

Calculus II, Section 7.4, #67
Integration of Rational Functions by Partial Fractions

One method of slowing the growth of an insect population without the use of pesticides is to introduce into the population a number of sterile males that mate with fertile females but produce no offspring. Let P represent the number of female insects in a population and S the number of sterile males introduced each generation. Let r be the per capita rate of production of females by females, provided their chosen mate is not sterile. Then the female population is related to time t by¹

$$t = \int \frac{P + S}{P[(r - 1)P - S]} dP$$

Suppose an insect population with 10,000 females grows at the rate of $r = 1.1$ and 900 sterile males are added initially. Evaluate the integral to give an equation relating female population to time. (Note that the resulting equation can't be solved explicitly for P .)

Substituting the given values for r and S , we get

$$\begin{aligned} t &= \int \frac{P + 900}{P[(1.1 - 1)P - 900]} dP \\ &= \int \frac{P + 900}{P[0.1P - 900]} dP \end{aligned}$$

Is the integrand one of our basic indefinite integrals? No. How about a basic u -substitution? No. Integration by parts? No. Powers of trig functions? No. Does the integrand include a trig. sub. radical? No. Is the integrand a rational function? Yes!

The integrand is

$$\frac{P + 900}{P(0.1P - 900)} = \frac{A}{P} + \frac{B}{0.1P - 900}$$

The LCD is $P(0.1P - 900)$, so we multiply both sides of our identity.

$$\frac{P + 900}{P(0.1P - 900)} \cdot P(0.1P - 900) = \frac{A}{P} \cdot P(0.1P - 900) + \frac{B}{0.1P - 900} \cdot P(0.1P - 900)$$

$$P + 900 = A(0.1P - 900) + BP$$

$$P + 900 = 0.1AP - 900A + BP$$

$$P + 900 = (0.1A + B)P - 900A$$

We get the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} 1 &= & 0.1A &+ & B \\ 900 &= & -900A & & \end{cases}$$

The second equation clearly tells us $A = -1$, and substitution into the first equation gives us $B = 1.1$.

The partial fraction decomposition is

$$\frac{P + 900}{P(0.1P - 900)} = \frac{-1}{P} + \frac{1.1}{0.1P - 900}$$

and our integral becomes

$$t = \int \frac{P + 900}{P[0.1P - 900]} dP$$

¹Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 502, #67.

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$$\begin{aligned} &= \int \frac{-1}{P} + \frac{1.1}{0.1P - 900} dP \\ &= \int \frac{-1}{P} dP + \int \frac{1.1}{0.1P - 900} dP \\ &= - \int \frac{1}{P} dP + 1.1 \cdot \int \frac{1}{0.1P - 900} dP \end{aligned}$$

The first integral is a basic natural logarithm. For the second integral, let $u = 0.1P - 900$, so $du = 0.1dP$.

$$\begin{aligned} &= - \int \frac{1}{P} dP + 1.1 \cdot \frac{1}{0.1} \int \frac{0.1}{0.1P - 900} dP \\ &= - \int \frac{1}{P} dP + 1.1 \cdot 10 \int \frac{1}{u} du \\ &= - \ln |P| + 11 \ln |u| + C \\ &= - \ln |P| + 11 \ln |0.1P - 900| + C \end{aligned}$$

We know when $t = 0$, $P = 10,000$ and $S = 900$. Substituting,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= - \ln(10,000) + 11 \ln(1000 - 900) + C \\ C &= \ln(10,000) - 11 \ln(100) \\ &= \ln(10^4) - 11 \ln(10^2) \\ &= 4 \ln(10) - 22 \ln(10) \\ &= -18 \ln(10) \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$t = \int \frac{P + 900}{P[(1.1 - 1)P - 900]} dP = - \ln |P| + 11 \ln |0.1P - 900| - 18 \ln(10)$$