

Partial fractions

If we take a fraction $\frac{a}{b}$, and write it as the sum of two or more fractions whose denominators are factors of b , then we have expressed it as a set of *partial fractions*.

For example, if we write

$$\frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}$$

then $1/2$ and $-1/3$ are called partial fractions.

Similarly, we can write

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