

# Lecture 10

## Section 8.5 Rational Functions; Partial Fractions

**Jiwen He**

Department of Mathematics, University of Houston

`jiwenhe@math.uh.edu`

`http://math.uh.edu/~jiwenhe/Math1432`

$$\int \frac{A}{(x - \alpha)^k} dx, \quad \int \frac{Bx + C}{(x^2 + \beta x + \gamma)^k} dx$$



# Rational Function

- **Rational function:**  $R(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$  where  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$  are polynomials.

- Yes:  $\frac{2x}{x^2 - x - 2}$ ,  $\frac{3x^4 - 20x^2 + 17}{x^3 + 2x^2 - 7}$

- No:  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$ ,  $\frac{x^2 + 1}{\ln x}$

- If  $\text{degree}(P) \geq \text{degree}(Q)$ , then, by division,

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = p(x) + \frac{r(x)}{Q(x)}$$

where  $p(x)$  is a polynomial and  $\frac{r(x)}{Q(x)}$  is a proper rational function (i.e.,  $\text{degree}(r) < \text{degree}(Q)$ ).

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

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



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- Let the denominator  $Q(x)$  factor as

$$Q(x) = a \prod (x - \alpha_j)^{n_j} \prod (x^2 + \beta_j x + \gamma_j)^{m_j}$$

where the quadratic factors  $x^2 + \beta_j x + \gamma_j$  are **irreducible** (i.e.,  $\beta_j^2 - 4\gamma_j < 0$ , they have complex zeros).

- Proper rational function  $R(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$  can be written as a sum of **partial fractions** of the form:

$$\frac{A}{(x - \alpha)^k}, \quad \frac{Bx + C}{(x^2 + \beta x + \gamma)^k}$$

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$$\frac{A_n}{(x - \alpha)^n} + \dots + \frac{A_2}{(x - \alpha)^2} + \frac{A_1}{x - \alpha}$$

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$$\frac{1}{x^3(x^2 + 1)} = \frac{A}{x^3} + \frac{B}{x^2} + \frac{C}{x} + \frac{Dx + E}{x^2 + 1} = \frac{1}{x^3} - \frac{1}{x} + \frac{x}{x^2 + 1}$$

$$1 = (C + D)x^4 + (B + E)x^3 + (A + C)x^2 + Bx + A$$

$$A = 1, \quad B = 0, \quad A + C = 0, \quad B + E = 0, \quad C + D = 0$$

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## Examples

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

$$\Rightarrow x^2 = (A + D)x^4 + (-D + E)x^3 + (2A + B + D - E)x^2 + (-B + C - D + E)x + (A - C - E)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{aligned} A + D &= 0, & -D + E &= 0, & 2A + B + D - E &= 1, \\ -B + C - D + E &= 0, & A - C - E &= 0 & \Rightarrow \text{Finish it} \end{aligned}$$



# Partial Fraction Decomposition: Example

- Each power  $(x - \alpha)^n$  of a linear factor  $x - \alpha$  contributes:

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## Examples

$$\frac{x^3}{(x^2 + 2x + 2)^2} = \frac{Ax + B}{(x^2 + 2x + 2)^2} + \frac{Cx + D}{x^2 + 2x + 2}$$

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Partial Fractions:  $\frac{A}{(x-\alpha)^k}$

$$\int \frac{A}{x-\alpha} dx = A \ln |x-\alpha| + C$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{x^2}{(x^2-9)^2} dx &= \int \frac{x^2}{(x-3)^2(x+3)^2} dx \\ &= \int \left( \frac{1/4}{(x-3)^2} + \frac{1/12}{x-3} + \frac{1/4}{(x+3)^2} + \frac{-1/12}{x+3} \right) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{12} \left( -\frac{3}{x-3} + \ln |x-3| - \frac{3}{x+3} - \ln |x+3| \right) + C \end{aligned}$$



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$$\text{Partial Fractions: } \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+\beta x+\gamma} = \frac{B}{2} \frac{2x+\beta}{x^2+\beta x+\gamma} + \frac{C-\frac{B}{2}\beta}{x^2+\beta x+\gamma}$$

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Proof.

$$\int \frac{2x+\beta}{x^2+\beta x+\gamma} dx = \int \frac{1}{u} du = \ln|u| + C = \ln|x^2+\beta x+\gamma| + C$$

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Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{x^2+\beta x+\gamma} dx &= \int \frac{1}{t^2+a^2} dt = \int \frac{1}{a^2 \sec^2 u} a \sec^2 u du \\ &= \frac{1}{a} \int du = \frac{1}{a} u + C = \frac{1}{a} \tan^{-1} \frac{t}{a} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\gamma-\frac{\beta^2}{4}}} \tan^{-1} \frac{x+\frac{\beta}{2}}{\sqrt{\gamma-\frac{\beta^2}{4}}} \end{aligned}$$

Note  $x^2 + \beta x + \gamma = (x + \beta/2)^2 + \gamma - \beta^2/4$ .

Set  $t = x + \beta/2$ ,  $a^2 = \gamma - \beta^2/4$ .

set  $a \tan u = t$ ,  $a \sec^2 u du = dt$ ,  $t^2 + a^2 = a^2 \sec^2 u$ .



## Integrals of Partial Fractions

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$$\int \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+\beta x+\gamma} dx = \frac{B}{2} \ln|x^2+\beta x+\gamma| + \frac{C-\frac{B}{2}\beta}{\sqrt{\gamma-\frac{\beta^2}{4}}} \tan^{-1} \frac{x+\frac{\beta}{2}}{\sqrt{\gamma-\frac{\beta^2}{4}}}$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{x^2+\beta x+\gamma} dx &= \int \frac{1}{t^2+a^2} dt = \int \frac{1}{a^2 \sec^2 u} a \sec^2 u du \\ &= \frac{1}{a} \int du = \frac{1}{a} u + C = \frac{1}{a} \tan^{-1} \frac{t}{a} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\gamma-\frac{\beta^2}{4}}} \tan^{-1} \frac{x+\frac{\beta}{2}}{\sqrt{\gamma-\frac{\beta^2}{4}}} \end{aligned}$$

Note  $x^2 + \beta x + \gamma = (x + \beta/2)^2 + \gamma - \beta^2/4$ .

Set  $t = x + \beta/2$ ,  $a^2 = \gamma - \beta^2/4$ .

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$$\int \frac{Bx+C}{(x^2+\beta x+\gamma)^k} dx = -\frac{B}{2(k-1)} \frac{1}{(x^2+\beta x+\gamma)^{k-1}} + c \int \cos^{2(k-1)} u du$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{2x+\beta}{(x^2+\beta x+\gamma)^k} dx &= \int \frac{1}{u^k} du = -\frac{1}{k-1} \frac{1}{u^{k-1}} + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{k-1} \frac{1}{(x^2+\beta x+\gamma)^{k-1}} + C \end{aligned}$$

Set  $u = x^2 + \beta x + \gamma$ ,  $du = 2x + \beta dx$ .



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$$= 2 \ln|x+1| + \frac{1}{2} \ln(x^2+4) - \frac{1}{16} \left( \tan^{-1} \frac{x}{2} + \frac{2x}{x^2+4} \right) + C$$

## Integrals of Partial Fractions: Examples

Partial Fractions:  $\frac{Bx+C}{(x^2+\beta x+\gamma)^k} = \frac{B}{2} \frac{2x+\beta}{(x^2+\beta x+\gamma)^k} + \frac{C-\frac{B}{2}\beta}{(x^2+\beta x+\gamma)^k}$

$$\int \frac{Bx+C}{(x^2+\beta x+\gamma)^k} dx = -\frac{B}{2(k-1)} \frac{1}{(x^2+\beta x+\gamma)^{k-1}} + c \int \cos^{2(k-1)} u du$$

where  $c = \frac{C-\frac{B}{2}\beta}{a^{2k-1}}$ ,  $t = x + \beta/2$ ,  $a^2 = \gamma - \beta^2/4$ ,  $a \tan u = t$ .

## Example

$$\int \frac{3x^4 + x^3 + 20x^2 + 3x + 31}{(x+1)(x^2+4)^2} dx = \int \left( \frac{2}{x+1} + \frac{x}{x^2+4} - \frac{1}{(x^2+4)^2} \right) dx$$

$$= 2 \ln|x+1| + \frac{1}{2} \ln(x^2+4) - \frac{1}{8} \int \cos^2 u du$$

$$= 2 \ln|x+1| + \frac{1}{2} \ln(x^2+4) - \frac{1}{16} (u + \sin u \cos u) + C$$

$$= 2 \ln|x+1| + \frac{1}{2} \ln(x^2+4) - \frac{1}{16} \left( \tan^{-1} \frac{x}{2} + \frac{2x}{x^2+4} \right) + C$$

# Outline

- Partial Fraction Decomposition
  - Rational Function
  - Partial Fraction Decomposition
  
- Integrals of Partial Fractions
  - Partial Fractions

