

Find the partial fraction decomposition of  $f(x) = \frac{3x + 1}{(x - 1) \cdot (x^2 + 1)}$

1) Because the denominator is a product of a linear factor, which is  $x-1$ , and an irreducible quadratic, you can write the setup below.

$$\frac{3x + 1}{(x - 1)(x^2 + 1)} = \frac{A}{x - 1} + \frac{Bx + C}{x^2 + 1}$$

2) Now multiply both sides by  $(x - 1)(x^2 + 1)$  to clear the denominators

$$(x - 1) \cdot (x^2 + 1) \cdot \frac{3x + 1}{(x - 1) \cdot (x^2 + 1)} = \left[ \frac{A}{(x - 1)} + \frac{Bx + C}{x^2 + 1} \right] (x - 1) \cdot (x^2 + 1)$$

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

2a) Set  $x=1$  to isolate  $A$ .

2b) Set  $A=2$  and  $x=0$  to isolate  $C$

$$\begin{aligned} 3(1)+1 &= A(1^2 + 1) + (B(1) + C)(1 - 1) \\ 3+1 &= A(1+1) + (B+C)(0) \\ 4 &= A(2) \\ 2 &= A \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 3(0) + 1 &= 2(0^2 + 1) + (B(0) + C)(0 - 1) \\ 1 &= 2(1) + C(-1) \\ 1 &= 2 - C \\ 1 - 2 &= -C \\ -1 &= -C \\ 1 &= C \end{aligned}$$

2c) Set  $A=2$ ,  $C=1$  and  $x=2$  (this is arbitrary, meaning you can choose whatever value you want for  $x$ ) to get  $B$

$$\begin{aligned} 3(2) + 1 &= 2(2^2 + 1) + (B(2) + 1)(2 - 1) \\ 6+1 &= 2(4+1) + (2B+1)(1) \\ 7 &= 2(5) + 2B+1 \\ 7 &= 10+2B+1 \\ 7 &= 11+2B \\ 7-11 &= 2B \\ -4 &= 2B \\ -2 &= B \end{aligned}$$

3) Now you have the constants, so you can write the final form as

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