

## [2.23] Try `comDenom()` for faster partial factoring

It is not be obvious that `comDenom()` can be used for factoring, but this is mentioned in the *TI-89/TI-92+ User's Guide*, in the *Alphabetical Listing of Operations* section. As an example, consider the expression

$$6 \cdot x^5 - 8 \cdot x^4 + 2 \cdot x^3 \quad \text{which can be factored as} \quad 2 \cdot x^3 \cdot (x - 1) \cdot (3x - 1)$$

To partially factor an expression with `comDenom()`, include an argument variable which is not in the expression. I use `y` in this example:

```
comDenom(6*x^5-8*x^4+2*x^3,y)
```

which, in AUTO and EXACT modes, returns

$$2 \cdot x^3 \cdot (3 \cdot x^2 - 4 \cdot x + 1)$$

In APPROX mode, a different but equivalent expression is returned:

$$6 \cdot x^3 \cdot (x^2 - 1.333 \cdot x + 0.333)$$

The *User's Guide* suggests defining a function to accomplish this:

```
comDenom(expr,exprvar)-comden(expr)
```

and adds:

"Even when there is no denominator, the `comden` function is often a fast way to achieve partial factorization if `factor()` is too slow or if it exhausts memory.

"Hint: Enter this `comden()` function definition and routinely try it as an alternative to `comDenom()` and `factor()`."