

Quiz 3 – Math 2153, Calculus II – Sept. 9, 2011

1. Evaluate the integral

$$\int \frac{t-9}{t^2+3t-10} dt$$

Solution We use partial fractions to solve this problem. Notice that the denominator can be factored as

$$t^2 + 3t - 10 = (t + 5)(t - 2).$$

Therefore the integrand can be written as

$$\frac{t-9}{t^2+3t-10} = \frac{A_1}{t+5} + \frac{A_2}{t-2} \quad (1)$$

Now we need to compute the values of A_1 and A_2 . Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{A_1}{t+5} + \frac{A_2}{t-2} &= \frac{A_1(t-2)}{(t+5)(t-2)} + \frac{A_2(t+5)}{(t+5)(t-2)} \\ &= \frac{A_1(t-2) + A_2(t+5)}{(t+5)(t-2)} \end{aligned}$$

So Equation (1) can be written as

$$\frac{t-9}{t^2+3t-10} = \frac{A_1(t-2) + A_2(t+5)}{(t+5)(t-2)}$$

Compare the numerators and denominators of the above equation, we have

$$t - 9 = A_1(t - 2) + A_2(t + 5) \quad (2)$$

1. Set $t = 2$ in Equation (2), we have

$$2 - 9 = A_1(2 - 2) + A_2(2 + 5) \quad \Rightarrow \quad -7 = 0 + 7A_2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad A_2 = -1$$

2. Set $t = -5$ in Equation (2), we have

$$-5 - 9 = A_1(-5 - 2) + A_2(-5 + 5) \quad \Rightarrow \quad -14 = -7A_1 + 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad A_1 = 2$$

Plug in the values of A_1 and A_2 back into Equation (1), we have

$$\frac{t-9}{t^2+3t-10} = \frac{2}{t+5} - \frac{1}{t-2}$$

Hence the integral is

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{t-9}{t^2+3t-10} dt &= \int \left(\frac{2}{t+5} - \frac{1}{t-2} \right) dt \\ &= 2 \ln |t+5| - \ln |t-2| + C \end{aligned}$$

(Or if you like, you can further simplify the answer into)

$$= \ln \left| \frac{(t+5)^2}{(t-2)} \right| + C$$