

Integration by partial fractions is based on one basic concept. If you have a quotient of two polynomials where the numerator has a degree that is less than the denominator, then you can break it apart into a sum of fractions - one for each factor of the denominator. Basically, we do the following formula backwards.

$$\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad + cb}{bd}$$

If the numerator's degree is equal to or greater than the denominator's, then we first do polynomial long division:

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 - x - 6 \\ x - 2 \overline{) x^3 - 3x^2 - 4x + 12} \\ \underline{x^3 - 2x^2} \\ -x^2 - 4x \\ \underline{-x^2 + 2x} \\ -6x + 12 \\ \underline{-6x + 12} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

If this is hard, I cannot more highly recommend Stewart's Review of Algebra (free download).

There are four cases that we will look at. And I need to mention that they are not exclusive of each other - one integrand may be a combination of a few. The first one is where the denominator is comprised of linear coefficients (of degree 1!), and we split into a sum of fractions where the numerators are constants. The second is for linear factors of degrees higher than one; essentially, we add one fraction for each. Each of our partial fractions will have that linear raised to an exponent - from 1, to the power of the of the original linear expression. For example;

$$\frac{7x + 3}{(5x + 6)^5} = \frac{C_1}{(5x + 6)^1} + \dots + \frac{C_5}{(5x + 6)^5}$$

The third and fourth cases are analogous, except their denominators are either repeated or non-repeated irreducible quadratics, and the numerator becomes a linear instead of a constant. For case 3, when we get our partial fractions, we complete the square in the denominator and use u-substitution and the derivative of arctan to get our answer. For case 4, we can substitute u = irreducible quadratic, and make the numerator du

CASE: 1 linear factors of degree 1

$$\frac{c_1x^n + \dots + c_nx^0}{(a_1x + b_1) \times \dots \times (a_{m \geq n}x + b_{m \geq n})} = \frac{A_1}{a_1x + b_1} + \dots + \frac{A_{m \geq n}}{(a_{m \geq n}x + b_{m \geq n})}$$

*solve with $\int \frac{a}{bx+c} dx = a \ln |bx + c| + C$

CASE: 2 linear factors of degree greater than 1

$$\frac{c_1x^n + \dots + c_nx^0}{(a_1x + b_1)^{m \geq n}} = \frac{A_1}{a_1x + b_1} + \dots + \frac{A_m}{(a_1x + b_1)^m}$$

*solve with $\int \frac{a}{bx+c} dx = a \ln |bx + c| + C$ and u-substitution to make integrals of the same form

CASE: 3 irreducible quadratic factors of degree 1

$$\frac{a_1x^0 + \cdots + a_{2n}x^{2n-1}}{(\text{quadratic}_1) \times \cdots \times (\text{quadratic}_n)} = \frac{A_1x + B_1}{\text{quadratic}_1} + \cdots + \frac{A_nx + B_n}{\text{quadratic}_n}$$

*solve using u-substitution, and/or completing the square followed by making use of the derivative of arctan

CASE: 4 irreducible quadratic factors of degree greater than 1

$$\frac{a_1x^0 + \cdots + a_{2n-1}x^{2n-1}}{(\text{quadratic})^n} = \frac{A_1x + B_1}{\text{quadratic}} + \cdots + \frac{A_nx + B_n}{(\text{quadratic})^n}$$

Selected Questions:

$$39. \int \frac{1}{(x\sqrt{x+1})} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{(x\sqrt{x+1})} dx &= 2 \int \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{a}{2\sqrt{x+1}} dx \\ &= (u = \sqrt{x+1}) \\ &= 2 \int \frac{1}{u^2 - 1} du \\ &= \text{trivial} \end{aligned}$$

$$40. \int \frac{dx}{2\sqrt{x+3} + x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{dx}{2\sqrt{x+3} + x} &= (u = \sqrt{x+3}) \\ &= \int \frac{2u du}{2u + u^2 - 3} \\ &= \text{trivial} \end{aligned}$$

$$41. \int \frac{\sqrt{x}}{x-4} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{\sqrt{x}}{x-4} dx &= (u = \sqrt{x}) \\ &= \int \frac{2u^2 du}{u^2 - 4} \\ &= \text{trivial} \end{aligned}$$

$$42. \int \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt[3]{x}} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt[3]{x}} dx &= (u = \sqrt[3]{x}) \\ &= \int \frac{3u^2 du}{1 + u} \\ &= \text{trivial} \end{aligned}$$

$$43. \int \frac{x^3}{\sqrt[3]{x^2+1}} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{x^3}{\sqrt[3]{x^2+1}} dx &= \int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt[3]{x^2+1}} x dx \\ &= (u = \sqrt[3]{x^2+1}; du = 2x dx) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{u^3-1}{u} du \\ &= \text{trivial} \end{aligned}$$

$$46. \int \frac{\sqrt{1+\sqrt{x}}}{x} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{\sqrt{1+\sqrt{x}}}{x} dx &= (u = \sqrt{x}; u^2 = x; dx = 2u du) \\ &= 2 \int \frac{\sqrt{1+u}}{u^2} du \\ &= \text{trivial after onemore rationalizing substitution} \end{aligned}$$