

- Integration of Rational Functions by Partial Fraction

- Rational function is a quotient of polynomials.  $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$
- Method of partial fractions: Write a rational function as a sum of simpler fractions.

The method of partial fractions:

- The fraction must be proper. The degree of  $f(x)$  must be less than the degree of  $g(x)$ . (the degree of polynomial is the highest order of the polynomial). If not, divide  $f(x)$  by  $g(x)$ . Work with the remainder.
- Find the factors of  $g(x)$ . Any polynomial with real coefficients can be written as a product of linear factors and real quadratic factors.

The method of partial fractions (cont.):

- Let  $x - r$  be a linear factor of  $g(x)$ . Suppose that  $(x - r)^m$  is the highest power of  $x - r$ . Assign the sum of  $m$  partial fractions 
$$\frac{A_1}{x-r} + \frac{A_2}{(x-r)^2} + \dots + \frac{A_m}{(x-r)^m}.$$
- Let  $x^2 + px + q$  be a quadratic factor of  $g(x)$ . Suppose that  $(x^2 + px + q)^n$  is the highest power of this factor. ( $x^2 + px + q$  has no real roots). Assign  $n$  partial fractions: 
$$\frac{B_1x+C_1}{x^2+px+q} + \frac{B_2x+C_2}{(x^2+px+q)^2} + \dots + \frac{B_nx+C_n}{(x^2+px+q)^n}$$
- Set the original fraction  $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  equal to the sum of all these partial fractions. Clear the resulting equation of fractions and arrange the terms in decreasing powers of  $x$ .
- Equate the coefficients of corresponding powers  $x$  and solve for the undetermined coefficients.

Ex1:

$$\int \frac{5x - 3}{x^2 - 2x - 3} dx \quad (1)$$

The fraction is proper.

Find the factor of  $x^2 - 2x - 3$ . They are  $x - 3$  and  $x + 1$ .

For  $x - 3$ , it has the partial fraction:  $\frac{A}{x-3}$ , for  $x + 1$ , it has the partial fraction:  $\frac{B}{x+1}$

Set  $\frac{5x-3}{x^2-2x-3} = \frac{A}{x-3} + \frac{B}{x+1}$ , clear it  $\frac{5x-3}{x^2-2x-3} = \frac{(A+B)x+(A-3B)}{(x-3)(x+1)}$ .

Equate the coefficients of corresponding powers:  $A + B = 5$  and

$A - 3B = -3$ . Solve it.  $A = 3, B = 2$

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

$$\int \frac{5x - 3}{x^2 - 2x - 3} dx = \int \frac{3}{x - 3} + \frac{2}{x + 1} dx = 3\ln|x - 3| + 2\ln|x + 1| + C \quad (2)$$

Ex2:

$$\int \frac{2x^3 - 4x^2 - x - 3}{x^2 - 2x - 3} dx \quad (3)$$

The fraction is improper. Long division:  $2x + \frac{5x-3}{x^2-2x-3}$ , we will work with the remainder  $\frac{5x-3}{x^2-2x-3}$

Find the factor of  $x^2 - 2x - 3$ . They are  $x - 3$  and  $x + 1$ .

For  $x - 3$ , it has the partial fraction:  $\frac{A}{x-3}$ , for  $x + 1$ , it has the partial fraction:  $\frac{B}{x+1}$

Set  $\frac{5x-3}{x^2-2x-3} = \frac{A}{x-3} + \frac{B}{x+1}$ , clear it  $\frac{5x-3}{x^2-2x-3} = \frac{(A+B)x+(A-3B)}{(x-3)(x+1)}$ .

Equate the coefficients of corresponding powers:  $A + B = 5$  and

$A - 3B = -3$ . Solve it.  $A = 3, B = 2$

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

$$\int \frac{5x - 3}{x^2 - 2x - 3} dx = \int \frac{3}{x - 3} + \frac{2}{x + 1} dx = 3\ln|x - 3| + 2\ln|x + 1| + C \quad (4)$$

Ex3:

$$\int \frac{-2x + 4}{(x^2 + 1)(x - 1)^2} dx \quad (5)$$

The fraction is proper.

The factors are  $x^2 + 1$  and  $(x - 1)^2$ .

For  $x^2 + 1$ , it has the partial fraction:  $\frac{Ax+B}{x^2+1}$ , for  $(x - 1)^2$ , it has the

partial fraction:  $\frac{C}{x-1} + \frac{D}{(x-1)^2}$

Set  $\frac{-2x+4}{(x^2+1)(x-1)^2} = \frac{Ax+B}{x^2+1} + \frac{C}{x-1} + \frac{D}{(x-1)^2}$ , clear it

$$\frac{-2x+4}{(x^2+1)(x-1)^2} = \frac{(A+C)x^3 + (-2A+B-C+D)x^2 + (A-2B+C)x + (B-C+D)}{(x^2+1)(x-1)^2}.$$

Equate the coefficients of corresponding powers:  $A + C = 0$ ,  
 $-2A + B - C + D = 0$ ,  $A - 2B + C = -2$  and  $B - C + D = 4$ . Solve  
it.  $A = 2, B = 1, C = -2, D = 1$

$$\text{So } \frac{-2x+4}{(x^2+1)(x-1)^2} = \frac{2x+1}{x^2+1} + \frac{-2}{x-1} + \frac{1}{(x-1)^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\int \frac{-2x + 4}{(x^2 + 1)(x - 1)^2} dx &= \int \frac{2x + 1}{x^2 + 1} + \frac{-2}{x - 1} + \frac{1}{(x - 1)^2} dx \\
&= \int \frac{2x}{x^2 + 1} dx \Big|_{u=x^2+1, du=2x} + \int \frac{dx}{x^2 + 1} \\
&2 \int \frac{dx}{x - 1} + \int \frac{1}{(x - 1)^2} dx \Big|_{u=x-1, du=dx} \\
&= \ln(x^2 + 1) + \tan^{-1} x - 2\ln|x - 1| - \frac{1}{x - 1} + C
\end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Ex4:

$$\int \frac{dx}{x(x^2 + 1)^2} \quad (7)$$

The fraction is proper.

The factors are  $x$  and  $(x^2 + 1)^2$ .

For  $x$ , it has the partial fraction:  $\frac{A}{x}$ , for  $(x^2 + 1)^2$ , it has the partial fraction:  $\frac{Bx+C}{x^2+1} + \frac{Dx+E}{(x^2+1)^2}$

Set  $\frac{1}{x(x^2+1)^2} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+1} + \frac{Dx+E}{(x^2+1)^2}$ . Clear it

$\frac{1}{x(x^2+1)^2} = \frac{(A+B)x^4 + Cx^3 + (2A+B+D)x^2 + (C+E)x + A}{x(x^2+1)^2}$  Equate the coefficients

of corresponding powers:  $A + B = 0$ ,  $C = 0$ ,  $2A + B + D = 0$ ,

$C + E = 0$  and  $A = 1$ . Solve it.  $A = 1$ ,  $B = -1$ ,  $C = 0$ ,  $D = -1$ ,  $E = 0$

So  $\frac{1}{x(x^2+1)^2} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+1} + \frac{Dx+E}{(x^2+1)^2}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\int \frac{dx}{x(x^2 + 1)^2} &= \int \frac{1}{x} + \frac{-x}{x^2 + 1} \Big|_{u=x^2+1, du=2xdx} + \\
&\quad \frac{-x}{(x^2 + 1)^2} \Big|_{u=x^2+1, du=2xdx} dx \\
&= \ln|x| - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{du}{u} - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{du}{u^2} \\
&= \ln|x| - \frac{1}{2} \ln(x^2 + 1) + \frac{1}{2(x^2 + 1)} + C
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$