

**Blue Pelican**  
**Calculus Enrichment Topics**



Absent-student Version 1.01

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# Enrichment Topic A



## (Special sine and cosine limits)

Demonstrate that the following limit is true:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} = 1$$

Begin with the infinite series expansion definition for  $\sin(x_{\text{rad}})$ :

$$\sin(x_{\text{rad}}) = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots$$

For very small  $x$ ,  $\sin(x) \approx x$ .

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{x} = \boxed{1}$$

*use  $x \approx \sin x$*

Demonstrate that the following limit is true:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{x} = 0$$

Begin with the infinite series expansion definition for  $\cos(x_{\text{rad}})$ :

$$\cos(x_{\text{rad}}) = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots$$

For very small  $x$ ,  $\cos(x) \approx 1 - x^2/2!$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - (1 - x^2/2!)}{x} \quad \leftarrow \text{use } 1 - x^2/2! \approx \cos x \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - x + x^2/2}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{2} = \boxed{0} \end{aligned}$$

# Enrichment Topic B

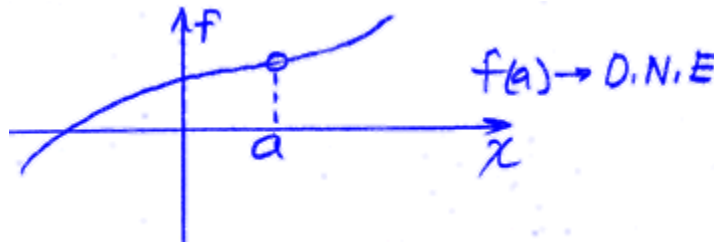


## (Formal definition of continuity)

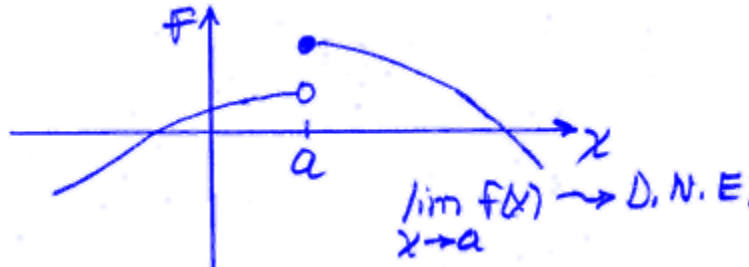
**Continuity at a point  $x = a$ :** A function  $f(x)$  is continuous at  $x = a$  if:

- (1)  $f(a)$  exists,
- (2)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  exists, and
- (3)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$

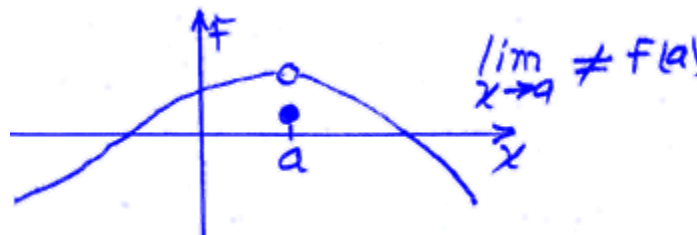
**Example 1:** Draw an example of a function in which (1) is violated at  $x = a$  but is otherwise continuous.



**Example 2:** Draw an example of a function in which (2) is violated at  $x = a$  but is otherwise continuous.



**Example 3:** Draw an example of a function in which (3) is violated at  $x = a$  but is otherwise continuous.



# Enrichment Topic C



## Verification of the power rule

**Power rule:**

$$f(x) = x^n$$

$$f'(x) = nx^{n-1} \quad ; \text{where } n \text{ can be a positive integer, a negative integer, or fractional}$$

To derive this rule we use the fundamental definition of the derivative and expand  $(x + \Delta x)^n$  with a binomial expansion:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x} & \\ \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x} &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x + \Delta x)^n - x^n}{\Delta x} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{x^n} + nx^{n-1}(\Delta x) + \frac{n(n-1)}{2}x^{n-2}(\Delta x)^2 + \dots + n x (\Delta x)^{n-1} + (\Delta x)^n - x^n}{\Delta x} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{x^n} (nx^{n-1} + \frac{n(n-1)}{2}x^{n-2}(\Delta x) + \dots + n(\Delta x)^{n-2} + (\Delta x)^{n-1})}{\Delta x} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} (nx^{n-1} + (\text{all remaining terms have } \Delta x)) \\ &= \boxed{nx^{n-1}} \end{aligned}$$

# Enrichment Topic D



## (Derivation of product & quotient rules)

### Product rule:

If  $f(x) = u(x) v(x)$ , then

$$f'(x) = u \cdot v' + v \cdot u'$$

To derive this rule we use the fundamental definition of the derivative and add 0 in the form of  $-u(x + \Delta x) v(x) + u(x + \Delta x) v(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'(x) &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+\Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+\Delta x)v(x+\Delta x) - u(x)v(x)}{\Delta x} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+\Delta x)v(x+\Delta x) - \overset{0}{u(x+\Delta x)v(x)} + \overset{0}{u(x+\Delta x)v(x)} - u(x)v(x)}{\Delta x} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+\Delta x)[v(x+\Delta x) - v(x)] + v(x)[u(x+\Delta x) - u(x)]}{\Delta x} \\
 &= \frac{u(x) \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{v(x+\Delta x) - v(x)}{\Delta x} + v(x) \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+\Delta x) - u(x)}{\Delta x}}{\Delta x} \\
 &= \boxed{u(x) v'(x) + v(x) u'}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Quotient rule:**

$$\text{If } f(x) = \frac{u}{v} \text{ then } f'(x) = \frac{v \cdot u' - u \cdot v'}{v^2}$$

To derive this rule we use the fundamental definition of the derivative, clear the complex fraction, and then add 0 in the form of  $-u(x) \cdot v(x) + u(x) \cdot v(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 f' &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{u(x+\Delta x)}{v(x+\Delta x)} - \frac{u(x)}{v(x)}}{\Delta x} \cdot \frac{v(x+\Delta x)v(x)}{v(x+\Delta x)v(x)} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+\Delta x)v(x) - u(x)v(x+\Delta x)}{\Delta x v(x+\Delta x)v(x)} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+\Delta x)v(x) - \overbrace{u(x)v(x)}^0 - \overbrace{u(x)v(x+\Delta x)}^0 + \overbrace{u(x)v(x)}^0}{\Delta x v(x+\Delta x)v(x)} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{u(x+\Delta x) - u(x)}{\Delta x} v(x) - u(x) \frac{v(x+\Delta x) - v(x)}{\Delta x}}{v(x+\Delta x)v(x)} \\
 &= \frac{\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+\Delta x) - u(x)}{\Delta x} v(x) - u(x) \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{v(x+\Delta x) - v(x)}{\Delta x}}{\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} v(x+\Delta x)v(x)} \\
 &= \frac{v(x)u'(x) - u(x)v'(x)}{[v(x)]^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Enrichment Topic E



## (Derivative of sine and cosine)

To derive  $f(x) = \sin(x)$  we use the following four items:

- $f(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$
- $\sin(A + B) = \sin(A) \cos(B) + \sin(B) \cos(A)$
- $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(\theta)}{\theta} = 1$
- $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(\theta)}{\theta} = 0$

(The last two items are from **Enrichment topic A.**)

$$f(x) = \sin(x)$$

$$f'(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x + \Delta x) - \sin(x)}{\Delta x}$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x) \cos(\Delta x) + \sin(\Delta x) \cos(x) - \sin(x)}{\Delta x}$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x) (\cos(\Delta x) - 1)}{\Delta x} + \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x) \sin(\Delta x)}{\Delta x}$$

$$= 0 + \cos(x) = \boxed{\cos(x)}$$



To derive  $f(x) = \cos(x)$  we use the following four items:

- $f(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$
- $\cos(A + B) = \cos(A) \cos(B) - \sin(A) \sin(B)$
- $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(\theta)}{\theta} = 1$
- $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(\theta)}{\theta} = 0$

(The last two items are from **Enrichment topic A.**)

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= \cos(x) \\
 f'(x) &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x + \Delta x) - \cos(x)}{\Delta x} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x)\cos(\Delta x) - \sin(x)\sin(\Delta x) - \cos(x)}{\Delta x} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x)(\cancel{\cos(\Delta x)} - 1)}{\Delta x} - \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)\cancel{\sin(\Delta x)}}{\Delta x} \\
 &= 0 - \sin(x) = \boxed{-\sin(x)}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Enrichment Topic F



## (Verification of the Chain Rule)

The Chain Rule:

If  $y = f(g(x))$  and both  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are differentiable, then:

$$y' = f'(g(x)) g'(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 y' = \frac{df}{dx} &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta f}{\Delta x} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta f}{\Delta x} \frac{\Delta g}{\Delta g} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta f}{\Delta g} \frac{\Delta g}{\Delta x} \quad \text{as } \Delta x \rightarrow 0, \Delta g \rightarrow 0 \\
 &= \left[ \lim_{\Delta g \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta f}{\Delta g} \right] \left[ \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta g}{\Delta x} \right] \\
 &= \boxed{f'(g) g'(x)}
 \end{aligned}$$

The astute observer may have noticed a flaw in the above “proof”. A change in  $x$  (called  $\Delta x$ ) induces a change in  $g$  (called  $\Delta g$ ) which in turn causes a change in  $y$  (called  $\Delta y$ ). Notice that  $\Delta g$  appears in the denominator and if it is zero, the proof fails.

The proof is not rigorous since we must consider the possibility of  $g$  not changing ( $\Delta g = 0$ ) as  $x$  changes. Fortunately the rule prevails under more rigorous scrutiny. However, for most beginning students the above “proof” is sufficient.

# Enrichment Topic G



## Verification of exponential derivatives

Show that  $\frac{d}{dx} a^u = a^u \ln(a) \frac{du}{dx}$  :

Begin with  $y = a^u$  ( $u$  is a function of  $x$ )

$$\begin{aligned}
 \ln(y) &= \ln(a^u) && \text{Take } \ln \text{ of both sides,} \\
 \ln y &= u \ln(a) \\
 \frac{1}{y} y' &= u' \ln(a) && \text{Take deriv. w.r.t. } x \\
 y' &= y u' \ln(a) \\
 y' &= a^u u' \ln a \\
 \boxed{\frac{dy}{dx} = a^u \ln(a) \frac{du}{dx}}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Enrichment Topic H



## Verification of logarithm derivatives

Show that  $\frac{d}{dx} \log_a x = \frac{1}{x} \log_a e$

Begin with  $\frac{d}{dx} \log_a x = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log_a(x + \Delta x) - \log_a(x)}{\Delta x}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f' &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log_a \left( \frac{x + \Delta x}{x} \right)}{\Delta x} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log_a \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta x}{x} \right)}{\Delta x} \\
 &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x \log_a \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta x}{x} \right)}{x (\Delta x)} \quad \text{multiply by } \frac{x}{x} \\
 &= \left( \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} \right) \left( \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x \log_a \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta x}{x} \right)}{\Delta x} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{x} \left( \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \log_a \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta x}{x} \right)^{\frac{x}{\Delta x}} \right) \quad \text{lim of this is } e \text{ by definition} \\
 &= \boxed{\frac{1}{x} \log_a e}
 \end{aligned}$$

Using the chain rule for taking the derivative of a function of a function we get:

$$\boxed{\frac{d}{dx} \log_a(u) = \frac{1}{u} \log_a e \frac{du}{dx}}$$

# Enrichment Topic I



## Verification of inverse trig function derivatives

Show that  $\frac{d}{dx} \arcsin(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

Begin with  $y = \sin^{-1}(x) \quad -\pi/2 \leq y \leq \pi/2$

$x = \sin(y)$  write in "regular" trig form  
 $1 = \cos(y)y'$  take deriv w.r.t.  $x$   
 $y' = \frac{1}{\cos(y)}$  ←  $\sin^2 y + \cos^2 y = 1$   
 $\cos y = +\sqrt{1 - \sin^2 y}$   
 + because of quadrant restriction on  $y$ .

$y' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \sin^2 y}}$   
 $y' = \boxed{\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}}$

Show that  $\frac{d}{dx} \arccos(x) = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

Begin with  $y = \cos^{-1}(x) \quad 0 \leq y \leq \pi$

$x = \cos(y)$  write in "regular" trig form  
 $1 = -\sin(y)y'$  take deriv w.r.t.  $x$   
 $y' = \frac{-1}{\sin y}$  ←  $\sin^2 y + \cos^2 y = 1$   
 $\sin y = +\sqrt{1 - \cos^2 y}$   
 + because of quadrant restriction on  $y$ .

$y' = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1 - \cos^2 y}}$   
 $y' = \boxed{\frac{-1}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}}$

Show that  $\frac{d}{dx} \arctan(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$

Begin with  $y = \tan^{-1}(x) \quad -\pi/2 \leq y \leq \pi/2$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & x = \tan(y) \\
 & 1 = \sec^2(y) y' \\
 & y' = \frac{1}{\sec^2(y)} \leftarrow \sec^2 y = 1 + \tan^2 y \\
 & y' = \frac{1}{1 + \tan^2 y} \\
 & y' = \boxed{\frac{1}{1+x^2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Enrichment Topic J



### An argument in support of the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus

Consider the following functions from physics:

**position  $s(t)$ , velocity  $v(t)$ , and acceleration  $a(t)$**

The derivative of  $s(t)$  produces  $v(t)$  and the derivative of  $v(t)$  produces  $a(t)$ .

Similarly, integrating  $a(t)$  produces  $v(t)$  and integrating  $v(t)$  produces  $s(t)$ .

Now consider this specific displacement function  $s(t)$  and its derivative over the time interval [2 sec, 5 sec]:

$$s(t) = (3t^2 + 4) \text{ meters}$$

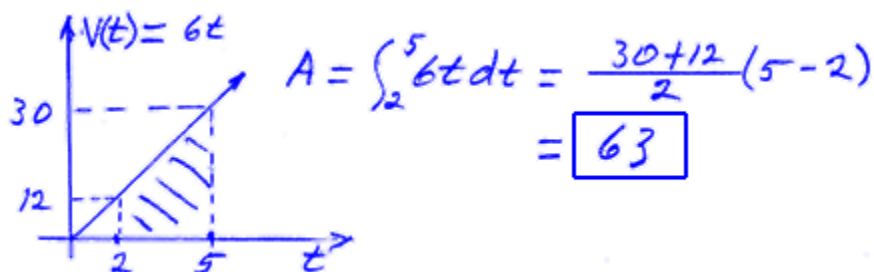
$$s'(t) = v(t) = 6t \text{ meters/sec}$$

The **net displacement** in this interval is simply the difference in displacement at  $t = 2$  sec and  $t = 5$  sec.

$$\text{disp} = s(5) - s(2) = 3(5)^2 + 4 - (3(2)^2 + 4) = 63 \text{ meters}$$

$$= 3 \cdot 5^2 + 4 - (3 \cdot 2^2 + 4) = 79 - 16 = \boxed{63 \text{ meters}}$$

Notice that the **area** under the velocity curve given by  $\int_2^5 6t \, dt$  is



Finally, notice these two answers are the same. Therefore, the meaning of this definite integral is the accumulated distance traveled during the time interval:

$$\int_2^5 v(t) dt = s(5) - s(2)$$

Generalizing from this we have the **Fundamental Theorem of Calculus**:

If  $f(x)$  is continuous over  $[a,b]$ , differentiable in  $(a,b)$ , and  $F'(x) = f(x)$  then:

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = F(b) - F(a)$$

**Example:** Evaluate  $\int_{-1}^4 2t^2 dt$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-1}^4 2t^2 dt &= \left. \frac{2t^3}{3} \right|_{-1}^4 = \frac{2 \cdot 4^3}{3} - \frac{2(-1)^3}{3} \\ &= \frac{2}{3}(64 + 1) \\ &= \boxed{43.\bar{3}} \end{aligned}$$



## Enrichment Topic K



### Why the absolute value for the integral of $1/x$ ?

When integrating  $\int \frac{du}{u}$  it is customary to write the solution as  $\ln|u| + C$ .

Why the absolute value? Superficially, it seems to be an easy answer, "Because it's illegal to take the logarithm of a negative number."

Probing a little deeper, let's take a closer look at the reverse of this process... taking the derivative of  $f(x) = \ln(x)$ .

First, assuming that  $x > 0$ , find the derivative of  $f(x) = \ln(x)$ :

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln(x)) = \frac{1}{x} \quad \text{which implies:} \quad \int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln(x) + C$$

Now assume that  $x < 0$  and find the derivative of  $f(x) = \ln(-x)$  (Notice we must use  $-x$  here so that we are taking the log of a positive number.):

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln(-x)) = \frac{1}{-x}(-1) = \frac{1}{x} \quad \text{which implies:} \quad \int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln(-x) + C$$

Surprisingly, the two derivatives above are the same. So what are we to do when we must integrate  $\int \frac{1}{x} dx$  and  $x$  could be any value, positive or negative? **Both** answer above ( $\ln(x)$  when  $x > 0$  and  $\ln(-x)$  when  $x < 0$ ) can **equivalently** written as  $\ln|x|$ .

So in general we write:

$$\int \frac{du}{u} = \ln|u| + C$$

# Enrichment Topic L



## (Partial Fractions)

The technique of “partial fractions” is the **process of decomposing a given rational expression into a sum of fractions with denominators of lower degree**. For example,

$$\frac{x - 11}{2x^2 + 5x - 3} = \frac{2}{x + 3} - \frac{3}{2x - 1}$$

The virtue in doing this is that the two fractions on the right are **easier to handle** than is the larger and more complex one on the left. As a specific example, integrating the fraction on the left is difficult whereas the two fractions on the right are each easy to integrate. . . they both produce natural logs.

There are four different cases to consider depending on the **degree** of factors of the denominator and their **repetition**:

**Case 1:** When the denominator can be resolved into real linear factors, all of which are distinct. . . see Example 1.

**Case 2:** When the denominator can be resolved into real linear factors, some of which are repeated. . . see Example 2.

**Case 3:** When the denominator contains at least one quadratic factor but no repeated quadratic factor. . . see Example 3.

**Case 4.** When the denominator contains at least one repeated quadratic factor. . . see Example 4.

**Example 1:** (case 1) Resolve  $\frac{x^2-3x+6}{(x-1)(3-2x)(x+1)}$  into partial fractions.

$$\frac{x^2-3x+6}{(x-1)(3-2x)(x+1)} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{B}{3-2x} + \frac{C}{x+1}$$

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

Expand and collect like powers

$$\frac{x^2-3x+6}{(x-1)(3-2x)(x+1)} = \frac{(-2A+B-2C)x^2 + (A+5C)x + (3A-B-3C)}{(x-1)(3-2x)(x+1)}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} -2A + B - 2C = 1 \\ A + 5C = -3 \\ 3A - B - 3C = 6 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} A = 2 \\ B = 3 \\ C = -1 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{x^2-3x+6}{(x-1)(3-2x)(x+1)} = \boxed{\frac{2}{x-1} + \frac{3}{3-2x} + \frac{-1}{x+1}}$$

**Example 2:** (case 2) Resolve  $\frac{11x - 6 - x^2}{(x + 2)(x - 2)^2}$  into partial fractions.

$$\frac{11x - 6 - x^2}{(x + 2)(x - 2)^2} = \frac{A}{x + 2} + \frac{B}{x - 2} + \frac{C}{(x - 2)^2}$$

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

Expand and collect like powers

$$\frac{11x - 6 - x^2}{(x + 2)(x - 2)^2} = \frac{(A + B)x^2 + (-4A + C)x + (4A - 4B + 2C)}{(x + 2)(x - 2)^2}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} A + B = -1 \\ -4A + C = 11 \\ 4A - 4B + 2C = -6 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} A = -2 \\ B = 1 \\ C = 3 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{11x - 6 - x^2}{(x + 2)(x - 2)^2} = \boxed{\frac{-2}{x + 2} + \frac{1}{x - 2} + \frac{3}{(x - 2)^2}}$$

**Example 3:** (case 3) Resolve  $\frac{x^2 + 2x - 2}{(x - 2)(x^2 + x + 1)}$  into partial fractions.

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

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

Expand and collect like powers

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

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} A + B = 1 \\ A - 2B + C = 2 \\ A - 2C = -2 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} A = 6/7 \\ B = 1/7 \\ C = 10/7 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{x^2 + 2x - 2}{(x - 2)(x^2 + x + 1)} = \boxed{\frac{6/7}{x - 2} + \frac{(1/7)x + 10/7}{x^2 + x + 1}}$$

**Example 4:** (case 4) Resolve  $\frac{x^4 - x^2 + 1}{x(x^2 + x - 1)^2}$  into partial fractions.

$$\frac{x^4 - x^2 + 1}{x(x^2 + x - 1)^2} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{Bx + C}{x^2 + x - 1} + \frac{Dx + E}{(x^2 + x - 1)^2}$$

Finding a common denom.

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

Expand and collect like powers

$$= \frac{(A+B)x^4 + (2A+B+C)x^3 + (-A-B+C+D)x^2 + (-2A-C+E)x + A}{x(x^2 + x - 1)}$$

Set coef. of like powers equal & get:

$$\left. \begin{array}{rcl} A + B & = & 1 \\ 2A + B + C & = & 0 \\ -A - B + C + D & = & -1 \\ -2A - C + E & = & 0 \\ A & = & 1 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} A = 1 \\ B = 0 \\ C = -2 \\ D = 2 \\ E = 0 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{x^4 - x^2 + 1}{x(x^2 + x - 1)^2} = \boxed{\frac{1}{x} + \frac{-2}{x^2 + x - 1} + \frac{2x}{(x^2 + x - 1)^2}}$$

Before resolving a rational expression into partial fractions always make sure the rational expression is a “proper rational expression” (**numerator is of less degree than the denominator**). If not, divide.

**Example 5:** Divide so as to produce a “mixed expression” whose fractional part is in proper rational form:

$$\frac{x^3 + 2x^2 - 2x + 2}{x^2 + x - 2}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \boxed{x + 1 + \frac{-x+4}{x^2+x-2}} \\
 x^2+x-2 \overline{) x^3 + 2x^2 - 2x + 2} \\
 \underline{\ominus x^3 \quad \oplus x^2 \quad \oplus x} \phantom{+ 2} \\
 \phantom{x^3} \phantom{+ 2x^2} \phantom{- 2x} \oplus 2 \\
 \phantom{x^3} \phantom{+ 2x^2} \phantom{- 2x} \underline{\oplus x \quad \oplus 2} \\
 \phantom{x^3} \phantom{+ 2x^2} \phantom{- 2x} \phantom{\oplus 2} -x + 4
 \end{array}$$

**Assignment:** Resolve the following rational expressions into partial fractions.

1. 
$$\frac{x-13}{(x-3)(x+3)}$$

2. 
$$\frac{x+2}{2x^2-x}$$

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

4. 
$$\frac{15-12x}{(x-2)^2(2x-1)^2}$$

5. 
$$\frac{x^2-x+13}{(x+1)(x^2+4)}$$

6. 
$$\frac{x^2+x-1}{2(x-1)(x^2-x+1)}$$

7. 
$$\frac{3x-x^2-2}{(x^2-x+2)^2}$$

8. 
$$\frac{x^3-3x^2-x+8}{(x-2)^2}$$