

Integrating rational functions.

1. Simplest example:

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

(a) Divide $\frac{x^3}{x-2}$ using synthetic division. You will get a quotient and remainder.

(b) After division, the integral $\int \frac{x^3}{x-2} dx$ is easy.

2. Example

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

And therefore

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

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

(b) $\int \frac{x-2}{x-4} dx$

(c) $\int \frac{2x + 7}{x + 2} dx$

(hint: the quotient will be 2, so force it by making part of the numerator $2x + 4$)

3. Partial fractions simplest example:

$$\frac{x - 7}{(x - 1)(x + 2)} = \frac{A}{x - 1} + \frac{B}{x + 2} \iff A(x + 2) + B(x - 1) = x - 7 \text{ for all } x$$

(a) If $x = 1$, $A(1 + 2) = 1 - 7 \iff 3A = -6 \iff A = -2$

(b) If $x = -2$, $B(\underline{\hspace{1cm}}) \iff \underline{\hspace{1cm}}B = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \iff B = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

(c) Now the integral is easy enough.

$$\int \frac{x - 7}{(x - 1)(x + 2)} dx =$$

4. Repeat the above to find the partial fraction decomposition of

$$\frac{7x - 13}{(x - 3)(x + 1)}$$

Then find

$$\int \frac{7x - 13}{(x - 3)(x + 1)} dx$$

5. Try doing this partial fractions the cowboy way

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

Making $\int \frac{6}{(x-2)(x+1)} dx =$

6. $\int \frac{x^2 + 2x - 1}{(x-1)(x^2+1)} dx$ hint, here the partial fractions will look like $\frac{A}{x+1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+1}$

7. An easy partial fractions gives $\frac{1}{x^2 - a^2} = \frac{1}{2a(x-a)} - \frac{1}{2a(x+a)}$

(a) Therefore, $\int \frac{dx}{x^2 - a^2} =$

(b) Complete the square and use the above to find

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

8. Another easy partial fractions gives $\frac{1}{x(x+1)} = \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x+1}$

9. $\int \frac{dx}{1+e^x}$ in steps:

(a) Make the substitution $u = e^x$ solve for x get $x = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

(b) That makes $dx = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} du$

(c) Making the substitution gives $\int \frac{dx}{1+e^x} =$

Your answer here should be all in terms of u

(d) The resulting integral in u is already solved in question 8. It is

(e) Replace u in the above answer by e^x . Also remember that no one writes $\ln(e^x)$

10.

$$\int \frac{2x^2 - 6}{(x-1)(x+1)^2} dx$$