

# Math 3B: Lecture 14

Noah White

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## Quiz this week

- Quiz 3 questions will be drawn from problem set 5

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- Quiz 3 questions will be drawn from problem set 5
- Questions 1-5
- New questions have been added to the problem set (these will not be on the quiz)
- Notes on long division and partial fractions online
- Solutions to requested problems are coming!

# Survey

I have put a survey online:  
[math.ucla.edu/~noah/survey](http://math.ucla.edu/~noah/survey)

## Last time

- More integration by parts examples



## Last time

- More integration by parts examples
- Polynomial long division

# How to deal with rational functions?

How can we integrate something like

$$\int \frac{3x^3 - 7x^2 + 17x - 3}{x^2 - 2x - 8} dx$$

or

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

## Long division of polynomials

For the first example we can rewrite it in the form

$$\frac{3x^3 - 7x^2 + 17x - 3}{x^2 - 2x - 8} = 3x - 1 + \frac{39x - 11}{x^2 - 2x - 8}$$

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This is still not something we can integrate so we need to go further.

# Partial fractions

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How do we reverse this process?

Answer: partial fractions

When the denominator is  $(ax + b)(cx + d) \cdots$

We want to rewrite  $\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$  as a sum. Let

$$Q(x) = (a_1x + b_1)(a_2x + b_2) \cdots (a_nx + b_n)$$



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- $Q(x)$  has no repeated factors. E.g.  $Q(x) = (x - 1)(x + 2)$  but not  $Q(x) = (x - 1)^2(x + 2)$ , then

we can always find constants  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  so that

$$\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{A_1}{a_1x + b_1} + \frac{A_2}{a_2x + b_2} + \cdots + \frac{A_n}{a_nx + b_n}$$

## Example 1

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Multiplying both sides by  $(x-1)(x+1)$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \frac{A(x-1)(x+1)}{x+1} + \frac{B(x-1)(x+1)}{x-1} \\ &= A(x-1) + B(x+1) \\ &= (A+B)x + (B-A) \end{aligned}$$

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Comparing coefficients

$$A + B = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad B - A = 1$$

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Comparing coefficients

$$A + B = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad B - A = 1$$

So

$$-2A = 1 \quad \text{hence} \quad A = -\frac{1}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \frac{1}{2}.$$



## Example 2

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

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$$x-3 = A(x-1) + B(x+4) = (A+B)x - A + 4B.$$

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Comparing coefficients

$$A+B=1 \quad \text{and} \quad -A+4B=-3$$

So

## Example 2

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Comparing coefficients

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So

$$A = \frac{7}{5} \quad \text{and} \quad B = -\frac{2}{5}.$$

### Example 3

$$\frac{6}{x^3 - 8x^2 + 19x - 12} = \frac{6}{(x-1)(x-3)(x-4)} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{B}{x-3} + \frac{C}{x-4}$$

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Multiplying on both sides by  $(x-1)(x-3)(x-4)$

$$\begin{aligned} 6 &= A(x-3)(x-4) + B(x-1)(x-4) + C(x-1)(x-3) \\ &= (A+B+C)x^2 - (7A+5B+4C)x + 12A+4B+3C. \end{aligned}$$

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$$A+B+C=0, \quad 7A+5B+4C=0 \quad \text{and} \quad 12A+4B+3C=6$$

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Comparing coefficients

$$A + B + C = 0, \quad 7A + 5B + 4C = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad 12A + 4B + 3C = 6$$

So

$$A = 1, \quad B = -3 \quad \text{and} \quad C = 2.$$



## Repeated factors

What if  $q(x)$  contains repeated factors? E.g. if  $q(x) = (x - 1)^2$  or  $q(x) = (x - 1)(x + 2)^3$ ?

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For every factor  $(ax + b)^k$  in  $q(x)$ , the partial fraction expansion has terms of the form

$$\frac{A_1}{ax + b} + \frac{A_2}{(ax + b)^2} + \frac{A_3}{(ax + b)^3} + \cdots + \frac{A_k}{(ax + b)^k}.$$

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$$A = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad B - A = 0$$

So

$$A = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad B = 1.$$

## Example 2

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

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Multiplying both sides by  $(x - 1)^3$

$$\begin{aligned}x^2 + x + 1 &= A(x - 1)^2 + B(x - 1) + C \\&= Ax^2 + (-2A + B)x + A - B + C.\end{aligned}$$



## Example 2

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So

$$A = 1, \quad B = 3 \quad \text{and} \quad C = 3.$$

### Example 3

$$\frac{15x^2 - 17x + 3}{x^3 + 2x^2 - 7x + 4} = \frac{15x^2 - 17x + 3}{(x + 4)(x - 1)^2} = \frac{A}{x + 4} + \frac{B}{x - 1} + \frac{C}{(x - 1)^2}$$

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Multiplying both sides by  $(x + 4)(x - 1)^2$

$$\begin{aligned} 15x^2 - 17x + 3 &= A(x - 1)^2 + B(x - 1)(x + 4) + C(x + 4) \\ &= (A + B)x^2 + (-2A + 3B + C)x + A + 4B + 4C. \end{aligned}$$

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Comparing coefficients

$$\begin{aligned} A + B &= 15 \\ -2A + 3B + C &= -17 \\ A + 4B + 4C &= 3. \end{aligned}$$

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Comparing coefficients

$$\begin{aligned} A + B &= 15 \\ -2A + 3B + C &= -17 \\ A + 4B + 4C &= 3. \end{aligned}$$

So

$$A = \frac{311}{25}, \quad B = \frac{64}{25} \quad \text{and} \quad C = \frac{1}{5}.$$

Side note: integrating  $\frac{1}{x}$ .

Recall that

Fact

$$\int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln |x| + C$$

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Using substitution this gives the formula

$$\int \frac{1}{ax + b} dx = \frac{1}{a} \ln |ax + b| + C.$$

Side note: integrating  $\frac{1}{x^k}$ .

Recall that if  $k > 1$

Fact

$$\int \frac{1}{x^k} dx = -\frac{1}{(k-1)x^{k-1}} + C$$

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# Integrating rational functions $p(x)/q(x)$

Action plan

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## Action plan

1. Express  $\frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$  in the form

$$d(x) + \frac{r(x)}{q(x)}$$

using polynomial long division.

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$$\frac{A}{(ax + b)^k}$$

using partial fractions

# Integrating rational functions $p(x)/q(x)$

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$$d(x) + \frac{r(x)}{q(x)}$$

using **polynomial long division**.

2. Write  $\frac{r(x)}{q(x)}$  as a sum of fractions of the form

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using **partial fractions**

3. Integrate all these pieces separately.



## Example 1

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

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### Solution

Using long division

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

## Example 1

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### Solution

Using long division and partial fractions

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

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### Solution

Using long division and partial fractions

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

So

$$I = \frac{1}{3}x^3 - 2x + \frac{1}{2} \ln |x - 1| - \frac{1}{2} \ln |x + 1| + C.$$

## Example 2

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

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Using long division

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

## Example 2

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

### Solution

Using long division and partial fractions

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

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### Solution

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So

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