

Lecture 12

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1 Integration of Rational Functions

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = M(x) + \frac{R(x)}{Q(x)}$$

Definition 1. A simple rational function of one of the following forms is called a basic rational function.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{A}{x - \alpha} \quad ; A, \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \\ & \frac{A}{(x - \alpha)^n} \quad ; A, \alpha \in \mathbb{R}, n \in \mathbb{N} - \{1\} \\ & \frac{Ax + B}{x^2 + px + q} \quad ; A, B, p, q \in \mathbb{R}, p^2 - 4q < 0 \\ & \frac{Ax + B}{(x^2 + px + q)^n} \quad ; A, B, p, q \in \mathbb{R}, p^2 - 4q < 0, n \in \mathbb{N} - \{1\} \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1. Any simple rational function $\frac{R(x)}{Q(x)}$ can be represented as a sum of basic rational functions.

Remark 1.

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} dx &= \int M(x) dx + \int \frac{R(x)}{Q(x)} dx \\ &= \int M(x) dx + \int \sum (\text{basic rational function}) dx \\ &= \int M(x) dx + \sum \int (\text{basic rational function}) dx \end{aligned}$$

1.1 Integrals of Basic Rational Functions

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

$$\int \frac{A}{(x - \alpha)^n} dx = A \frac{(x - \alpha)^{-n+1}}{-n + 1} + c$$

$$\int \frac{Ax + B}{x^2 + px + q} dx = \int \frac{Ax + B}{\left(x + \frac{p}{2}\right)^2 + q - \frac{p^2}{4}}$$

Let $a = q - \frac{p^2}{4}$. Let $t = x + \frac{p}{2}$. Therefore, $dt = dx$.

$$\begin{aligned}
\therefore \int \frac{Ax + B}{\left(x + \frac{p}{2}\right)^2 + q - \frac{p^2}{4}} &= \frac{A\left(t - \frac{p}{2}\right) + B}{t^2 + a^2} dt \\
&= \frac{A}{2} \int \frac{2t}{t^2 + a^2} dt + \left(B - \frac{Ap}{2}\right) \int \frac{1}{t^2 + a^2} dt \\
&= \frac{A}{2} \ln(t^2 + a^2) + \frac{B - \frac{Ap}{2}}{a} \arctan\left(\frac{t}{a}\right) + c \\
&= \frac{A}{2} \ln(x^2 + px + q) + \frac{B - \frac{Ap}{2}}{a} \arctan\left(\frac{x + \frac{p}{2}}{a}\right) + c
\end{aligned}$$

$$\int \frac{Ax + B}{(x^2 + px + q)^n} dx = \int \frac{Ax + B}{\left(\left(x + \frac{p}{2}\right)^2 + q - \frac{p^2}{4}\right)^n}$$

Let $a = q - \frac{p^2}{4}$. Let $t = x + \frac{p}{2}$. Therefore, $dt = dx$.

$$\begin{aligned}
\therefore \int \frac{Ax + B}{\left(\left(x + \frac{p}{2}\right)^2 + q - \frac{p^2}{4}\right)^n} &= \frac{A\left(t - \frac{p}{2}\right) + B}{(t^2 + a^2)^n} dt \\
&= \frac{A}{2} \int \frac{2t}{(t^2 + a^2)^n} dt + \left(B - \frac{Ap}{2}\right) \int \frac{1}{(t^2 + a^2)^n} dt \\
&= \frac{A}{2} \frac{(t^2 + a^2)^{-n+1}}{-n+1} + \left(B - \frac{Ap}{2}\right) \int \frac{1}{(t^2 + a^2)^n} dt + c
\end{aligned}$$

1.2 Finding Basic Rational Functions

1.2.1 Type 1

If

$$Q(x) = (a_1x + b_1) \dots (a_kx + b_k)$$

and the multipliers are different from each other, then,

$$\frac{R(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{A_1}{a_1x + b_1} + \dots + \frac{A_k}{a_kx + b_k}$$

Example 1.

$$\begin{aligned}
\int \frac{x^2 + 2x - 1}{2x^3 + 3x^2 - 2x} dx &= \int \frac{x^2 + 2x - 1}{x(2x^2 + 3x - 2)} dx \\
&= \int \frac{x^2 + 2x - 1}{(x)(2x - 1)(x + 2)} \\
\frac{x^2 + 2x - 1}{(x)(2x - 1)(x + 2)} &= \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{2x - 1} + \frac{C}{x + 2} \\
&= \frac{A(2x - 1)(x + 2) + B(x)(x + 2) + C(x)(2x - 1)}{(x)(2x - 1)(x + 2)} \\
&= \frac{x^2(2A + B + C) + x(3A + 2B - C) - 2A}{(x)(2x - 1)(x + 2)}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
2A + B + C &= 1 \\
3A + 2B - C &= 2 \\
-2A &= -1
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
A &= \frac{1}{2} \\
B &= \frac{1}{5} \\
C &= -\frac{1}{10}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
\int \frac{x^2 + 2x - 1}{(x)(2x - 1)(x + 2)} &= \int \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{x} + \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{2x - 1} + \frac{-\frac{1}{10}}{x + 2} \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \ln|x| + \frac{1}{5} \frac{\ln|2x - 1|}{2} - \frac{1}{10} \ln|x + 2| + d \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \ln|x| + \frac{1}{10} \ln \left| \frac{2x - 1}{x + 2} \right| + d
\end{aligned}$$

1.2.2 Type 2

If

$$Q(x) = (a_1x + b_1)^m(a_2x + b_2) \dots (a_kx + b_k)$$

and the multipliers are different from each other, $m \in \mathbb{N} - \{1\}$, then,

$$\frac{R(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{A_1}{a_1x + b_1} + \dots + \frac{A_m}{(a_1x + b_1)^m} + \frac{B_2}{a_2x + b_2} + \dots + \frac{B_k}{a_kx + b_k}$$

Example 2.

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{-x+2}{x(x-1)^2} dx &= \int \left(\frac{A_1}{x} + \frac{B_1}{x-1} + \frac{B_2}{(x-1)^2} \right) dx \\ \frac{-x+2}{x(x-1)^2} &= \frac{A_1(x-1)^2 + B_1(x)(x-1) + B_2x}{x(x-1)^2} \\ &= \frac{x^2(A_1 + B_1) + x(-2A_1 - B_1 + B_2) + A_1}{x(x-1)^2}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}A_1 + B_1 &= 0 \\ -2A_1 - B_1 + B_2 &= -1 \\ A_1 &= 2\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}A_1 &= 2 \\ B_1 &= -2 \\ B_2 &= 1\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{-x+2}{x(x-1)^2} dx &= \int \left(\frac{2}{x} + \frac{-2}{x-1} + \frac{1}{(x-1)^2} \right) dx \\ &= 2 \ln |x| - 2 \ln |x-1| - \frac{1}{x-1} + c \\ &= 2 \ln \left| \frac{x}{x-1} \right| - \frac{1}{x-1} + c\end{aligned}$$

1.2.3 Type 3

If

$$Q(x) = (ax^2 + bx + c)(a_2x + b_2) \dots (a_kx + b_k)$$

and the multipliers are different from each other, $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, then,

$$\frac{R(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{Ax + B}{ax^2 + bx + c} + \frac{A_2}{a_2x + b_2} + \dots + \frac{A_k}{a_kx + b_k}$$

Example 3.

$$\begin{aligned}
\int \frac{2x^2 - x + 4}{x^3 + 4x} dx &= \int \frac{2x^2 - x + 4}{x(x^2 + 4)} dx \\
&= \int \left(\frac{A}{x} + \frac{Bx + C}{x^2 + 4} \right) dx \\
\frac{2x^2 - x + 4}{x^3 + 4x} &= \frac{A(x^2 + 4) + (Bx + C)x}{x(x^2 + 4)} \\
&= \frac{x^2(A + B) + x(C) + 4A}{x(x^2 + 4)}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
A + B &= 2 \\
C &= -1 \\
4A &= 4
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
A &= 1 \\
B &= 1 \\
C &= -1
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
\int \frac{2x^2 - x + 4}{x(x^2 + 4)} dx &= \int \left(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{x - 1}{x^2 + 4} \right) dx \\
&= \ln|x| + \int \frac{x}{x^2 + 4} dx - \int \frac{1}{x^2 + 4} dx + d \\
&= \ln|x| + \frac{1}{2} \ln(x^2 + 4) - \frac{1}{2} \arctan\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + d
\end{aligned}$$

1.2.4 Type 4

If

$$Q(x) = (ax^2 + bx + c)^m (a_2x + b_2) \dots (a_kx + b_k)$$

and the multipliers are different from each other, $m \in \mathbb{N} - \{1\}$, $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, then,

$$\frac{R(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{A_1x + B_1}{ax^2 + bx + c} + \dots + \frac{A_mx + B_m}{(ax^2 + bx + c)^m} + \frac{C_2}{a_2x + b_2} + \dots + \frac{C_k}{a_kx + b_k}$$