

**Objective:** Find the partial fraction decomposition for rational expressions (what two or more fractions add to give you this rational expression)

## 7.4 Partial Fraction Decomposition

### Steps

1. Factor the denominator completely
2. Set = to a sum of rational fractions with a variable in the numerator for each factor.
3. Multiply by common denominator.
4. Distribute and collect the terms with x
5. Set up system and solve for A and B

Ex1.  $\frac{x+7}{x^2-x-6}$

$$\frac{(x+7)\cancel{(x-3)(x+2)}}{\cancel{(x-3)(x+2)}} = \frac{A\cancel{(x-3)(x+2)}}{\cancel{x-3}} + \frac{B\cancel{(x-3)(x+2)}}{\cancel{x+2}}$$

$$x+7 = A(x+2) + B(x-3)$$

$$x+7 = Ax + 2A + Bx - 3B$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= Ax + Bx \\ x & \\ 1 &= A + B \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{cases} 7 = 2A - 3B \\ 1 = A + B \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} 7 &= 2A - 3B \\ -2 &= -2A - 2B \end{aligned}$$

$$5 = -5B$$

$$B = -1$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= A - 1 \\ A &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{x+7}{x^2-x-6} = \frac{2}{x-3} - \frac{1}{x+2}$$

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

$$\frac{x+7}{x^2-x-6}$$

Ex2.  $\frac{9x-2}{x^2+x-6}$

$$\frac{(9x-2)(x+3)(x-2)}{(x+3)(x-2)} = \frac{A(x+3)(x-2)}{x+3} + \frac{B(x+3)(x-2)}{x-2}$$

$$9x-2 = A(x-2) + B(x+3)$$

$$9x-2 = Ax - 2A + Bx + 3B$$

$$9x = Ax + Bx$$

$$-2 = -2A + 3B$$

$$\begin{cases} 9 = A + B \\ -2 = -2A + 3B \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{matrix} 18 = 2A + 2B \\ -2 = -2A + 3B \end{matrix}$$

$$16 = 5B$$

$$B = \frac{16}{5}$$

$$9 = A + B$$

$$9 = A + \frac{16}{5}$$

$$\frac{9}{5} - \frac{16}{5} = A$$

$$\frac{29}{5} = A$$

$$\frac{9x-2}{x^2+x-6} = \frac{29}{5(x+3)} + \frac{16}{5(x-2)}$$

$$\text{Ex3. } \frac{x^2+12x+3}{x^3-4x} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x-2} + \frac{C}{x+2}$$

~~$x(x+2)(x-2)$~~   
 $x(x^2-4)$   
 ~~$x(x-2)(x+2)$~~

$$x^2+12x+3 = A(x+2)(x-2) + Bx(x+2) + Cx(x-2)$$

$$x^2+12x+3 = Ax^2-4A + Bx^2+2Bx + Cx^2-2Cx$$

$$1 = A+B+C \quad 12 = 2B-2C \quad 3 = -4A$$

$$1 = -\frac{3}{4} + B + C$$

$$\frac{7}{4} = B + C$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{7}{4} = B + C \\ 12 = 2B - 2C \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{12}{2} = \frac{2B - 2C}{2}$$

$$A = -\frac{3}{4}$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{7}{4} = B + C \\ 6 = B - C \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{31}{4} = 2B$$

$$\frac{31}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = B$$

$$B = \frac{31}{8}$$

$$6 = B - C$$

$$6 = \frac{31}{8} - C$$

$$\frac{48}{8} - \frac{31}{8} = -C$$

$$-\frac{17}{8} = -C$$

$$\frac{x^2+12x+3}{x^3-4x} = \frac{-3}{4x} + \frac{31}{8(x-2)} - \frac{17}{8(x+2)}$$

$$\frac{-3}{4x}$$

$$-\frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{x}$$

$$-\frac{3}{4x}$$



Ex4.  $\frac{5x^2+24x+2}{x^3+4x^2+4x}$

repeating factors

$$\frac{5x^2+24x+2}{x(x+2)(x+2)} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{(x+2)} + \frac{C}{(x+2)^2}$$

$$5x^2+24x+2 = A(x+2)(x+2) + B(x+2) + Cx$$

$$5x^2+24x+2 = A(x^2+4x+4) + Bx^2+2Bx + Cx$$

$$5x^2+24x+2 = Ax^2+4Ax+4A+Bx^2+2Bx+Cx$$

$5x^2 = Ax^2 + Bx^2$	$24x = 4Ax + 2Bx + Cx$	$2 = 4A$
$5 = A + B$	$24 = 4A + 2B + C$	$A = \frac{1}{2}$

$$5 = \frac{1}{2} + B$$

$$B = \frac{9}{2}$$

$$24 = 2 + 2B + C$$

$$22 = 2B + C$$

$$22 = 2\left(\frac{9}{2}\right) + C$$

$$22 = 9 + C$$

$$C = 13$$

$$\frac{5x^2+24x+2}{x^3+4x^2+4x} = \frac{1}{2x} + \frac{9}{2(x+2)} + \frac{13}{(x+2)^2}$$

**Homework**  
**p.614 #5, 6, 21, 22, 23**

$$23. \frac{(2x^2+5)\cancel{(x^2+1)}}{(x^2+1)^2} = \frac{(Ax+B)\cancel{(x^2+1)}}{\cancel{(x^2+1)}} + \frac{(Cx+D)\cancel{(x^2+1)}}{\cancel{(x^2+1)^2}}$$

~~$(x^2+1)(x^2+1)$~~

$$2x^2+5 = (Ax+B)(x^2+1) + Cx+D$$

$$2x^2+5 = \cancel{Ax^3} + Ax + \cancel{Bx^2} + B + Cx + D$$

$$0x^3 = Ax^3 \quad | \quad 2x^2 = Bx^2 \quad | \quad 0x = Ax + Cx \quad | \quad 5 = B + D$$

$$0 = A$$

$$2 = B$$

$$0 = A + C$$

$$0 = 0 + C$$

$$C = 0$$

$$5 = 2 + D$$

$$D = 3$$

$$0x+2$$

$$0x+3$$

$$\frac{2x^2+5}{(x^2+1)^2} = \frac{2}{x^2+1} + \frac{3}{(x^2+1)^2}$$

$$\frac{\text{~~~~~}}{x^2+4x+4} = \frac{A}{(x+2)^1} + \frac{B}{(x+2)^2}$$
$$\frac{(x+2)(x+2)}{(x+2)}$$

$$\frac{A}{x+2} + \frac{B}{(x+2)^2} + \frac{C}{(x+2)^3}$$



$$\textcircled{23} \frac{2x^2+5}{(x^2+1)^2} = \frac{Ax+B}{(x^2+1)^1} + \frac{Cx+D}{(x^2+1)^2}$$

$$(x^2+1)(x^2+1)$$

$$2x^2+5 = (Ax+B)(x^2+1) + Cx+D$$

$$\cancel{0x^3} + \cancel{2x^2} + 5 = \cancel{Ax^3} + Ax + Bx^2 + B + Cx + D$$

$0x^3 = Ax^3$	$2x^2 = Bx^2$	$0x = Ax + Cx$	$5 = B + D$
$0 = A$	$2 = B$	$0 = A + C$	
$0 = 0 + C$		$5 = 2 + D$	
$C = 0$		$D = 3$	

$$\frac{2x^2+5}{(x^2+1)^2} = \frac{2}{(x^2+1)} + \frac{3}{(x^2+1)^2}$$