASE I $Q(x)$ has only linear factors and none of them is repeated
For example, $Q(x) = (x-3)(2x+1)$
- CASE II $Q(x)$ has only linear factors with one or more of them repeated
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- CASE III $Q(x)$ has irreducible quadratic factors, and none of them is repeated.
For example, $Q(x) = (x-3)(2x+1)(x^2+x+1)(x^2+x+2)$
- CASE IV $Q(x)$ has irreducible quadratic factors with one or more of them repeated.
For example, $Q(x) = (x-3)(2x+1)(x^2+x+1)^3(x^2+x+2)^2$

CASE I In this case, the form of the partial fraction decomposition is a sum of fractions like $\frac{\text{constant}}{\text{linear factor of } Q(x)}$, one fraction for each linear factor.

For example, if $\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{P(x)}{(x+2)(2x-7)(3x+5)(x-4)}$, then

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{A}{x+2} + \frac{B}{2x-7} + \frac{C}{3x+5} + \frac{D}{x-4} \quad (\text{and we need to determine } A, B, C, D)$$

To return to the original example:

$$\frac{2x^3-3x^2-8x-2}{x^2-2x-3} = 2x+1 + \frac{1}{x^2-2x-3} \quad dx = \int 2x+1$$

$$\text{Focusing on the fraction: } \frac{1}{x^2-2x-3} = \frac{1}{(x-3)(x+1)} = \frac{A}{x-3} + \frac{B}{x+1}$$

To find A and B , multiply by the least common denominator $(x-3)(x+1)$ to clear the fractions: we then get

$$1 = A(x+1) + B(x-3)$$

Method 1 to find A, B (combine terms)

$$1 = (A + B)x + (A - 3B) = 1$$

so we need

$$\begin{cases} A + B = 0 \\ A - 3B = 1 \end{cases}$$

Solve these equations to get $B = -\frac{1}{4}, A = \frac{1}{4}$

Method 2 (substitute convenient x values)

$$1 = A(x + 1) + B(x - 3)$$

Let $x = 3$ to get $1 = 4A$, so $A = \frac{1}{4}$

Let $x = -1$ to get $1 = -4B$, so $B = -\frac{1}{4}$

Either way, $\frac{1}{x^2-2x-3} = \frac{1}{(x-3)(x+1)} = \frac{\frac{1}{4}}{x-3} + \frac{-\frac{1}{4}}{x+1}$ and each of these fractions is easy to integrate.

Finishing the original example: :

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 - 8x - 2}{x^2 - 2x - 3} dx &= \int 2x + 1 dx + \int \frac{1}{x^2 - 2x - 3} dx \\ &\quad \uparrow \\ &\quad \text{long division} \\ &= x^2 + x + \int \frac{1}{x^2 - 2x - 3} dx = x^2 + x + \int \frac{\frac{1}{4}}{x-3} + \frac{-\frac{1}{4}}{x+1} dx \\ &= x^2 + x + \frac{1}{4} \ln|x-3| - \frac{1}{4} \ln|x+1| + C = x^2 + x + \frac{1}{4} \ln \left| \frac{x-3}{x+1} \right| + C \end{aligned}$$

In case I, each fraction in the partial fraction decomposition can be integrated using a logarithm.

Note: $\int \frac{1}{x^2-2x-3} dx$ could have been done without partial fractions: complete the square in the denominator and make an appropriate trig substitution.

CASE II $Q(x)$ has only linear factors but one or more of them is repeated.

Then the form of the partial fraction decomposition is similar to case one except if a linear factor $(\alpha x + \beta)$ is repeated k times, it contributes k fractions to the decomposition with denominators $(\alpha x + \beta), (\alpha x + \beta)^2, \dots, (\alpha x + \beta)^k$.

For example, if $Q(x) = (2x + 1)^2 \cdot (\text{other linear factors})$, then the twice-repeated

factor $(2x + 1)^2$ contributes $\frac{\text{constant}}{(2x + 1)} + \frac{\text{constant}}{(2x+1)^2}$ to the partial fraction decomposition. Here's a specific example of the form:

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{P(x)}{x^3(2x+1)^2(x-7)} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x^2} + \frac{C}{x^3} + \frac{D}{(2x+1)} + \frac{E}{(2x+1)^2} + \frac{F}{x-7}$$

\uparrow
 x^3 is the linear factor $(x - 0)$ repeated 3 times

Example $\int \frac{x}{(x+1)^2(x-2)} dx = \int \frac{A}{x+1} + \frac{B}{(x+1)^2} + \frac{C}{x-2} dx$

Multiplying both sides by the least common denominator

gives $x = A(x + 1)(x - 2) + B(x - 2) + C(x + 1)^2 \quad (*)$

Method 1: multiply out (*) on the right, collect terms, and set up a system of equations to solve for the unknowns A, B, C . (*) becomes

$$x = (A + C)x^2 + (-A + B + 2C)x + (C - 2A - 2B)$$

$$\text{so we need } \begin{cases} A + C = 0 \\ -A + B + 2C = 1 \\ -2A - 2B + C = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Solving gives } A = -\frac{2}{9}, B = \frac{1}{3}, C = \frac{2}{9}$$

Method 2 (as in CASE I) Substitute convenient x values in (*). This is certainly easier than Method 1 in this example because we can clearly see some x values that make certain terms 0. It's then easy to find the unknowns:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Let } x = -1 \text{ to get } -1 = A(0)(-2) + B(-3) + C(0)^2 & \text{so } B = \frac{1}{3} \\ \text{Let } x = 2 \text{ to get } 2 = A(0) + B(0) + 9C & \text{so } C = \frac{2}{9} \end{array}$$

Now substitute these values for B, C and pick another x value (random, but simple), say $x = 0$:

$$\text{In } (*), \text{ let } x = 0 \text{ to get } 0 = -2A + \frac{1}{3}(-2) + \frac{2}{9}(1)^2 \quad \text{so } A = -\frac{2}{9}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \int \frac{x}{(x+1)^2(x-2)} dx &= \int \frac{-\frac{2}{9}}{x+1} + \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{(x+1)^2} + \frac{\frac{2}{9}}{x-2} dx \\ &= -\frac{2}{9} \ln|x+1| - \frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{x+1} + \frac{2}{9} \ln|x-2| + C \\ &= -\ln|x+1|^{2/9} - \frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{x+1} + \ln|x-2|^{2/9} + C \\ &= \ln \left| \left(\frac{x-2}{x+1} \right)^{2/9} \right| - \frac{1}{3(x+1)} + C \end{aligned}$$

Notice that in CASE II: the fractions in the decomposition that have a denominator with exponent 1 will integrate as logarithms; but when the exponent is bigger than 1,

$$(k > 1) \int \frac{\text{constant}}{(\alpha x + \beta)^k} dx = \int (\text{constant})(\alpha x + \beta)^{-k} dx \text{ which integrates as a power function.}$$

Additional example, not done in class

$$\int \frac{1}{x(x-1)^2(x+3)} dx = \int \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x-1} + \frac{C}{(x-1)^2} + \frac{D}{(x+3)} dx$$

To determine A, B, C, D :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{x(x-1)^2(x+3)} &= \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x-1} + \frac{C}{(x-1)^2} + \frac{D}{(x+3)} \\ &= \frac{A(x-1)^2(x+3) + Bx(x-1)(x+3) + Cx(x+3) + Dx(x-1)^2}{x(x-1)^2(x+3)} \end{aligned}$$

We could (Method I) multiply out the numerator and set up a system of equations to solve for the unknown A, B, C, D . Method 2 (from CASE I) is certainly easier since we can obviously see some x 's values that make certain terms 0. It's then easy to find 3 of the unknowns:

$$1 = A(x-1)^2(x+3) + Bx(x-1)(x+3) + Cx(x+3) + Dx(x-1)^2$$

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{Let } x = 1 & \text{and get} & 1 = 4C & \text{so } C = \frac{1}{4} \\ \text{Let } x = -3 & \text{and get} & 1 = -48D & \text{so } D = -\frac{1}{48} \\ \text{Let } x = 0 & \text{and get} & 1 = 3A & \text{so } A = \frac{1}{3} \end{array}$$

Substituting these values and some other (random, but simple) value, say $x = 2$, gives

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \frac{1}{3}(1)(5) + 10B + \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)(2)(5) - \frac{1}{48}(2), \text{ which gives} \\ 1 &= \frac{5}{3} + \frac{10}{4} - \frac{1}{24} + 10B \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{24-40-60+1}{24} = -\frac{75}{24} = 10B, \text{ so } B = -\frac{75}{240} = -\frac{5}{16}$$

$$\text{So } \int \frac{1}{x(x-1)^2(x+3)} dx = \int \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{x} + \frac{-\frac{5}{16}}{x-1} + \frac{\frac{1}{4}}{(x-1)^2} + \frac{-\frac{1}{48}}{(x+3)} dx$$

Notice that, as always in CASE II, each fraction will either integrate as a logarithm or a **power function** (when the exponent in the denominator is bigger than 1)

$$= \frac{1}{3} \ln|x| - \frac{5}{16} \ln|x-1| - \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{x-1} - \frac{1}{48} \ln|x+3| + C$$

$$= \ln|x|^{1/3} - \ln|x-1|^{5/16} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{x-1} - \ln|x+3|^{1/48} + C$$

$$= \ln \left| \frac{x^{1/3}}{(x-1)^{5/16}(x+3)^{1/48}} \right| - \frac{1}{4(x-1)} + C$$