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Assignment: HW-3 [Sections 8.4, 8.5 & 8.8]

Expand the quotient by partial fractions.

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

First, note the given fraction is not a proper fraction. Divide the numerator by the denominator to get a polynomial plus a proper fraction.

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

Factor the denominator of the remaining fraction.

$$x^2 - 3x + 2 = (x - 1)(x - 2)$$

Since there are two distinct linear factors, write the decomposition as shown.

$$1 + \frac{3x + 3}{x^2 - 3x + 2} = 1 + \frac{A}{x - 1} + \frac{B}{x - 2}$$

Subtract 1 from both sides and then multiply both sides by the least common denominator, $(x - 1)(x - 2)$.

$$\frac{3x + 3}{x^2 - 3x + 2} = \frac{A}{x - 1} + \frac{B}{x - 2}$$

Subtract 1 from both sides.

$$3x + 3 = A(x - 2) + B(x - 1)$$

Multiply by $(x - 1)(x - 2)$.

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

Collect like terms.

Equate the coefficients of x .

$$A + B = 3$$

Equate the constants.

$$-2A - B = 3$$

Solve the system of equations $A + B = 3$ and $-2A - B = 3$. First solve $A + B = 3$ for B .

$$B = 3 - A$$

Substitute for B in the equation $-2A - B = 3$ and solve for A .

$$-2A - (3 - A) = 3$$

$$-A - 3 = 3$$

$$A = -6$$

Then use $A = -6$ to find B .

$$B = 3 - (-6) = 9$$

Therefore, the partial fraction decomposition is as shown.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x^2 + 5}{x^2 - 3x + 2} &= 1 + \frac{A}{x - 1} + \frac{B}{x - 2} \\ &= 1 - \frac{6}{x - 1} + \frac{9}{x - 2} \end{aligned}$$