

Section 7.4: Integration of Rational Functions by Partial Fractions

$$\frac{3}{x+2} + \frac{4}{x+5} = \frac{3(x+5) + 4(x+2)}{(x+2)(x+5)} = \frac{7x+23}{x^2+7x+10}$$

$$\int \frac{7x+23}{x^2+7x+10} dx = \int \frac{3}{x+2} + \frac{4}{x+5} dx = \int \frac{3}{x+2} dx + \int \frac{4}{x+5} dx = \dots = 3 \ln|x+2| + 4 \ln|x+5| + C$$

$u = x+2$ $u = x+5$

A rational function is a function of the form $\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$ where both $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$ are polynomials. The degree of a polynomial is the highest power of the variable.

NOTE: To integrate a rational function, $\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$, with the partial fraction method, you MUST HAVE the degree $P(x) <$ degree $Q(x)$. If this is not the case then use long division (or some other method) to find $J(x)$ and $K(x)$ so that

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = J(x) + \frac{K(x)}{Q(x)}$$

Method of Integration by Partial Fractions:

- 0) Do long division (or other algebra manipulation) if degree $P(x) \geq$ degree $Q(x)$.
- 1) Factor the denominator completely
- 2) Decompose the fraction
- 3) Solve for the constants in the decomposition
- 4) Integrate the new fractions

Example: Compute these Integrals.

A) $\int \frac{x^3 + 2x^2 - 5}{x+1} dx$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x^2 + x - 1 \\
 \hline
 x+1 \overline{) x^3 + 2x^2 + 0x - 5} \\
 \underline{-(x^3 + x^2)} \quad \downarrow \\
 x^2 + 0x \quad \downarrow \\
 \underline{-(x^2 + x)} \quad \downarrow \\
 -x - 5 \\
 \underline{-(-x - 1)} \\
 -4
 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{x^3 + 2x^2 - 5}{x+1} = x^2 + x - 1 + \frac{-4}{x+1}$$

$$\int x^2 + x - 1 - \frac{4}{x+1} dx$$

$$= \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^2}{2} - x - 4 \ln|x+1| + C$$

$$B) \int \frac{x}{x+5} dx = \int \underbrace{1 - \frac{5}{x+5}} dx = x - 5 \ln |x+5| + C$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ x+5 \overline{) x+0} \\ \underline{-(x+5)} \\ -5 \end{array}$$

$$\int \frac{x}{x+5} dx = \int \frac{x+5-5}{x+5} dx = \int \left(\frac{x+5}{x+5} - \frac{5}{x+5} \right) dx$$

$$c) \int \frac{x^3 + 3x - 5}{x^2 + 1} dx$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x \\
 \hline
 x^2 + 0x + 1 \mid x^3 + 0x^2 + 3x - 5 \\
 \underline{-(x^3 + 0x^2 + x)} \quad \downarrow \\
 2x - 5
 \end{array}$$

$$c) \int \frac{x^3 + 3x - 5}{x^2 + 1} dx = \int x + \frac{2x - 5}{x^2 + 1} dx = \int x + \frac{2x}{x^2 + 1} + \frac{-5}{x^2 + 1} dx$$

$$= \int x dx + \underbrace{\int \frac{2x}{x^2 + 1} dx}_{u = x^2 + 1} - \int \frac{5}{x^2 + 1} dx$$

$$= \frac{x^2}{2} + \ln |x^2 + 1| - 5 \arctan(x) + C$$

Example: Write out the partial fraction decomposition. Do not determine the numerical values of the coefficients.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{A) } \frac{-3x + 20}{x^3 + 3x^2 - 10x} &= \frac{-3x + 20}{x(x^2 + 3x - 10)} = \frac{-3x + 20}{x(x+5)(x-2)} \\
 &= \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x+5} + \frac{C}{x-2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{B) } \frac{x-3}{x(x+1)^3(x^2+5)} =$$

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

$$\frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{(x+1)^3} + \frac{C}{(x+1)^2} + \frac{d}{x+1} + \frac{ex+f}{x^2+5}$$

$$\text{C) } \frac{x^2+2}{x^3(x^2-9)(x^2+16)^2}$$

\downarrow
 $(x-3)(x+3)$

$$x^3 = (x+0)^3$$

$$= \frac{A}{x^3} + \frac{B}{x^2} + \frac{C}{x} + \frac{d}{x-3} + \frac{e}{x+3} + \frac{fx+g}{(x^2+16)^2} + \frac{hx+1i}{x^2+16}$$

Example: Compute these integrals.

$$A) \int \frac{-3x+20}{x^3+3x^2-10x} dx$$

$$\frac{-3x+20}{x^3+3x^2-10x} = \frac{-3x+20}{x(x+5)(x-2)} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x+5} + \frac{C}{x-2}$$

$$\frac{-3x+20}{x(x+5)(x-2)} = \frac{A(x+5)(x-2)}{x(x+5)(x-2)} + \frac{Bx(x-2)}{x(x+5)(x-2)} + \frac{Cx(x+5)}{x(x+5)(x-2)}$$

$$\frac{-3x+20}{x(x+5)(x-2)} = \frac{A(x+5)(x-2) + Bx(x-2) + Cx(x+5)}{x(x+5)(x-2)}$$

$$-3x+20 = A(x+5)(x-2) + Bx(x-2) + Cx(x+5)$$

$$-3x+20 = A(x^2+3x-10) + B(x^2-2x) + C(x^2+5x)$$

$$0x^2 - 3x + 20 = Ax^2 + 3Ax - 10A + Bx^2 - 2Bx + Cx^2 + 5Cx$$

$$x^2 \quad 0 = A + B + C$$

$$x \quad -3 = 3A - 2B + 5C$$

$$\text{const} \quad 20 = -10A \quad \longrightarrow \quad A = -2$$

$$0 = -2 + B + C$$

$$-3 = -6 - 2B + 5C$$

$$2 = B + C$$

$$B = 2 - C$$

$$B = 1$$

$$3 = -2B + 5C$$

$$3 = -2(2 - C) + 5C$$

$$3 = -4 + 2C + 5C$$

$$7 = 7C$$

$$1 = C$$

$$= \int \frac{-2}{x} + \frac{1}{x+5} + \frac{1}{x-2} dx = -2 \ln|x| + \ln|x+5| + \ln|x-2| + C$$

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Example: Compute these integrals.

$$A) \int \frac{-3x + 20}{x^3 + 3x^2 - 10x} dx$$

$$\frac{-3x + 20}{x^3 + 3x^2 - 10x} = \frac{-3x + 20}{x(x+5)(x-2)} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x+5} + \frac{C}{x-2}$$

$$-3x + 20 = A(x+5)(x-2) + Bx(x-2) + Cx(x+5)$$

$$\text{if } x=0 \quad 20 = A(5)(-2) + 0 + 0$$

$$20 = -10A$$

$$\boxed{-2 = A}$$

$$\text{if } x=2$$

$$-6 + 20 = 14 = 0 + 0 + 2C \cdot 7$$

$$14 = 14C$$

$$\boxed{1 = C}$$

$$x = -5$$

$$15 + 20 = 0 + B(-5)(-7) + 0$$

$$35 = 35B$$

$$\boxed{1 = B}$$

$$\int \frac{-2}{x} + \frac{1}{x+5} + \frac{1}{x-2} dx$$

$$= -2 \ln|x| + \ln|x+5| + \ln|x-2| + C$$

$$B) \int \frac{x+2}{x^3+2x} dx$$

$$\frac{x+2}{x^3+2x} = \frac{x+2}{x(x^2+2)} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+2}$$

$$x+2 = A(x^2+2) + (Bx+C)x$$

$$x+2 = Ax^2 + 2A + Bx^2 + Cx$$

Short cut

$$\text{Let: } x=0$$

$$2 = A(2) + 0$$

$$A=1$$

x^2

$$0 = A+B$$

x

$$1 = C$$

Const

$$2 = 2A$$

$$\rightarrow A=1$$

$$\rightarrow B=-1$$

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

$$u=x^2+2$$

from 7.3 work.

$$= \ln|x| - \frac{1}{2} \ln|x^2+2| + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \arctan\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + C$$

$$c) \int \frac{15x+5}{(x+2)^2(x^2+1)} dx$$

$$\frac{15x+5}{(x+2)^2(x^2+1)} = \frac{A}{x+2} + \frac{B}{(x+2)^2} + \frac{cx+d}{x^2+1}$$

$$15x+5 = A(x+2)(x^2+1) + B(x^2+1) + (cx+d)(x+2)^2$$

$$= A(x^3+x+2x^2+2) + B(x^2+1) + (cx+d)(x^2+4x+4)$$

$$15x+5 = Ax^3 + Ax + 2Ax^2 + 2A + Bx^2 + B + Cx^3 + 4Cx^2 + 4Cx + dx^2 + 4dx + 4d$$

$$x^3 \quad 0 = A + C \longrightarrow \underline{A = -C}$$

$$x^2 \quad 0 = 2A + B + 4C + d$$

$$x \quad 15 = A + 4C + 4d$$

$$\text{const} \quad 5 = 2A + B + 4d$$

Short cut. if $x = -2$

$$-30+5 = B(4+1)$$

$$-25 = 5B$$

$$\underline{B = -5}$$

$$\begin{cases} 0 = 2A - 5 - 4A + d \\ 5 = -2A + d \end{cases} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 15 = A - 4A + 4d \\ 15 = -3A + 4d \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 5 = 2A - 5 + 4d \\ 10 = 2A + 4d \end{array} \right.$$

$$\underline{5 + 2A = d}$$

$$10 = 2A + 4(5 + 2A)$$

$$10 = 2A + 20 + 8A$$

$$-10 = 10A$$

$$\underline{-1 = A}$$

$$5 - 2 = d$$

$$d = 3$$

$$A = -C$$

$$C = -A = 1$$

