

**Partial fraction decomposition** has many uses in mathematics, so it is important to become expert at decomposing rational functions. To decompose a rational function

$$f(x) = \frac{N(x)}{D(x)},$$

where both  $N(x)$  and  $D(x)$  are polynomials with  $\deg(N) < \deg(D)$ .

1. Fully factor the denominator:

$$D(x) = r_1(x)r_2(x)\cdots r_n(x),$$

where the  $r$  factors are irreducible.

2. Each  $r$  factor in the denominator generates one term in the decomposition of  $f$ .
3. Above each  $r$  factor, place a general polynomial that is one degree smaller than the degree of  $r$ . Namely,
  - (a) above a linear  $r$  factor, place a constant term  $a$ ,
  - (b) above a quadratic  $r$  factor, place a linear term  $(ax + b)$ .

Use partial fraction decomposition to decompose the following rational functions.

FUNCTION	FORM	DECOMPOSITION
$\frac{4 - 3x}{2x^2 + x}$	$\frac{a}{x} + \frac{b}{2x + 1}$	$\frac{4}{x} - \frac{11}{2x + 1}$
$\frac{5 - 2x}{x^2 - 3x + 2}$	$\frac{a}{x - 2} + \frac{b}{x - 1}$	$\frac{1}{x - 2} - \frac{3}{x - 1}$
$\frac{36 - 2x}{x^2 - 9}$	$\frac{a}{x - 3} + \frac{b}{x + 3}$	$\frac{5}{x - 3} - \frac{7}{x + 3}$
$\frac{-2x^2 + 7x + 4}{x^3 + x^2}$	$\frac{a}{x} + \frac{b}{x^2} + \frac{c}{x + 1}$	$\frac{3}{x} + \frac{4}{x^2} - \frac{5}{x + 1}$
$\frac{2x + 4}{x^3 - 4x^2 + 4x}$	$\frac{a}{x} + \frac{b}{x - 2} + \frac{c}{(x - 2)^2}$	$\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x - 2} + \frac{4}{(x - 2)^2}$
$\frac{9x^2 + 4x + 54}{x^3 + 9x}$	$\frac{a}{x} + \frac{bx + c}{x^2 + 9}$	$\frac{6}{x} + \frac{3x + 4}{x^2 + 9}$