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Mathematical Analysis II

Second Edition

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where d, α_i, p_j, q_j are real and r_i, s_j integers such that

$$r_1 + \dots + r_h + 2s_1 + \dots + 2s_k = m.$$

The α_i , all distinct, are the real roots of Q counted with multiplicity r_i . The factors $x^2 + 2p_jx + q_j$ are pairwise distinct and irreducible over \mathbb{R} , i.e., $p_j^2 - q_j < 0$, and have two complex(-conjugate) roots $\beta_{j,\pm}$ of multiplicity s_j .

Using the factorisation (9.11) of $Q(x)$ we can now write $g(x)$ as sum of partial fractions

$$\frac{R(x)}{Q(x)} = \frac{1}{d} [F_1(x) + \dots + F_h(x) + \bar{F}_1(x) + \dots + \bar{F}_k(x)], \quad (9.12)$$

where each $F_i(x)$ takes the form

$$F_i(x) = \frac{A_{i1}}{x - \alpha_i} + \frac{A_{i2}}{(x - \alpha_i)^2} + \dots + \frac{A_{ir_i}}{(x - \alpha_i)^{r_i}},$$

while $\bar{F}_j(x)$ are like

$$\bar{F}_j(x) = \frac{B_{j1}x + C_{j1}}{x^2 + 2p_jx + q_j} + \frac{B_{j2}x + C_{j2}}{(x^2 + 2p_jx + q_j)^2} + \dots + \frac{B_{j\bar{r}_j}x + C_{j\bar{r}_j}}{(x^2 + 2p_jx + q_j)^{s_j}},$$

for suitable constants $A_{i\ell}, B_{j\mu}, C_{j\mu}$. Note the total number of constants is $r_1 + \dots + r_h + 2s_1 + \dots + 2s_k = m$.

To recover the undetermined coefficients we can transform the right-hand side of (9.12) into one fraction, whose denominator is clearly $Q(x)$. The numerator $\mathcal{R}(x)$ is a polynomial of degree $\leq m - 1$ that must coincide with $R(x)$, and its coefficients are linear combinations of the unknown constants we are after. To find these numbers, the following principle on identity of polynomials is at our disposal.

Theorem 9.16 *Two polynomials of degree $m - 1$ coincide if and only if either of the next conditions holds*

- a) *the coefficients of corresponding monomials coincide;*
- b) *the polynomials assume the same values at m distinct points.*

The first equivalence is easily derived from Proposition 7.5.

Going back to the m unknowns $A_{i\ell}, B_{j\mu}, C_{j\mu}$, we could impose that the coefficients of each monomial in $\mathcal{R}(x)$ and $R(x)$ be the same, or else choose m values of x where the polynomials must agree. In the latter case the best choice falls on the real zeroes of $Q(x)$; should these be less than m in number, we could also take $x = 0$.

Once these coefficients have been determined, we can start integrating the right-hand side of (9.12) and rely on the fundamental cases i)–v) above.

As usual, the technique is best illustrated with a few examples.

Examples 9.17

i) Let us integrate

$$f(x) = \frac{2x^3 + x^2 - 4x + 7}{x^2 + x - 2}.$$

The numerator has greater degree than the denominator, so we divide the polynomials

$$f(x) = 2x - 1 + \frac{x + 5}{x^2 + x - 2}.$$

The denominator factorises as $Q(x) = (x - 1)(x + 2)$. Therefore the coefficients to be found, $A_1 = A_{11}$ and $A_2 = A_{21}$, should satisfy

$$\frac{x + 5}{x^2 + x - 2} = \frac{A_1}{x - 1} + \frac{A_2}{x + 2},$$

that is to say

$$x + 5 = A_1(x + 2) + A_2(x - 1), \quad (9.13)$$

hence

$$x + 5 = (A_1 + A_2)x + (2A_1 - A_2).$$

Comparing coefficients yields the linear system

$$\begin{cases} A_1 + A_2 = 1, \\ 2A_1 - A_2 = 5, \end{cases}$$

solved by $A_1 = 2$, $A_2 = -1$. Another possibility is to compute (9.13) at the zeroes $x = 1$, $x = -2$ of $Q(x)$, obtaining $6 = 3A_1$ and $3 = -3A_2$, whence again $A_1 = 2$, $A_2 = -1$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \int f(x) dx &= \int (2x - 1) dx + 2 \int \frac{1}{x - 1} dx - \int \frac{1}{x + 2} dx \\ &= x^2 - x + 2 \log |x - 1| - \log |x + 2| + c. \end{aligned}$$

ii) Determine a primitive of the function

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 3x + 3}{x^3 - 2x^2 + x}.$$

The denominator splits as $Q(x) = x(x - 1)^2$, so we must search for $A_1 = A_{11}$, A_{21} and A_{22} such that

$$\frac{x^2 - 3x + 3}{x^3 - 2x^2 + x} = \frac{A_1}{x} + \frac{A_{21}}{x - 1} + \frac{A_{22}}{(x - 1)^2},$$

or

$$x^2 - 3x + 3 = A_1(x - 1)^2 + A_{21}x(x - 1) + A_{22}x.$$

Putting $x = 0$ yields $A_1 = 3$, with $x = 1$ we find $A_{22} = 1$. The remaining A_{21} is determined by picking a third value $x \neq 0, 1$. For instance $x = -1$ gives $7 = 12 + 2A_{21} - 1$, so $A_{21} = -2$.

In conclusion,

$$\begin{aligned}\int f(x) dx &= 3 \int \frac{1}{x} dx - 2 \int \frac{1}{x-1} dx + \int \frac{1}{(x-1)^2} dx \\ &= 3 \log|x| - 2 \log|x-1| - \frac{1}{x-1} + c.\end{aligned}$$

iii) Integrate

$$f(x) = \frac{3x^2 + x - 4}{x^3 + 5x^2 + 9x + 5}.$$

The point $x = -1$ annihilates the denominator (the sum of the odd-degree coefficients equals those of even degree), so the denominator splits $Q(x) = (x + 1)(x^2 + 4x + 5)$ by Ruffini's rule. The unknown coefficients are $A = A_{11}$, $B = B_{11}$, $C = C_{11}$ so that

$$\frac{3x^2 + x - 4}{x^3 + 5x^2 + 9x + 5} = \frac{A}{x+1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+4x+5},$$

hence

$$3x^2 + x - 4 = A(x^2 + 4x + 5) + (Bx + C)(x + 1).$$

Choosing $x = -1$, and then $x = 0$, produces $A = -1$ and $C = 1$. The last coefficient $B = 4$ is found by taking $x = -1$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\int f(x) dx &= - \int \frac{1}{x+1} dx + \int \frac{4x+1}{x^2+4x+5} dx \\ &= - \int \frac{1}{x+1} dx + 2 \int \frac{2x+4}{x^2+4x+5} dx - 7 \int \frac{1}{1+(x+2)^2} dx \\ &= - \log|x+1| + 2 \log(x^2+4x+5) - 7 \arctan(x+2) + c. \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

Note that many functions $f(x)$ that are not rational in the variable x can be transformed – by an appropriate change $t = \varphi(x)$ – into a rational map in the new variable t . Special cases thereof include:

i) f is a rational function of $\sqrt[p]{x-a}$ for some integer p and a real. Then one lets

$$t = \sqrt[p]{x-a}, \quad \text{whence } x = a + t^p \quad \text{and} \quad dx = pt^{p-1} dt.$$

ii) f is rational in e^{ax} for some real $a \neq 0$. The substitution

$$t = e^{ax} \quad \text{gives } x = \frac{1}{a} \log t \quad \text{and} \quad dx = \frac{1}{at} dt.$$

iii) f is rational in $\sin x$ and/or $\cos x$. In this case

$$t = \tan \frac{x}{2},$$

together with the identities

$$\sin x = \frac{2t}{1+t^2}, \quad \cos x = \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}, \quad (9.14)$$