

# MAT222: Calculus II

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# Integration of Rational Functions by Partial Fractions

CASE I: The denominator  $Q(x)$  is a product of distinct linear factors.

We can write

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

where no factor is repeated.

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In this case the partial fraction theorem states that there exist constants  $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots, A_k$  such that

$$\frac{R(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{A_1}{a_1x + b_1} + \frac{A_2}{a_2x + b_2} + \dots + \frac{A_k}{a_kx + b_k}.$$

## Example 2

Write the partial fraction decomposition of

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

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Use and alternative method to write the partial fraction decomposition of

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## Example 2

Find

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

## Example 3

Find

$$\int \frac{x^2 - a^2}{dx},$$

where  $a \neq 0$ .



CASE II:  $Q(x)$  is a product of linear factors, some of which are repeated.

Suppose the first linear factor  $(a_1x + b_1)$  is repeated  $r$  times; that is,  $(a_1x + b_1)^r$  occurs in the factorization of  $Q(x)$ . Then instead of the single term  $\frac{A_1}{(a_1x + b)}$ , we would write

$$\frac{A_1}{(a_1x + b)} + \frac{A_2}{(a_1x + b)^2} + \cdots + \frac{A_r}{(a_1x + b)^r}$$

## Example 4

Find

$$\int \frac{x^4 - 2x^2 + 4x + 1}{x^3 - x^2 - x + 1} dx.$$

Case III:  $Q(x)$  contains irreducible quadratic factors, none of which is repeated.

If  $Q(x)$  has the factor  $ax^2 + bx + c$ , where  $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ , then the expression for  $R(x)/Q(x)$  will have a term of the form

$$\frac{Ax + B}{ax^2 + bx + c},$$

## Example 5

Evaluate

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

## Example 6

Evaluate

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

Case IV:  $Q(x)$  contains a repeated irreducible quadratic factor.

If  $Q(x)$  has the factor  $(ax^2 + bx + c)^r$ , where  $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ , then instead of the single partial fraction, the sum

$$\frac{A_1x + B_1}{ax^2 + bx + c} + \frac{A_2x + B_2}{(ax^2 + bx + c)^2} + \cdots + \frac{A_rx + B_r}{(ax^2 + bx + c)^r}$$

occurs in the partial fraction decomposition of  $R(x)/Q(x)$ .

## Example 7

Write out the form of the partial fraction decomposition of the function

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

## Example 8

Evaluate

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



# Rationalizing Substitutions

Some non-rational functions can be changed into rational functions by means of appropriate substitutions.

## Example 9

Evaluate

$$\int \frac{\sqrt{x+4}}{x} dx.$$