

SECTION 3.4: PARTIAL FRACTIONS

1. (a motivating example)  $\int \frac{3x}{x^2 - x - 2} dx$

**I Claim**

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

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

$$= 2 \ln|x-2| + \ln|x+1| + C$$

So  $3x = A(x+1) + B(x-2)$  Find A and B...

equate coefficients

strategic substitution

$$3x + 0 = (A+B)x + (A-2B)$$

$$\begin{cases} 3 = A+B \\ 0 = A-2B \end{cases} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2 \text{ eq,} \\ 2 \text{ unkn.} \end{array} \right.$$

pick  $x=-1$ :  $-3 = -3B$ ,  $B=1$

pick  $x=2$ :  $6 = 3A$ ,  $A=2$

$3 = 3B$  or  $B=1$

So  $A=2$

2. Evaluate  $\int \frac{7x+3}{x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x} dx \doteq \int \left( \frac{1}{x} + \frac{4}{x-3} - \frac{5}{x-1} \right) dx$

$$x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x = x(x^2 - 4x + 3) = x(x-3)(x-1)$$

$$\frac{7x+3}{x(x-3)(x-1)} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x-3} + \frac{C}{x-1}$$

$$= \ln|x| + 4 \ln|x-3| - 5 \ln|x-1| + C$$

So

$$7x+3 = A(x-3)(x-1) + B(x)(x-1) + C(x)(x-3)$$

Strategic Substitution

$x=0$ :  $3 = 3A$ ,  $A=1$

$x=1$ :  $10 = -2C$ ,  $C=-5$

$x=3$ :  $24 = 6B$ ,  $B=4$

3. Summary of Partial Fraction Decomposition Structure

factor in denominator	linear $ax+b$	linear repeated $(ax+b)^k$	quadratic $ax^2+bx+c$
term in decomp	$\frac{A}{ax+b}$	$\frac{A_1}{ax+b} + \frac{A_2}{(ax+b)^2} + \dots + \frac{A_k}{(ax+b)^k}$	$\frac{Ax+B}{ax^2+bx+c}$

4. Rewrite the expression  $\frac{x^3-2x^2+3x-6}{(x-1)^2}$  using partial fraction decomposition and use the decomposition to evaluate the integral  $\int \frac{x^3-2x^2+3x-6}{(x-1)^2} dx =$

$$\frac{x^3-2x^2+3x-6}{x^2-2x+1} = x + \frac{2x-6}{(x-1)^2}$$

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

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

$$\begin{array}{r} x \\ x^2-2x+1 \overline{) x^3-2x^2+3x-6} \\ \underline{x^2-2x^2+x} \phantom{-6} \\ 2x-6 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{2x-6}{(x-1)^2} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{B}{(x-1)^2}$$

$$2x-6 = A(x-1) + B = Ax + B - A$$

↙ equate coeff

$$2 = A$$

$$-6 = B - A = B - 2$$

$$B = -4$$

5. Rewrite the expression  $\frac{4x^3+2x-1}{x^4+x^2}$  using partial fraction decomposition and use the decomposition to evaluate the integral  $\int \frac{4x^3+2x-1}{x^4+x^2} dx =$

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

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

$$4x^3+2x-1 = A(x)(x^2+1) + B(x^2+1) + (Cx+D)x^2$$

$$\begin{array}{l} x=0, \\ -1 = B \end{array}$$

$$= (A+C)x^3 + (B+D)x^2 + Ax + B$$

$$A = 2$$

$$C = 2$$

$$B+D = 0$$

$$\text{So } D = 1$$

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

$$= 2\ln|x| + \frac{1}{x} + \ln|x^2+1| + \arctan(x) + C$$