

Math-3

Lesson 3-4

Add and Subtract Rational
Expressions

What are “like terms” ?

Like variables: $2x + 3y + 4x$

Multiples of the same variable

Like powers: $x^2 + y^2 + x^3 + x^2$

same ‘base’ and same exponent.

Like radicals: $\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3} + 3\sqrt{2}$

same ‘radicand’ and same index number.

Like fractions: $\frac{2}{3}, \frac{4}{3}, \frac{3}{4}$

same denominator.

Adding Fractions

We can add “like fractions”

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{4}{3}$$

Combine the numerator over a common denominator.

$$= \frac{2+1+4}{3} = \frac{7}{3}$$

Identity Property of Multiplication

The numeral “one” multiplied by any number does not change the “identity” (value) of the number (the product will have an “equivalent” value).

Used for:

Obtaining Common Denominators:

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{3}{5} = \frac{3}{5} * \frac{3}{3} + \frac{2}{3} * \frac{5}{5} = \frac{10}{15} + \frac{9}{15}$$

Rationalizing Denominators:

$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} * \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3}$$

Least Common Multiple: The smallest number that two other numbers divide evenly.

Used for: Obtaining **Least** Common Denominators:

$$\frac{1}{30} + \frac{1}{42} = \frac{1}{6*5} + \frac{1}{6*7} = \frac{1}{6*5} * \frac{7}{7} + \frac{1}{6*7} * \frac{5}{5}$$

Both denominators have a common factor of 6.

Left denominator has an uncommon factor of 5

Multiply $\frac{1}{42}$ by “one” in the form of $\frac{5}{5}$

right denominator has an uncommon factor of 7

Multiply $\frac{1}{30}$ by “one” in the form of $\frac{7}{7}$

Find the LCD

$$\frac{2}{15} + \frac{3}{20}$$

$$15 = 3 * 5$$

$$20 = 4 * 5$$

$$LCD = 3 * 4 * 5$$

$$LCD = 60$$

$$\frac{1}{60} + \frac{1}{48}$$

$$60 = 2 * 6 * 5$$

$$48 = 6 * 8 = 6 * 2 * 4$$

$$LCD = 2 * 6 * 4 * 5$$

$$LCD = 240$$

A rational number

can be written as a ratio of integers.

$$\frac{2}{5}, \frac{3}{1}$$

A rational expression

can be written as a ratio of expressions.

$$\frac{x}{(x+1)}$$

We will be looking at ratios of polynomial expressions.

Excluded Value: the value for 'x' that results in division by zero

$$\frac{x}{(x+1)}, \quad x \neq -1$$

What type of rational expressions can you combine together using addition or subtraction?

“like rational expressions”

Which of these expressions are “like expressions”?

1. $\frac{x}{(x+1)}$

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

3. $\frac{4}{(x-5)}$

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

Which of these expressions are “like expressions”?

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

7. $\frac{2x^2}{x^2 - 2x + 1}$

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

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

What is the excluded value for each expression?

$$1. \frac{x}{(x+1)}$$

$$x \neq -1$$

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

$$x \neq 1$$

$$3. \frac{4}{(x-5)}$$

$$x \neq 5$$

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

$$x \neq -1$$

$$5. \frac{x}{(x+1)(x-1)}$$

$$x \neq -1, +1$$

$$7. \frac{2x^2}{x^2 - 2x + 1}$$

$$x \neq 1$$

$$6. \frac{3x}{(x-1)^2}$$

$$x \neq 1$$

$$8. \frac{4}{(x^2 - 1)}$$

$$x \neq -1, +1$$

Simplifying Fractions

$$\frac{32}{44} = \frac{32 \div 4}{44 \div 4} = \frac{32 * \frac{1}{4}}{44 * \frac{1}{4}} = \frac{8}{11}$$

What property are you applying?

Identity Property Of Multiplication

“multiplying by ‘1’ in the form of $\frac{1}{4}$ over $\frac{1}{4}$ ”

Unfortunately this method WILL NOT WORK
for simplification of ratios of polynomials.

$$\frac{x^2 - 4}{x^2 - 3x + 2}$$

Simplifying Fractions

You must FACTOR the fractions.

$$\frac{32}{44} = \frac{4 * 8}{4 * 11}$$

Break them apart into the product of fractions.

$$= \frac{4}{4} * \frac{8}{11}$$

Notice the fractions that equal '1'

$$= 1 * \frac{8}{11} = \frac{8}{11}$$

Reducing Rational Expressions to their Lowest form (simplification)

You must FACTOR the fractions.

$$\frac{32}{44} = \frac{4*8}{4*11} \qquad \frac{x^2 - 4}{x^2 - 3x + 2} = \frac{(x-2)(x+2)}{(x-2)(x-1)}$$

Break them apart into the product of fractions.

$$= \frac{4}{4} * \frac{8}{11} \qquad = \frac{(x-2)}{(x-2)} * \frac{(x+2)}{(x-1)}$$

Notice the fractions that equal '1'

$$= 1 * \frac{8}{11} = \frac{8}{11} \qquad = 1 * \frac{(x+2)}{(x-1)} = \frac{(x+2)}{(x-1)}$$

Adding/Subtraction Rational Expressions

The easy problem: $\frac{2}{7} + \frac{3}{7} = \frac{2+3}{7} = \frac{5}{7}$

Combine the numerator over a common denominator.

The easy problem: $\frac{4}{(x-5)} + \frac{3x}{(x-5)} = \frac{4+3x}{(x-5)}$

Combine the numerator over a common denominator.

Can you combine
4 and 3x ?

Why not?

Your turn: add/subtract

$$\frac{x+2}{2x^2} + \frac{x-4}{2x^2} = \frac{x+2+x-4}{2x^2} = \frac{2x-2}{2x^2}$$

$$= \frac{\cancel{2}(x-1)}{\cancel{2} * x^2} = \frac{(x-1)}{x^2}$$

What property are we using?

Inverse Property of Multiplication.

Can you do it this way?

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

Why not?

You CANNOT use the Inverse Property of Multiplication on addends.

Your turn: add/subtract

$$\frac{x+2}{2x^2} + \frac{x-4}{2x^2} = \frac{x+2+x-4}{2x^2} = \frac{2x-2}{2x^2}$$

$$= \frac{2(x-1)}{2 * x^2}$$

I will not allow you to simplify using the Inverse Property of Multiplication until you have factored it into two fractions.

$$= \frac{\cancel{2} * (x-1)}{\cancel{2} x^2} = \frac{(x-1)}{x^2}$$

Only then will you be able to see how the Inverse Property of Multiplication changes the rational expression into multiplication by one.

Add/Subtract Rational Expression with Equal Denominators

Which one is correct?

$$\frac{2x - 7}{x^2 + 2} - \frac{x - 4}{x^2 + 2}$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{2x - 7 - x - 4}{x^2 + 2}$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{2x - 7 - x + 4}{x^2 + 2}$$

Group expressions to avoid distributive property errors.

$$\frac{(2x - 7)}{(x^2 + 2)} - \frac{(x - 4)}{(x^2 + 2)} \rightarrow \frac{(2x - 7) - (x - 4)}{x^2 + 2} \rightarrow \frac{2x - 7 - x - (-4)}{x^2 + 2}$$

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

Add/Subtract Rational Expressions whose Denominators are Additive Inverses of each other.

$$\frac{1}{x-2} + \frac{3}{2-x}$$

Rewrite the denominator in “standard form”

$$\frac{1}{x-2} + \frac{3}{-x+2}$$

Use the Identity Property of Multiplication (multiply by “one” in the form of $-1/-1$)

$$\frac{1}{x-2} + \frac{3}{(-x+2)} * \frac{(-1)}{(-1)} \quad \text{Simplify}$$

$$\frac{1}{x-2} + \frac{-3}{x-2}$$

Add (or subtract)

$$\frac{-2}{x-2}$$

No common denominator.

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

Multiply the left side fraction by one in the form of 3/3

Multiply the right side fraction by one in the form of 2/2

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\overset{3}{\underset{3}{\circledast}}}{\circledast} * \frac{(2x-1)}{2x} + \frac{(x-2)}{3x} * \frac{\overset{2}{\underset{2}{\circledast}}}{\circledast} &= \frac{3(2x-1)}{2*3*x} + \frac{2(x-2)}{2*3*x} \\ &= \frac{3(2x-1) + 2(x-2)}{6x} = \frac{6x-3+2x-4}{6x} = \frac{8x-7}{6x} \end{aligned}$$

Can you factor this into two fractions multiplied together?

$$\frac{x}{3} - \frac{x+1}{6}$$

$$\frac{2}{2} * \frac{x}{3} - \frac{(x+1)}{6}$$

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

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

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

$$= \frac{x-1}{6}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x-1}{2x} + \frac{2x+3}{x} &= \frac{(x-1)}{2x} + \left(\frac{2}{2}\right) * \frac{(2x+3)}{x} \\ &= \frac{(x-1)}{2x} + \frac{2(2x+3)}{2x} &= \frac{(x-1)}{2x} + \frac{(4x+6)}{2x} \\ &= \frac{(x-1) + (4x+6)}{2x} &= \frac{5x+5}{2x} \end{aligned}$$

Can you factor this into two fractions multiplied together?

$$\frac{3x+1}{2x} - \frac{1}{5} = \frac{5}{5} * \frac{(3x+1)}{2x} - \frac{1}{5} * \frac{2x}{2x}$$

$$= \frac{5(3x+1)}{10x} - \frac{2x}{10x} = \frac{5(3x+1) - 2x}{10x}$$

$$= \frac{15x + 5 - 2x}{10x} = \frac{13x + 5}{10x}$$

Can you factor this into two fractions multiplied together?

$$\frac{12}{x^2 + 5x - 24} + \frac{3}{x - 3} \quad (\text{step by step})$$

What is the factored version of the left denominator?

$$\frac{12}{(x + 8)(x - 3)} + \frac{3}{(x - 3)}$$

What is the least common denominator? $(x + 8)(x - 3)$

Multiply right-side term by “one in the form of $(x-8)$ over $(x-8)$ ”

$$= \frac{12}{(x + 8)(x - 3)} + \frac{3}{(x - 3)} * \frac{(x + 8)}{(x + 8)}$$

$$= \frac{12}{(x+8)(x-3)} + \frac{3}{(x-3)} * \frac{(x+8)}{(x+8)}$$

$$= \frac{12 + 3(x+8)}{(x+8)(x-3)} = \frac{12 + 3x + 24}{(x+8)(x-3)} = \frac{3x + 36}{(x+8)(x-3)}$$

$$= \frac{3(x+12)}{(x+8)(x-3)}$$

Can you factor this into two fractions multiplied together?

Complex Fraction is a fraction with a fraction in the numerator and a fraction in the denominator.

$$\frac{\frac{2}{3}}{\frac{4}{5}} = \frac{2}{3} \div \frac{4}{5} = \frac{2}{3} * \frac{5}{4} = \frac{\cancel{2}}{\cancel{2}} * \frac{5}{3*2} = \frac{5}{6}$$

How do you divide fractions?

Multiply by reciprocal.

Simplify the complex fraction.

$$\frac{\frac{5}{x+4}}{\frac{3}{x+4}} = \frac{5}{x+4} \div \frac{3}{x+4} = \frac{5}{(x+4)} * \frac{(x+4)}{3} = \frac{\cancel{(x+4)}}{\cancel{(x+4)}} * \frac{5}{3}$$

Put binomials into parentheses!

$$= \frac{5}{3}$$

Simplify the complex fraction.

$$\frac{\frac{x}{x+2}}{\frac{3}{x+3}} = \frac{x}{x+2} \div \frac{3}{x+3} = \frac{x}{x+2} * \frac{x+3}{3}$$
$$= \frac{x}{x+2} * \frac{x+3}{3} = \frac{x(x+3)}{3(x+2)}$$

Combine the numerator fractions into one fraction.

$$\frac{\frac{x}{3} - 6}{2 + \frac{3}{x}} = \frac{\frac{x}{3} - \frac{6}{1}}{2 + \frac{3}{x}} = \frac{\frac{x-18}{3}}{2 + \frac{3}{x}}$$

2. Combine the denominator fractions into one fraction.

$$\frac{\frac{x-18}{3}}{\frac{2x+3}{x}} = \frac{x-18}{3} * \frac{x}{2x+3} = \frac{x(x-18)}{3(2x+3)}$$

Simplify the complex fraction.

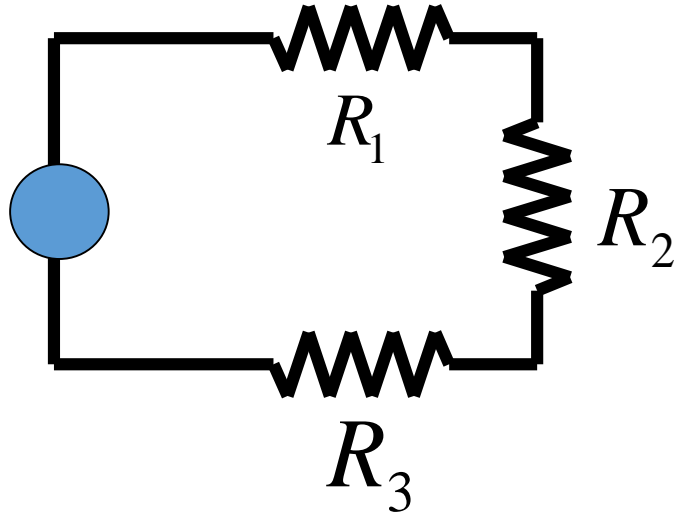
$$\frac{\frac{1}{x} + \frac{2}{3x}}{\frac{3}{x+4}}$$

$$\frac{\frac{4}{x-3} - \frac{2x}{x^2-9}}$$

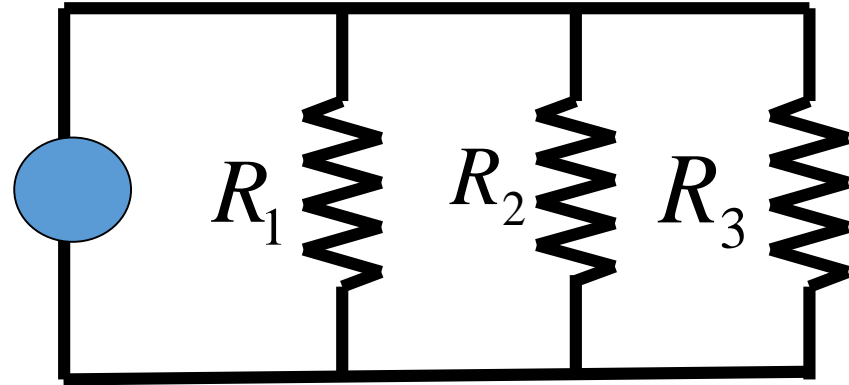
$$\frac{\frac{2}{x-3} - \frac{3}{x+2}}$$

$$R_{total} = R_1 + R_2 + R_3$$

Voltage Source



$$\frac{1}{R_{total}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3}$$

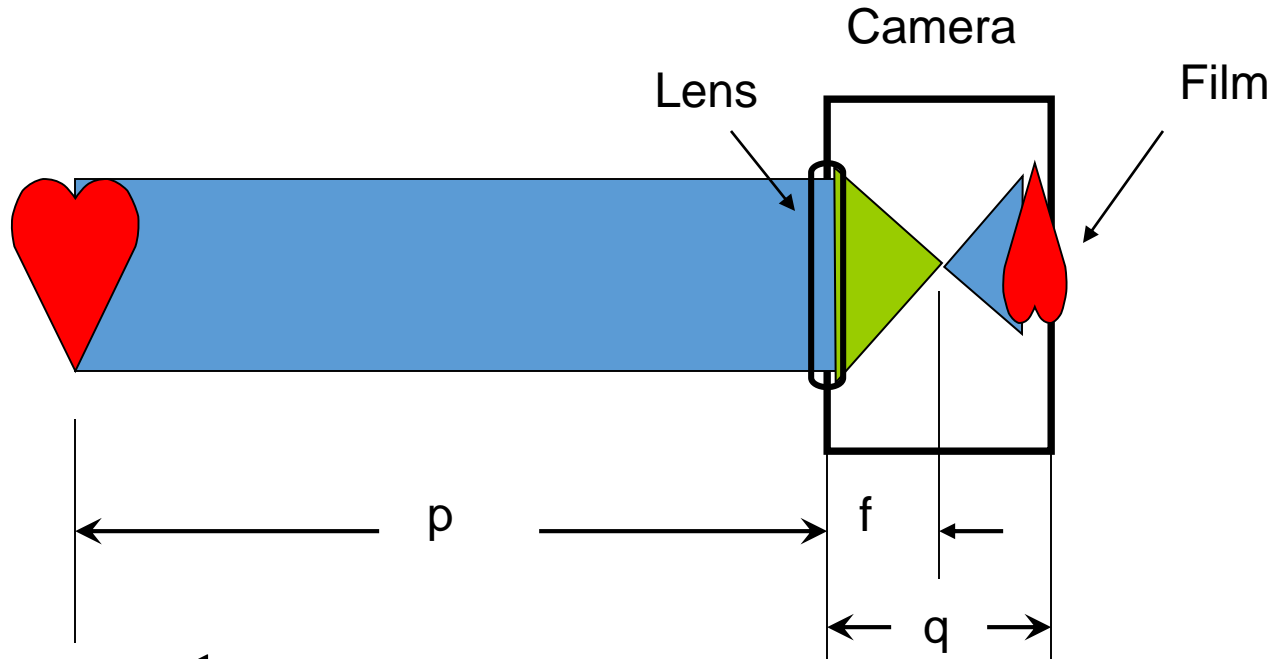


$$\frac{1}{R_T} = \frac{R_2 R_3}{R_1 R_2 R_3} + \frac{R_1 R_3}{R_1 R_2 R_3} + \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 R_2 R_3}$$

$$\frac{1}{R_T} = \frac{R_2 R_3 + R_1 R_3 + R_1 R_2}{R_1 R_2 R_3}$$

$$R_T = \frac{R_1 R_2 R_3}{R_2 R_3 + R_1 R_3 + R_1 R_2}$$

Focal length of a telescope/microscope



$$f = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q}}$$

$$f = \frac{1}{\frac{q+p}{pq}}$$

$$f = \frac{pq}{q+p}$$