

7.5 Rational Function

Rational function: A function of the form $\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$ is known as rational function.

- Proper rational function if

degree of the numerator < degree of denominator

viz; $\frac{x^5+7}{x^8+2}$

- Improper rational function if

degree of the numerator > degree of denominator

viz; $\frac{x^8+2}{x^5+1}$

Partial Fraction:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2}{x-2} + \frac{3}{x+1} \\ = & \frac{2(x+1) + 3(x-2)}{(x-2)(x+1)} = \frac{2x+2+3x-6}{x^2+x-2x-2} = \frac{5x-4}{x^2-3x-2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \frac{5x-4}{x^2-3x-2} = \frac{2}{x-2} + \frac{3}{x+1} \quad \text{—————} (*)$$

The terms on the right side of (*) are called partial fraction of the expression on the left side.

Linear Factors

For any rational function $\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$. If all the factors of $Q(x)$ are linear, then the partial fraction decomposition of $\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$ can determine using following rule:

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

$$\therefore \frac{5x}{x^2+x-2} = \frac{5(x)}{(x+2)(x-1)}$$

$$\text{Now } \frac{5x}{(x+2)(x-1)} = \frac{A}{(x+2)} + \frac{B}{(x-1)} \quad \text{———— (1)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{5x}{(x+2)(x-1)} = \frac{A(x-1) + B(x+2)}{(x+2)(x-1)}$$

$$\Rightarrow 5x = A(x-1) + B(x+2) \quad \text{———— (11)}$$

Putting $x=1$ in (1)

$$5 \cdot 1 = A \cdot 0 + B(x+2)$$

$$\therefore B = \frac{5}{3}$$

Putting $x=-2$ in (11)

$$5(-2) = A(-2-1) + B \cdot 0$$

$$\Rightarrow A = \frac{10}{3}$$

① become,

$$\frac{5x}{(x+2)(x-1)} = \frac{\frac{10}{3}}{x+2} + \frac{\frac{5}{3}}{x-1}$$

Repeated Factors

If the factors of $Q(x)$ are repeated that is

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

Quadratic Factors

Example of Quadratic Factors

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

For Example

$$(i) \quad \frac{2x+1}{(x+2)^2(x^2+1)} = \frac{A}{x+2} + \frac{B}{(x+2)^2} + \frac{Cx+D}{x^2+1}$$

$$(ii) \quad \frac{2x+1}{(x+1)(x-2)(x^2+1)} = \frac{A}{x+1} + \frac{B}{x-2} + \frac{Cx+D}{x^2+1}$$

$$(iii) \quad \frac{2}{(x^2+5)(x-1)} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+5}$$

$$(iv) \quad \frac{5}{x^2(x-1)} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{B}{x} + \frac{C}{x^2}$$

• Evaluate $\int \frac{dx}{x^2+x-2}$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Here } \frac{1}{x^2+x-2} &= \frac{1}{x^2+2x-x-2} = \frac{1}{x(x+2)-1(x+2)} \\ &= \frac{1}{(x+2)(x-1)}\end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$\frac{1}{(x+2)(x-1)} = \frac{A}{(x+2)} + \frac{B}{(x-1)} \quad \text{--- (i)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{(x+2)(x-1)} = \cancel{A(x)} \frac{A(x-1) + B(x+2)}{(x+2)(x-1)}$$

$$\therefore 1 = A(x-1) + B(x+2) \quad \text{--- (ii)}$$

Putting $x=1$ in (ii)

$$1 = A \cdot 0 + B(1+2)$$

$$\boxed{\Rightarrow B = \frac{1}{3}}$$

Putting $x=-2$ in (ii)

$$1 = A(-2-1) + B \cdot 0$$

$$\boxed{\Rightarrow A = -\frac{1}{3}}$$

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

Now

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

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

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

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• Evaluate $\int \frac{2x+4}{x^3-2x^2} dx$

Solution:

$$\frac{2x+4}{x^3-2x^2} = \frac{2x+4}{x^2(x-2)} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x^2} + \frac{C}{x-2} \quad \text{--- (i)}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x+4 = Ax(x-2) + B(x-2) + Cx^2 \quad \text{--- (ii)}$$

Setting $x=0$ in (ii)

$$0+4 = 0 + B(0-2) + C \cdot 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -2B = 4 \quad \therefore \boxed{B = -2}$$

Setting $x=2$ in (ii)

$$4+4 = 0 + 0 + 4C$$

$$\Rightarrow 4C = 8 \quad \therefore \boxed{C = 2}$$

putting $x=1$, $B=-2$, and $c=2$ in (ii)

$$2+4 = A \cdot 1 \cdot (1-2) + (-2)(1-2) + 2 \cdot 1^2$$

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

$$\therefore \int \frac{2x+4}{x^2(x-2)} dx = \int \frac{-2}{x} dx + \int \frac{-2}{x^2} dx + \int \frac{2}{x-2} dx$$

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

$$\therefore \int \frac{2x+4}{x^2(x-2)} dx = -2 \ln x + \frac{2}{x} + \ln |x-2| + C$$

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

Solution: Here, $3x^3-x^2+3x-1$

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

$$= x^2(3x-1) + 1(3x-1)$$

$$= (3x-1)(x^2+1)$$

$$\text{Now } \frac{x^2+x-2}{(3x-1)(x^2+1)} = \frac{A}{3x-1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+1} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

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

$$\Rightarrow x^2 + x - 2 = A(x+1) + (Bx+C)(3x-1) \text{ --- (1)}$$

Putting $x = \frac{1}{3}$ in (1)

$$\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) - 2 = A\left(\frac{1}{3} + 1\right) + 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{10}{9}A = \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{3} - 2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{10}{9}A = \frac{1+3-18}{9}$$

$$\Rightarrow A = \frac{-14}{10} \therefore \boxed{A = -\frac{7}{5}}$$

Putting $x=0$, $A = -\frac{7}{5}$ in (1)

$$0+0-2 = A - \frac{7}{5}(0+1) + (B \cdot 0 + C)(0-1)$$

$$\Rightarrow -2 = -\frac{7}{5} - C$$

$$\Rightarrow C = -\frac{7}{5} + 2 \therefore \boxed{C = \frac{3}{5}}$$

Again, substituting $x=1$, $A = -\frac{7}{5}$ and $C = \frac{3}{5}$ in (1)

$$1+1-2 = -\frac{7}{5}(1+1) + \cancel{\left(\frac{3}{5} \cdot 1\right)} + (B \cdot 1 + \frac{3}{5})(3 \cdot 1 - 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = -\frac{14}{5} + 2\left(B + \frac{3}{5}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow B + \frac{3}{5} = \frac{7}{5} \therefore \boxed{B = \frac{4}{5}}$$

$\therefore (1) \Rightarrow$

$$\frac{x^2+x-2}{(3x-1)(x^2+1)} = \frac{-\frac{7}{5}}{3x-1} + \frac{\frac{4}{5}x + \frac{3}{5}}{x^2+1}$$

$$= -\frac{7}{5} \frac{1}{3x-1} + \frac{4}{5} \frac{x}{x^2+1} + \frac{3}{5} \frac{1}{x^2+1}$$

$$\therefore \int \frac{x^2+x-2}{(3x-1)(x^2+1)} dx = \int -\frac{7}{5} \frac{1}{3x-1} dx + \int \frac{4}{5} \frac{x}{x^2+1} dx + \int \frac{3}{5} \frac{1}{x^2+1} dx$$

$$= -\frac{7}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{3} \int \frac{3}{3x-1} dx + \frac{2}{5} \int \frac{2x}{x^2+1} dx + \frac{3}{5} \int \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx$$

$$= -\frac{7}{15} \ln|3x-1| + \frac{2}{5} \ln|x^2+1| + \frac{3}{5} \tan^{-1}x + C$$

Practice

Solve (i) $\int \frac{2x^2-2x-1}{x^3-x^2} dx$

(ii) $\int \frac{2x^2+3x+3}{(x+1)^3} dx$

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

(iv) $\int \frac{2x^2-10x+4}{(x+1)(x-3)^2} dx$

(v) $\int \frac{x^2}{(x+1)^3} dx$

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

