

Integration with partial fractions

We can integrate fractions by splitting them up using our knowledge of partial fractions.

Recall, the types of partial fractions:

- Distinct linear factors
- Repeated linear factors
- Irreducible quadratic factor

Check if the denominator can factorise.

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Integration with partial fractions

Examples:

(a) Integrate  $\int \frac{1}{x^2-x-6} dx$

(b) Hence find the exact value of  $\int_1^2 \frac{1}{x^2-x-6} dx$  leaving your answer in the form  $\ln a$

$\int \frac{1}{x^2-x-6} = \int \frac{1}{(x-3)(x+2)} dx$

$\frac{A}{x-3} + \frac{B}{x+2}$

$A(x+2) + B(x-3) = 1$

let  $x=2$   $5A = 1$   $A = \frac{1}{5}$

let  $x=3$   $5B = 1$   $B = \frac{1}{5}$

$\int \left( \frac{1}{5(x-3)} - \frac{1}{5(x+2)} \right) dx$

$\frac{1}{5} \ln|x-3| - \frac{1}{5} \ln|x+2| + C$

$\frac{1}{5} \ln \left| \frac{x-3}{x+2} \right| + C$

(b)  $\left[ \frac{1}{5} \ln \left| \frac{x-3}{x+2} \right| \right]_1^2 = \left[ \frac{1}{5} \ln \left| \frac{1-3}{1+2} \right| \right] - \left[ \frac{1}{5} \ln \left| \frac{-3}{1+2} \right| \right]$

$\frac{1}{5} \ln \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{5} \ln \frac{3}{2}$

$\frac{1}{5} \ln \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{5} \ln \frac{3}{2} = \frac{1}{5} \ln \left( \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \right)$

$\frac{1}{5} \ln \frac{4}{9} = \frac{1}{5} \ln \left( \frac{2}{3} \right)^2$

$\frac{2}{5} \ln \frac{2}{3}$

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Integration with partial fractions

Examples:

2.  $\int \frac{x}{(x-1)(x^2-6x+9)} dx = \int \frac{x}{(x-1)(x-3)^2} dx$

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

$A(x-3)^2 + B(x-1)(x-3) + C(x-1) = x$

let  $x=3$   $2C = 3$   $C = \frac{3}{2}$

let  $x=1$   $4A = 1$   $A = \frac{1}{4}$

let  $x=2$   $\frac{1}{4}(1)^2 + B(-1)(-1) + C(-1) = 2$

$\frac{1}{4} - B + \frac{3}{2} = 2$

$-\frac{1}{4} - B = \frac{1}{2}$

$B = -\frac{3}{4}$

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

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

$\frac{1}{4} \ln \left| \frac{x-1}{x-3} \right| - \frac{3}{2(x-3)} + C$

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Integration with partial fractions

3.  $\int \frac{x^3+2}{x^2-1} dx$

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

$\frac{x^3+0x^2-1}{x^2-1} + \frac{x^3+0x^2+0x^2+0x+2}{x^2-1}$

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

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

$\frac{A}{x+1} + \frac{B}{x-1}$

$A(x-1) + B(x+1) = x+2$

let  $x=1$   $2B = 3$   $B = \frac{3}{2}$

let  $x=-1$   $-2A = 1$   $A = -\frac{1}{2}$

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

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

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Integration with partial fractions

4.  $\int \frac{3x^2-2x+16}{(2-x)(x^2+4)} dx$

$\frac{A}{2-x} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+4}$

$A(x^2+4) + (2-x)(Bx+C) = 3x^2-2x+16$

let  $x=2$   $8A = 12-4+16$   $8A = 24$   $A = 3$

let  $x=0$   $3(4) + 2C = 16$   $12+2C = 16$   $2C = 4$   $C = 2$

$Ax^2 - Bx^2 = 3x^2$  or let  $x=1$

$A-B = 3$

$3-B = 3$

$-B = 0$

$B = 0$

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

$-3 \ln|2-x| + \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{x}{2} \right) + C$

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Integration with partial fractions - Past Papers

2016

Express  $\frac{3x+32}{(x+4)(6-x)}$  in partial fractions and hence evaluate  $\int_3^4 \frac{3x+32}{(x+4)(6-x)} dx$ .

Give your answer in the form  $\ln \left( \frac{p}{q} \right)$ .

$\frac{A}{x+4} + \frac{B}{6-x}$

$A(6-x) + B(x+4) = 3x+32$

let  $x=6$   $10B = 50$   $B = 5$

let  $x=-4$   $10A = 20$   $A = 2$

$\int_3^4 \left( \frac{2}{x+4} + \frac{5}{6-x} \right) dx$

$= \left[ 2 \ln|x+4| - 5 \ln|6-x| \right]_3^4$

$[2 \ln 8 - 5 \ln 2] - [2 \ln 7 - 5 \ln 3]$

$[\ln 64 - \ln 32] - [\ln 49 - \ln 243]$

$\ln 2 - \ln \frac{49}{243}$

$\ln \frac{2}{49/243} = \ln \frac{486}{49}$

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Integration with partial fractions - Past Papers

2015

Find  $\int \frac{2x^2 - x - 1}{(x-3)(x^2+1)} dx, x > 3$ .

$$\int \frac{2x^2 - x - 1}{x^3 + x - 3x^2 - 3} dx = \frac{x^2 - 3x + 2 \cdot 3}{x^2 - 3x + 5} = \frac{2x^2 + 0x - x - 1}{6x^2 - 3x + 5}$$

$$\int 2 + \frac{6x^2 - 3x + 5}{(x-3)(x^2+1)}$$

$$\frac{A}{x-3} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+1}$$

$$A(x^2+1) + (Bx+C)(x-3) = 6x^2 - 3x + 5$$

Let  $x=3$     let  $x=0$     let  $x=1$   
 $10A=50$      $5-3C=5$      $10+2B+8$   
 $A=5$      $C=0$      $-2B-2$   
 $B=1$

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

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

$$2x + 5 \ln|x-3| + \frac{1}{2} \ln|x^2+1| + C$$

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Integration with partial fractions - Past Papers

2011

Express  $\frac{13-x}{x^2+4x-5}$  in partial fractions and hence obtain

$$\int \frac{13-x}{x^2+4x-5} dx$$

$$= \int \frac{13-x}{(x+5)(x-1)} dx = \frac{A}{x+5} + \frac{B}{x-1}$$

$$A(x-1) + B(x+5) = 13-x$$

let  $x=1$     let  $x=-5$   
 $6B=12$      $-6A=18$   
 $B=2$      $A=-3$

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

$$= -3 \ln|x+5| + 2 \ln|x-1| + C$$

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Prelim Revision

2013

Integrate  $\frac{\sec^2 3x}{1+\tan 3x}$  with respect to  $x$ .

$$\int \frac{\sec^2 3x}{1+\tan 3x} dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \int \frac{1}{u} du$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \ln|1+\tan 3x| + C$$

let  $u = 1 + \tan 3x$   
 $\frac{du}{dx} = 3 \sec^2 3x$   
 $du = 3 \sec^2 3x dx$   
 $\frac{1}{3} du = \sec^2 3x dx$

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2010

Differentiate the following functions.

(a)  $f(x) = e^x \sin x^2$     3

(b)  $g(x) = \frac{x^3}{(1+\tan x)}$     3

(a)  $e^x (2x \cos x^2) + \sin x^2 (e^x)$     (b)  $\frac{(1+\tan x)3x^2 - x^3(\sec^2 x)}{(1+\tan x)^2}$

$$= e^x [2x \cos x^2 + \sin x^2]$$

$$\frac{3x^2 + 3x^2 \tan x - x^3 \sec^2 x}{(1+\tan x)^2}$$

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The height of a cube is increasing at the rate of  $5 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ .

Find the rate of increase of the volume when the height of the cube is 3 cm.

2016

$$V = h^3$$

$$\frac{dV}{dh} = 3h^2$$

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = 5$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{dV}{dh} \times \frac{dh}{dt} = 3h^2 \times 5 = 15h^2 \text{ at } h=3$$

$$= 15 \times 3^2 = \underline{135 \text{ cm}^3/\text{sec}}$$

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2010

(a) Use the substitution  $t = x^4$  to obtain  $\int \frac{x^3}{1+x^8} dx$ .

(b) Integrate  $x^2 \ln x$  with respect to  $x$ .

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A curve is defined by the equation  $y = \frac{e^{\sin x} (2+x)^3}{\sqrt{1-x}}$  for  $x < 1$ . **2011**  
 Calculate the gradient of the curve when  $x = 0$ . 4

$$y = \frac{e^{\sin x} (2+x)^3}{(1-x)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{(1-x)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ e^{\sin x} (3(2+x)^2) + (2+x)^3 \cdot \cos x e^{\sin x} \right] - e^{\sin x} (2+x)^3 \left[ -\frac{1}{2}(1-x)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \right]}{1-x}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 24 \text{ at } x=0$$

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**2010**  
 Given  $y = t^3 - \frac{5}{2}t^2$  and  $x = \sqrt{t}$  for  $t > 0$ , use parametric differentiation to express  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  in terms of  $t$  in simplified form. 4

Show that  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = at^2 + bt$ , determining the values of the constants  $a$  and  $b$ . 3

Obtain an equation for the tangent to the curve which passes through the point of inflexion. 3

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Use integration by parts to obtain  $\int 8x^2 \sin 4x \, dx$ . **2008**  
5

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A curve has equation **2013**  

$$x^2 + 4xy + y^2 + 11 = 0.$$
  
 Find the values of  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  and  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  at the point  $(-2, 3)$ . 6

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Use the substitution  $x = \tan \theta$  to determine the exact value of **2014**  

$$\int_0^1 \frac{dx}{(1+x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$
. 6

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