

Week 2 of MTH 209

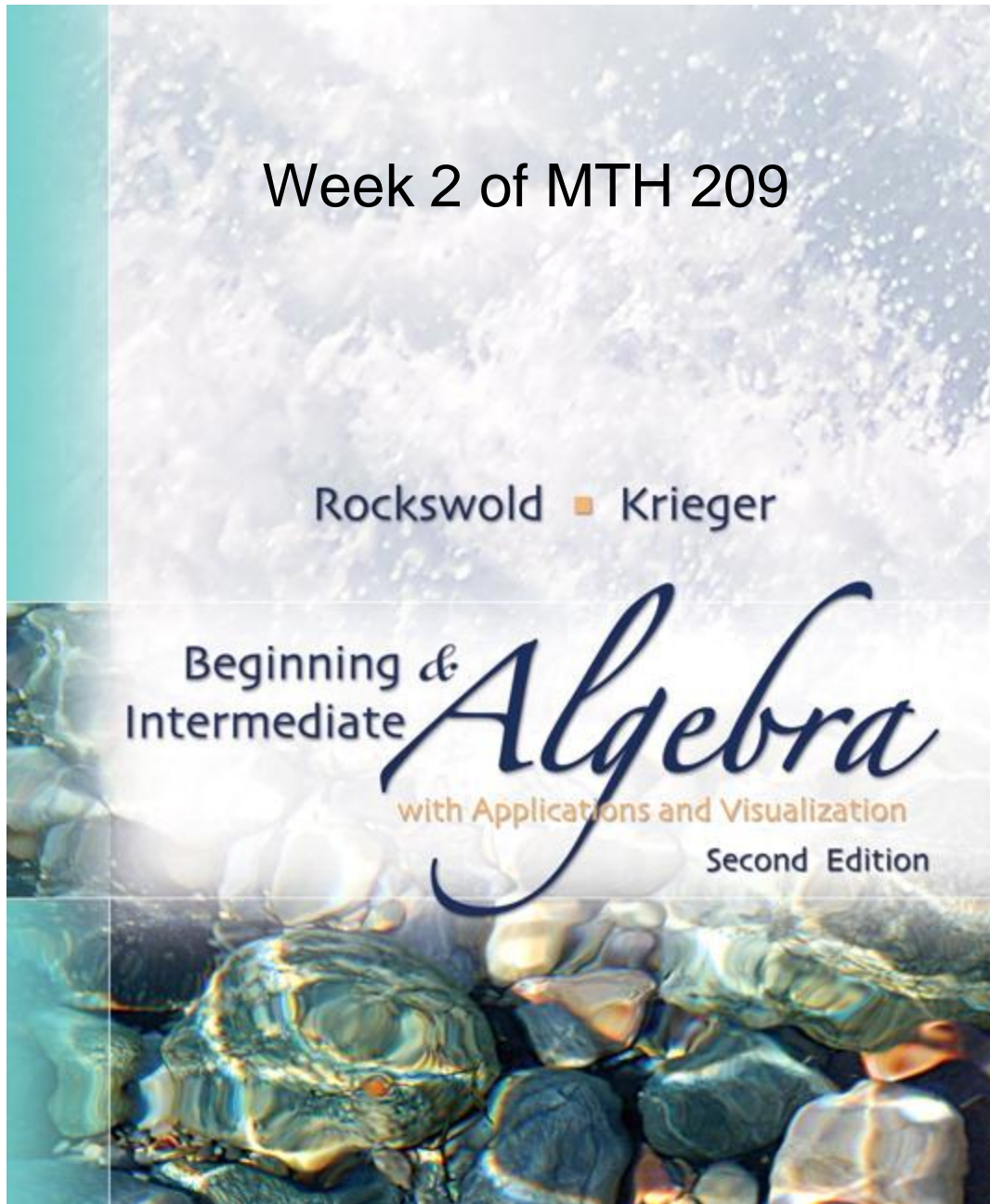
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Beginning &
Intermediate

Algebra

with Applications and Visualization

Second Edition



Due for this week...

- Homework 2 (on MyMathLab – via the Materials Link) → **Monday night at 6pm.**
- Read Chapter 6.6-6.7, 7.6-7.7, 10.5, 11.3-11.4
- Do the MyMathLab Self-Check for week 2.
- Learning team planning for week 5.
- Discuss your final week topic for your team presentations...

6.1

Introduction to Factoring

- Common Factors
- Factoring by Grouping

Common Factors

When factoring a polynomial, we first look for factors that are common to each term.

By applying a distributive property we can often write a polynomial as a product.

For example: $8x^2 = 2x \cdot 4x$ and $6x = 2x \cdot 3$

And by the distributive property,
 $8x^2 + 6x = 2x(4x + 3)$

EXAMPLE

Finding common factors

Factor.

a. $6x^2 + 7x$ b. $15x^3 - 5x^2$ c. $8w^3 - 2w^2 + 4w$ d. $6x^2y^3 + x^2y^2$

Solution

a. $6x^2 + 7x$ $6x^2 = 6x \cdot x$ b. $15x^3 - 5x^2$ $15x^3 = 5 \cdot 3 \cdot x^2 \cdot x$
 $7x = 7 \cdot x$ $-5x^2 = -5 \cdot x^2$
 $x(6x + 7)$ $5x^2(3x - 1)$

c. $8w^3 - 2w^2 + 4w$ d. $6x^2y^3 + x^2y^2$
 $8w^3 = 4 \cdot 2 \cdot w^2 \cdot w$ $6x^2y^3 = 6x^2y^2$
 $-2w^2 = -2 \cdot w \cdot w$ $x^2y^2 = x^2y^2$
 $4w = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot w$ $x^2y^2(6y + 1)$
 $= 2w(4w^2 - w + 2)$

When finding the greatest common factor for a polynomial, it is often helpful first to completely factor each term of the polynomial.

EXAMPLE Finding the greatest common factor

Find the greatest common factor for the expression.
Then factor the expression. $18x^2 + 3x$

Solution

$$18x^2 = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \color{blue}{3} \cdot \color{red}{x} \cdot x$$

$$3x = \color{blue}{3} \cdot \color{red}{x}$$

The greatest common factor is $3x$.

$$18x^2 + 3x = 3x(6x + 1)$$

Factoring by Grouping

Factoring by grouping is a technique that makes use of the associative and distributive properties.

EXAMPLE Factoring out binomials

Factor.

a. $3x(x + 1) + 4(x + 1)$ b. $3x^2(2x - 1) - x(2x - 1)$

Solution

- a. Both terms in the expression contain the binomial $x + 1$. Use the distributive property to factor.

$$\begin{aligned} &3x(\textcolor{red}{x} + \textcolor{red}{1}) + \textcolor{blue}{4}(\textcolor{red}{x} + \textcolor{red}{1}) \\ &(\textcolor{blue}{3x} + \textcolor{blue}{4})(\textcolor{red}{x} + \textcolor{red}{1}) \end{aligned}$$

b. $3x^2(2x - 1) - x(2x - 1)$

$$\begin{aligned} &\textcolor{blue}{3x}^2(\textcolor{red}{2x} - \textcolor{red}{1}) - \textcolor{blue}{x}(\textcolor{red}{2x} - \textcolor{red}{1}) \\ &(\textcolor{blue}{3x}^2 - \textcolor{blue}{x})(\textcolor{red}{2x} - \textcolor{red}{1}) \\ &x(\textcolor{blue}{3x} - \textcolor{blue}{1})(\textcolor{red}{2x} - \textcolor{red}{1}) \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE Factoring by grouping when the middle term is (+)

Factor the polynomial. $x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x - 12$

Solution

$$x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x - 12 = (x^3 - 4x^2) + (3x - 12)$$

$$= (x^3 - 4x^2) + (3x - 12)$$

$$= x^2(x - 4) + 3(x - 4)$$

$$= (x^2 + 3)(x - 4)$$

EXAMPLE Factoring by grouping when the middle term is (–)

Factor the polynomial. $15x^3 - 10x^2 - 3x + 2$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} 15x^3 - 10x^2 - 3x + 2 &= (15x^3 - 10x^2) + (-3x + 2) \\ &= 5x^2(3x - 2) - 1(3x - 2) \\ &= (5x^2 - 1)(3x - 2) \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE Factoring out the GCF before grouping

Completely factor the polynomial. $30x^3 - 20x^2 - 6x + 4$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} 30x^3 - 20x^2 - 6x + 4 &= 2(15x^3 - 10x^2 - 3x + 2) \\ &= 2[(15x^3 - 10x^2) + (-3x + 2)] \\ &= 2[5x^2(3x - 2) - 1(3x - 2)] \\ &= 2(5x^2 - 1)(3x - 2) \end{aligned}$$

Practice for section 6.1

- ⑩ Finding common factors questions 13-20
- ⑩ Finding the greatest common factor Q 21-38
- ⑩ Factoring out binomials Q 39-44
- ⑩ Factoring by grouping when the middle term is (+)
Q 45-48
- ⑩ Factoring by grouping when the middle term is (−)
Q 53-59
- ⑩ Factoring out the GCF before grouping Q 65-70

6.2

Factoring Trinomials I ($x^2 + bx + c$)

- Review of the FOIL Method
- Factoring Trinomials Having a Leading Coefficient of 1

The product $(x + 3)(x + 4)$ can be found as follows:

$$x^2 + 4x + 3x + 12$$

$$x^2 + 7x + 12$$

The middle term is found by calculating the sum $4x$ and $3x$, and the last term is found by calculating the product of 4 and 3.

FACTORING $x^2 + bx + c$

To factor the trinomial $x^2 + bx + c$, find numbers m and n that satisfy

$$m \cdot n = c \quad \text{and} \quad m + n = b.$$

Then $x^2 + bx + c = (x + m)(x + n)$.

EXAMPLE

Factoring a trinomial having only positive coefficients

Factor each trinomial.

a. $x^2 + 11x + 18$

b. $x^2 + 10x + 24$

Solution

a. $x^2 + 11x + 18$

Factors of 18 whose sum is 11.

Factors	Sum
1, 18	19
2, 9	11
3, 6	9

$$(x + 2)(x + 9)$$

b. $x^2 + 10x + 24$

Factors of 24 whose sum is 10.

Factors	Sum
1, 24	25
2, 12	14
3, 8	11
4, 6	10

$$(x + 4)(x + 6)$$

EXAMPLE

Factoring a trinomial having a negative middle coefficient

Factor each trinomial.

a. $x^2 - 9x + 14$

b. $x^2 - 19x + 48$

Solution

a. $x^2 - 9x + 14$

Factors of 14 whose sum is -9 .

Factors	Sum
$-1, -14$	-15
$-2, -7$	-9

$$(x-2)(x-7)$$

b. $x^2 - 19x + 48$

Factors of 48 whose sum is -19 .

Factors	Sum
$-1, -48$	-49
$-2, -24$	-26
$-3, -16$	-19
$-4, -12$	-16
$-6, -8$	-14

$$(x-3)(x-16)$$

EXAMPLE

Factoring a trinomial having a negative constant term

Factor each trinomial.

a. $x^2 + 2x - 15$

b. $x^2 - 6x - 16$

Solution

a. $x^2 + 2x - 15$

Factors of -15 whose sum is 2 .

Factors	Sum
1, -15	-14
-1 , 15	$+14$
3, -5	-2
-3, 5	2

$$(x - 3)(x + 5)$$

b. $x^2 - 6x - 16$

Factors of -16 whose sum is -6 .

Factors	Sum
-1 , 16	15
1, -16	-15
-2 , 8	6
2, -8	-6
-4 , 4	0

$$(x + 2)(x - 8)$$

EXAMPLE

Discovering that a trinomial is prime

Factor the trinomial.

$$x^2 + 6x - 8$$

Solution

$$x^2 + 6x - 8$$

Factors of -8 whose
sum is 6 .

Factors	Sum
1, -8	-7
-1 , 8	7
2 , -4	-2
-2 , 4	2

The table reveals that no such factor pair exists. Therefore, the trinomial is prime.

EXAMPLE

Factoring out the GCF before factoring further

Factor each trinomial completely.

a. $4x^2 + 28x + 48$

b. $7x^2 + 21x - 70$

Solution

a. $4x^2 + 28x + 48$

Factor out common factor of 4.

$$4(x^2 + 7x + 12)$$

Factors (12)	Sum (7)
1, 12	13
2, 6	8
3, 4	7

$$4(x + 3)(x + 4)$$

b. $7x^2 + 21x - 70$

Factor out common factor of 7.

$$7(x^2 + 3x - 10)$$

Factors (-10)	Sum (3)
1, -10	-9
2, -5	-3
-2, 5	3

$$7(x - 2)(x + 5)$$

EXAMPLE

Finding the dimensions of a rectangle

Find one possibility for the dimensions of a rectangle that has an area of $x^2 + 12x + 35$.

Solution

	x	5
x	x^2	$5x$
7	$7x$	35

$$\text{Area} = x^2 + 12x + 35$$

The area of a rectangle equals length times width. If we can factor $x^2 + 12x + 35$, then the factors can represent its length and width.

Because

$$x^2 + 12x + 35 = (x + 5)(x + 7),$$
one possibility for the rectangle's dimensions is width $x + 5$ and length $x + 7$.

Practice for section 6.2

- ⑩ Factoring a trinomial having only positive coefficients *Q 15-26*
- ⑩ Factoring a trinomial having a negative middle coefficient *Q 29-38*
- ⑩ Factoring a trinomial having a negative constant term *Q 39-60*
- ⑩ Factoring out the GCF before factoring further *Q 61-80*
- ⑩ Finding the dimensions of a rectangle *Q 83*

6.3

Factoring Trinomials II ($ax^2 + bx + c$)

- Factoring Trinomials by Grouping
- Factoring with FOIL in Reverse

Factoring Trinomials by Grouping

FACTORING $ax^2 + bx + c$ BY GROUPING

To factor $ax^2 + bx + c$ perform the following steps. (Assume that a , b , and c have no factor in common.)

1. Find numbers m and n such that $mn = ac$ and $m + n = b$. (This step may require trial and error.)
2. Write the trinomial as $ax^2 + mx + nx + c$.
3. Use grouping to factor this expression as two binomials.

EXAMPLE Factoring $ax^2 + bx + c$ by grouping

Factor each trinomial.

a. $2x^2 + 13x + 15$

b. $12y^2 - 5y - 3$

Solution

a. $2x^2 + 13x + 15$

Multiply $(2)(15) = 30$

Factors of 30 whose sum is 13
10 and 3

$$= 2x^2 + 10x + 3x + 15$$

$$= (2x^2 + 10x) + (3x + 15)$$

$$= 2x(x + 5) + 3(x + 5)$$

$$= (2x + 3)(x + 5)$$

b. $12y^2 - 5y - 3$

Multiply $(12)(-3) = -36$

Factors of -36 whose sum is -5
 -9 and 4

$$= 12y^2 - 9y + 4y - 3$$

$$= (12y^2 - 9y) + (4y - 3)$$

$$= 3y(4y - 3) + 1(4y - 3)$$

$$= (3y + 1)(4y - 3)$$

EXAMPLE Discovering that a trinomial is prime

Factor the trinomial. $3x^2 + 9x + 4$

Solution

- a. We need to find integers m and n such that $mn = (3)(4) = 12$ and $m + n = 9$. Because the middle term is positive, we consider only positive factors of 12.

Factors	1, 12	2, 6	3, 4
Sum	13	8	7

There are no factors whose sum is 9, the coefficient of the middle term. The trinomial is prime.

Factoring with FOIL in Reverse

$$3x^2 + 7x + 2 \stackrel{?}{=} (\underline{\hspace{1cm}} + \underline{\hspace{1cm}})(\underline{\hspace{1cm}} + \underline{\hspace{1cm}})$$

$$3x^2 + 7x + 2 \stackrel{?}{=} (\underline{3x} + \underline{\hspace{1cm}})(\underline{x} + \underline{\hspace{1cm}}).$$

$$(3x + 2)(x + 1) = 3x^2 + 5x + 2$$

$\xrightarrow{+3x} \underline{5x}$ ← Middle term is *not* $7x$.

$$(3x + 1)(x + 2) = 3x^2 + 7x + 2$$

$\xrightarrow{+6x} \underline{7x}$ ← Middle term checks.

EXAMPLE Factoring the form $ax^2 + bx + c$

Factor the trinomial. $2x^2 + 7x + 6$

Solution

$$2x^2 + 7x + 6$$

$$2x^2 + 7x + 6 = (2x + \underline{\quad})(x + \underline{\quad})$$

The factors of the last term are either 1 and 6 or 2 and 3.

Try a set of factors. Try 1 and 6.

$$(2x + 1)(x + 6) = 2x^2 + 13x + 6$$

x

$12x$

$13x$

Middle term is $13x$ not $7x$.

EXAMPLE

Factoring the form $ax^2 + bx + c$ —*continued*

Factor the trinomial. $2x^2 + 7x + 6$

The factors of the last term are either 1 and 6 or 2 and 3.

Try a set of factors.

Solution

Try 2 and 3 the factors of the last term.

$$(2x + 2)(x + 3) = 2x^2 + 8x + 6$$

$2x$

$6x$

Middle term is $8x$ not $7x$.

$8x$

Try another $(2x + 3)(x + 2) = 2x^2 + 7x + 6$

set of factors

$3x$

3 and 2.

$4x$

Middle term is correct.

$7x$

MAKING CONNECTIONS

The Signs in the Binomial Factors

Let a , b , and c represent positive integers. If a trinomial of the form $ax^2 + bx + c$ can be factored, the signs in the binomial factors can be summarized as follows.

Form of the Trinomial

$$ax^2 + bx + c$$

$$ax^2 - bx + c$$

$$ax^2 + bx - c$$

$$ax^2 - bx - c$$

Signs in the Binomial Factors

$$(+)(+)$$

$$(-)(-)$$

$$(-)(+)$$

$$(-)(+)$$

Practice for section 6.3

- ⑩ Factoring $ax^2 + bx + c$ by grouping Q11-34
- ⑩ Discovering that a trinomial is prime Q 13-23
- ⑩ Factoring the form $ax^2 + bx + c$ Q 29-50

6.4

Special Types of Factoring

- Difference of Two Squares
- Perfect Square Trinomials
- Sum and Difference of Two Cubes

DIFFERENCE OF TWO SQUARES

For any real numbers a and b ,

$$a^2 - b^2 = (a - b)(a + b).$$

EXAMPLE Factoring the difference of two squares

Factor each difference of two squares.

a. $9x^2 - 16$ b. $5x^2 + 8y^2$ c. $25x^4 - y^6$

Solution

a. $9x^2 - 16 = (3x)^2 - (4)^2 = (3x - 4)(3x + 4)$

b. Because $5x^2 + 8y^2$ is the sum of two squares, it *cannot* be factored.

c. If we let $a^2 = 25x^4$ and $b^2 = y^6$, then $a = 5x^2$ and $b = y^3$.
Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} 25x^4 - y^6 &= (5x^2)^2 - (y^3)^2 \\ &= (5x^2 - y^3)(5x^2 + y^3). \end{aligned}$$

PERFECT SQUARE TRINOMIALS

For any real numbers a and b ,

$$a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = (a + b)^2 \text{ and}$$

$$a^2 - 2ab + b^2 = (a - b)^2.$$

EXAMPLE Factoring perfect square trinomials

If possible, factor each trinomial as a perfect square.

a. $x^2 + 8x + 16$

b. $4x^2 - 12x + 9$

Solution

a. $x^2 + 8x + 16$ Let $a^2 = x^2$ and $b^2 = 4^2$. For a perfect square trinomial, the middle term must be $2ab$.

$$2ab = 2(x)(4) = 8x,$$

which equals the given middle term.
Thus $a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = (a + b)^2$ implies

$$x^2 + 8x + 16 = (x + 4)^2.$$

EXAMPLE continued

b. $4x^2 - 12x + 9$

Let $a^2 = (2x)^2$ and $b^2 = 3^2$. For a perfect square trinomial, the middle term must be $2ab$.

$$2ab = 2(2x)(3) = 12x,$$

which equals the given middle term. Thus $a^2 - 2ab + b^2 = (a - b)^2$ implies

$$4x^2 - 12x + 9 = (2x - 3)^2.$$

SUM AND DIFFERENCE OF TWO CUBES

For any real numbers a and b ,

$$a^3 + b^3 = (a + b)(a^2 - ab + b^2) \quad \text{and}$$

$$a^3 - b^3 = (a - b)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$$

EXAMPLE

Factoring the sum and difference of two cubes

Factor each polynomial.

a. $n^3 + 27$

b. $8x^3 - 125y^3$

Solution

a. $n^3 + 27$

Because $n^3 = (n)^3$ and $27 = 3^3$, we let $a = n$, $b = 3$, and factor.

Substituting $a^3 + b^3 = (a + b)(a^2 - ab + b^2)$

gives
$$\begin{aligned} n^3 + 3^3 &= (n + 3)(n^2 - n \cdot 3 + 3^2) \\ &= (n + 3)(n^2 - 3n + 9). \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE continued

b. $8x^3 - 125y^3$

Here, $8x^3 = (2x)^3$ and $125y^3 = (5y)^3$, so
 $8x^3 - 125y^3 = (2x)^3 - (5y)^3$.

Substituting $a = 2x$ and $b = 5y$ in
$$a^3 - b^3 = (a - b)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$$

gives

$$(2x)^3 - (5y)^3 = (2x - 5y)(4x^2 + 10xy + 25y^2).$$

EXAMPLE

Factoring out the GCF before factoring further

Factor the polynomial completely. $8s^3 - 32st^2$

Solution

Factor out the common factor of $8s$.

$$\begin{aligned} 8s^3 - 32st^2 &= 8s(s^2 - 4t^2) \\ &= 8s(s - 2t)(s + 2t) \end{aligned}$$

Practice for section 6.4

- ⑩ Factoring the difference of two squares Q 15-30
- ⑩ Factoring perfect square trinomials Q 31-52
- ⑩ Factoring the sum and difference of two cubes Q53-66
- ⑩ Factoring out the GCF before factoring further Q 67-84

7.1

Introduction to Rational Expressions

- Basic Concepts
- Simplifying Rational Expressions
- Applications

Basic Concepts

Rational expressions can be written as quotients (fractions) of two polynomials.

Examples include:

$$\frac{5}{x}, \quad \frac{x^2}{3x-4}, \quad \frac{4x^2 + 6x - 1}{4x^3 - 8}$$

RATIONAL EXPRESSION

A rational expression can be written as $\frac{P}{Q}$, where P and Q are polynomials. A rational expression is defined whenever $Q \neq 0$.

EXAMPLE Evaluating rational expressions

If possible, evaluate each expression for the given value of the variable.

a. $\frac{1}{x+3}; x = 3$

b. $\frac{w^2}{3w-4}; w = 4$

c. $\frac{4-w}{w-4}; w = -5$

Solution

a. $\frac{1}{x+3}; x = 3$

$$\frac{1}{3+3} = \frac{1}{6}$$

b. $\frac{w^2}{3w-4}; w = 4$

$$= \frac{(4)^2}{3(4)-4}$$

$$= \frac{16}{12-4}$$

$$= \frac{16}{8} = 2$$

c. $\frac{4-w}{w-4}; w = -5$

$$= \frac{4-(-5)}{(-5)-4}$$

$$= \frac{9}{-9} = -1$$

EXAMPLE

Determining when a rational expression is undefined

Find all values of the variable for which each expression is undefined.

a. $\frac{1}{x^2}$

b. $\frac{w^2}{w-4}$

c. $\frac{6}{w^2-4}$

Solution

a. $\frac{1}{x^2}$

Undefined when
 $x^2 = 0$ or when
 $x = 0$.

b. $\frac{w^2}{w-4}$

Undefined when
 $w - 4 = 0$ or
when $w = 4$.

c. $\frac{6}{w^2-4}$

Undefined when
 $w^2 - 4 = 0$ or
when $w = \pm 2$.

EXAMPLE Simplifying fractions

Simplify each fraction by applying the basic principle of fractions.

a. $\frac{9}{15}$

b. $\frac{20}{28}$

c. $\frac{45}{135}$

Solution

a. The GCF of 9 and 15 is 3. $\frac{9}{15} = \frac{3 \cdot 3}{3 \cdot 5} = \frac{3}{5}$

b. The GCF of 20 and 28 is 4. $\frac{20}{28} = \frac{4 \cdot 5}{4 \cdot 7} = \frac{5}{7}$

c. The GCF of 45 and 135 is 45. $\frac{45}{135} = \frac{45 \cdot 1}{45 \cdot 3} = \frac{1}{3}$

BASIC PRINCIPLE OF RATIONAL EXPRESSIONS

The following property can be used to simplify rational expressions, where P , Q , and R are polynomials.

$$\frac{P \cdot R}{Q \cdot R} = \frac{P}{Q} \quad Q \text{ and } R \text{ are nonzero.}$$

EXAMPLE

Simplifying rational expressions

Simplify each expression.

a. $\frac{16y}{4y^2}$

b. $\frac{3x+12}{4x+16}$

c. $\frac{x^2 - 25}{2x^2 - 7x - 15}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } \frac{16y}{4y^2} &= \frac{4y \cdot 4}{4y \cdot y} \\ &= \frac{4}{y} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b. } \frac{3x+12}{4x+16} &= \frac{3(x+4)}{4(x+4)} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c. } \frac{x^2 - 25}{2x^2 - 7x - 15} &= \frac{(x-5)(x+5)}{(2x+3)(x-5)} \\ &= \frac{x+5}{2x+3} \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE

Distributing a negative sign

Simplify each expression.

a. $\frac{-y-7}{2y+14}$

b. $-\frac{8-x}{x-8}$

Solution

a. $\frac{-y-7}{2y+14}$

$$= \frac{-1(\textcolor{blue}{y} + \textcolor{blue}{7})}{2(\textcolor{blue}{y} + \textcolor{blue}{7})}$$

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

b. $-\frac{8-x}{x-8}$

$$= \frac{-(8-x)}{x-8}$$

$$= \frac{-8+x}{x-8}$$

$$= \frac{x-8}{x-8} = 1$$

Practice for section 7.1

- ⑩ Evaluating rational expressions Q 11-24
- ⑩ Determining when a rational expression is undefined Q 29-42
- ⑩ Simplifying fractions Q 43-50
- ⑩ Simplifying rational expressions Q 55-66, 71-84
- ⑩ Distributing a negative sign Q 67-70

7.2

Multiplication and Division of Rational Expressions

- Review of Multiplication and Division of Fractions
- Multiplication of Rational Expressions
- Division of Rational Expressions

EXAMPLE Multiplying fractions

Multiply and simplify your answers to lowest terms.

a. $\frac{4}{9} \cdot \frac{5}{7}$

b. $15 \cdot \frac{4}{5}$

c. $\frac{2}{7} \cdot \frac{5}{8}$

Solution

a. $\frac{4}{9} \cdot \frac{5}{7} = \frac{20}{63}$

b. $15 \cdot \frac{4}{5} = \frac{15}{1} \cdot \frac{4}{5} = \frac{60}{5} = 12$

c. $\frac{2}{7} \cdot \frac{5}{8} = \frac{5 \cdot 2}{7 \cdot 8} = \frac{5}{7} \cdot \frac{1}{4} = \frac{5}{28}$

EXAMPLE Dividing fractions

Divide and simplify your answers to lowest terms.

a. $\frac{1}{6} \div \frac{3}{5}$

b. $\frac{6}{7} \div 18$

c. $\frac{4}{5} \div \frac{11}{15}$

Solution

a. $\frac{1}{6} \div \frac{3}{5} = \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{5}{3} = \frac{5}{18}$

b. $\frac{6}{7} \div 18 = \frac{6}{7} \cdot \frac{1}{18} = \frac{1 \cdot 6}{7 \cdot 18} = \frac{1}{21}$

c. $\frac{4}{5} \div \frac{11}{15} = \frac{4}{5} \cdot \frac{15}{11} = \frac{60}{55} = \frac{12 \cdot 5}{11 \cdot 5} = \frac{12}{11}$

PRODUCTS OF RATIONAL EXPRESSIONS

To multiply two rational expressions multiply the numerators and multiply the denominators. That is,

$$\frac{A}{B} \cdot \frac{C}{D} = \frac{AC}{BD},$$

where B and D are nonzero.

EXAMPLE

Multiplying rational expressions

Multiply and simplify to lowest terms. Leave your answers in factored form.

a. $\frac{6x}{10} \cdot \frac{5}{12x^2}$

b. $\frac{x-3}{2x-1} \cdot \frac{x+4}{3x-9}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } \frac{6x}{10} \cdot \frac{5}{12x^2} &= \frac{6x}{10} \cdot \frac{5}{12x^2} \\ &= \frac{30x}{120x^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{4x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b. } \frac{x-3}{2x-1} \cdot \frac{x+4}{3x-9} &= \frac{(x-3)(x+4)}{(2x-1)(3x-9)} \\ &= \frac{(x-3)(x+4)}{3(2x-1)(x-3)} \\ &= \frac{x+4}{3(2x-1)} \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE Multiplying rational expressions

Multiply and simplify to lowest terms. Leave your answer in factored form.

$$\frac{x^2 - 16}{x^2 - 9} \cdot \frac{x + 3}{x - 4}$$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{x^2 - 16}{x^2 - 9} \cdot \frac{x + 3}{x - 4} &= \frac{(x^2 - 16)(x + 3)}{(x^2 - 9)(x - 4)} \\ &= \frac{(x - 4)(x + 4)(x + 3)}{(x - 3)(x + 3)(x - 4)} \\ &= \frac{(x + 4)(x + 3)(x - 4)}{(x - 3)(x + 3)(x - 4)} \\ &= \frac{(x + 4)}{(x - 3)}\end{aligned}$$

QUOTIENTS OF RATIONAL EXPRESSIONS

To divide two rational expressions multiply by the reciprocal of the divisor. That is,

$$\frac{A}{B} \div \frac{C}{D} = \frac{A}{B} \cdot \frac{D}{C},$$

where B , C , and D are nonzero.

EXAMPLE

Dividing rational expressions

Divide and simplify to lowest terms.

a. $\frac{3}{x} \div \frac{2x+1}{6x}$

b. $\frac{x^2-16}{x^2-2x-8} \div \frac{x+4}{x+2}$

Solution

a. $\frac{3}{x} \div \frac{2x+1}{6x}$

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

$$= \frac{18x}{x(2x+1)}$$

$$= \frac{18}{2x+1}$$

b. $\frac{x^2-16}{x^2-2x-8} \div \frac{x+4}{x+2}$

$$= \frac{x^2-16}{x^2-2x-8} \cdot \frac{x+2}{x+4}$$

$$= \frac{(x+4)(x-4)}{(x+2)(x-4)} \cdot \frac{x+2}{x+4}$$

$$= \frac{(\textcolor{red}{x}+4)(\textcolor{blue}{x}-4)(\textcolor{green}{x}+2)}{(\textcolor{green}{x}+2)(\textcolor{blue}{x}-4)(\textcolor{red}{x}+4)} = 1$$

Practice for section 7.2

- ⑩ Multiplying fractions Q 9-14
- ⑩ Dividing fractions Q 17-22
- ⑩ Multiplying rational expressions Q 33-49
- ⑩ Dividing rational expressions Q 53-70

7.3

Addition and Subtraction With Like Denominators

- Review of Addition and Subtraction of Fractions
- Rational Expressions Having Like Denominators

EXAMPLE

Adding fractions having like denominators

Add and simplify to lowest terms.

a. $\frac{4}{7} + \frac{1}{7}$

b. $\frac{1}{9} + \frac{5}{9}$

Solution

$$\text{a. } \frac{4}{7} + \frac{1}{7} = \frac{4+1}{7} = \frac{5}{7}$$

$$\text{b. } \frac{1}{9} + \frac{5}{9} = \frac{1+5}{9} = \frac{6}{9} = \frac{2}{3}$$

EXAMPLE

Subtracting fractions having like denominators

Subtract and simplify to lowest terms.

a. $\frac{13}{18} - \frac{7}{18}$

b. $\frac{15}{30} - \frac{11}{30}$

Solution

a. $\frac{13}{18} - \frac{7}{18} = \frac{13-7}{18} = \frac{6}{18} = \frac{1}{3}$

b. $\frac{15}{30} - \frac{11}{30} = \frac{15-11}{30} = \frac{4}{30} = \frac{2}{15}$

SUMS OF RATIONAL EXPRESSIONS

To add two rational expressions having like denominators, add their numerators. Keep the same denominator.

$$\frac{A}{C} + \frac{B}{C} = \frac{A + B}{C}$$

C is nonzero

EXAMPLE

Adding rational expressions having like denominators

Add and simplify.

a. $\frac{4x+1}{x+3} + \frac{x-2}{x+3}$

b. $\frac{x}{x^2+7x+10} + \frac{5}{x^2+7x+10}$

Solution

a. $\frac{4x+1}{x+3} + \frac{x-2}{x+3} = \frac{4x+1+x-2}{x+3} = \frac{5x-1}{x+3}$

b. $\frac{x}{x^2+7x+10} + \frac{5}{x^2+7x+10} = \frac{x+5}{x^2+7x+10}$
 $= \frac{x+5}{(x+5)(x+2)} = \frac{1}{x+2}$

EXAMPLE

Adding rational expressions having two variables

Add and simplify to lowest terms.

a. $\frac{7}{ab} + \frac{4}{ab}$

b. $\frac{w}{w^2 - y^2} + \frac{y}{w^2 - y^2}$

Solution

a. $\frac{7}{ab} + \frac{4}{ab} = \frac{7+4}{ab} = \frac{11}{ab}$

b. $\frac{w}{w^2 - y^2} + \frac{y}{w^2 - y^2} = \frac{w+y}{w^2 - y^2} = \frac{w+y}{(w-y)(w+y)} = \frac{1}{w-y}$

DIFFERENCES OF RATIONAL EXPRESSIONS

To subtract two rational expressions having like denominators, subtract their numerators. Keep the same denominator.

$$\frac{A}{C} - \frac{B}{C} = \frac{A - B}{C}$$

C is nonzero

EXAMPLE

Subtracting rational expressions having like denominators

Subtract and simplify to lowest terms.

a. $\frac{6}{x^2} - \frac{x+6}{x^2}$

b. $\frac{2x-3}{x^2-1} - \frac{x-4}{x^2-1}$

Solution

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

b.
$$\frac{2x-3}{x^2-1} - \frac{x-4}{x^2-1} = \frac{2x-3-x+4}{x^2-1} = \frac{x+1}{x^2-1}$$

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

EXAMPLE

Subtracting rational expressions having like denominators

Subtract and simplify to lowest terms. $\frac{7a}{a+2} - \frac{a-2}{a+2}$

Solution

$$\frac{7a}{a+2} - \frac{a-2}{a+2} = \frac{7a - (a-2)}{a+2} = \frac{6a+2}{a+2}$$

Practice for section 7.3

- ⑩ Adding fractions having like denominators Q 15-20
- ⑩ Subtracting fractions having like denominators Q 27-34
- ⑩ Adding rational expressions having like denominators Q 25, 39, 41
- ⑩ Adding rational expressions having two variables Q 57-62
- ⑩ Subtracting rational expressions having like denominators Q 37, 63

7.4

Addition and Subtraction with Unlike Denominators

- Finding Least Common Multiples
- Review of Fractions Having Unlike Denominators
- Rational Expressions Having Unlike Denominators

FINDING THE LEAST COMMON MULTIPLE

The least common multiple (LCM) of two or more polynomials can be found as follows.

Step 1: Factor each polynomial completely.

Step 2: List each factor the greatest number of times that it occurs in either factorization.

Step 3: Find the product of this list of factors. The result is the LCM.

EXAMPLE Finding least common multiples

Find the least common multiple of each pair of expressions.

a. $6x, 9x^4$

b. $x^2 + 7x + 12, x^2 + 8x + 16$

Solution

a. *Step 1:* Factor each polynomial completely.

$$6x = 3 \cdot 2 \cdot x \quad 9x^4 = 3 \cdot 3 \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x$$

Step 2: List each factor the greatest number of times.

$$3 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x$$

Step 3: The LCM is $18x^4$.

EXAMPLE continued

Find the least common multiple.

b. $x^2 + 7x + 12$, $x^2 + 8x + 16$

Step 1: Factor each polynomial completely.

$$x^2 + 7x + 12 = (x + 3)(x + 4)$$

$$x^2 + 8x + 16 = (x + 4)(x + 4)$$

Step 2: List each factor the greatest number of times.

$$(x + 3), (x + 4), \text{ and } (x + 4)$$

Step 3: The LCM is $(x + 3)(x + 4)^2$.

EXAMPLE

Adding and subtracting fractions having unlike denominators

Simplify each expression.

a. $\frac{4}{7} + \frac{1}{6}$

b. $\frac{5}{12} - \frac{11}{30}$

Solution

a. The LCD is the LCM, 42.

$$\frac{4}{7} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{4}{7} \cdot \frac{6}{6} + \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{7}{7} = \frac{24}{42} + \frac{7}{42} = \frac{31}{42}$$

b. The LCD is 60.

$$\frac{5}{12} - \frac{11}{30} = \frac{5}{12} \cdot \frac{5}{5} - \frac{11}{30} \cdot \frac{2}{2} = \frac{25}{60} - \frac{22}{60} = \frac{3}{60} = \frac{1}{20}$$

EXAMPLE

Adding rational expressions having unlike denominators

Find each sum and leave your answer in factored form.

a. $\frac{2}{x} + \frac{5}{x^2}$

b. $\frac{4}{x-1} + \frac{3}{1-x}$

Solution

a.
$$\frac{2}{x} + \frac{5}{x^2} = \frac{2}{x} \cdot \frac{x}{x} + \frac{5}{x^2} = \frac{2x}{x^2} + \frac{5}{x^2} = \frac{2x+5}{x^2}$$

b.
$$\frac{4}{x-1} + \frac{3}{1-x} = \frac{4}{x-1} + \frac{3}{1-x} \cdot \frac{-1}{-1} = \frac{4}{x-1} + \frac{-3}{x-1} = \frac{1}{x-1}$$

EXAMPLE

Subtracting rational expressions having unlike denominators

Simply each expression. Write your answer in lowest terms and leave it in factored form.

$$\frac{x-3}{x} - \frac{5}{x+7}$$

Solution

The LCD is $x(x+7)$.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{x-3}{x} - \frac{5}{x+7} &= \frac{x-3}{x} \cdot \frac{x+7}{x+7} - \frac{5}{x+7} \cdot \frac{x}{x} = \frac{(x-3)(x+7)}{x(x+7)} - \frac{5x}{x(x+7)} \\ &= \frac{(x-3)(x+7) - 5x}{x(x+7)} = \frac{x^2 + 4x - 21 - 5x}{x(x+7)} = \frac{x^2 - x - 21}{x(x+7)}\end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE**Subtracting rational expressions with unlike denominators**

Simplify each expression. Write your answer in lowest terms and leave it in factored form.

$$\frac{6}{x^2 + 6x + 9} - \frac{5}{x^2 - 9} = \frac{6}{(x+3)(x+3)} - \frac{5}{(x+3)(x-3)}$$

The LCD is $(x+3)(x+3)(x-3)$.

$$= \frac{6}{(x+3)(x+3)} \cdot \frac{(x-3)}{(x-3)} - \frac{5}{(x+3)(x-3)} \cdot \frac{(x+3)}{(x+3)}$$

$$= \frac{6(x-3)}{(x+3)(x+3)(x-3)} - \frac{5(x+3)}{(x+3)(x+3)(x-3)}$$

$$= \frac{6x - 18 - 5x - 15}{(x+3)(x+3)(x-3)} = \frac{x - 33}{(x+3)(x+3)(x-3)}$$

EXAMPLE Modeling electrical resistance

Add $\frac{1}{R} + \frac{1}{S}$, and then find the reciprocal of the result.

Solution

The LCD is RS .

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{R} + \frac{1}{S} &= \frac{1}{R} \cdot \frac{S}{S} + \frac{1}{S} \cdot \frac{R}{R} \\ &= \frac{S}{RS} + \frac{R}{RS} \\ &= \frac{S + R}{RS}\end{aligned}$$

The reciprocal is

$$\frac{RS}{S + R}.$$

Practice for section 7.4

- ⑩ Finding least common multiples Q 15-38
- ⑩ Adding and subtracting fractions having unlike denominators Q 51-58
- ⑩ Adding rational expressions having unlike denominators Q 59-77
- ⑩ Subtracting rational expressions having unlike denominators Q 69-87
- ⑩ Modeling electrical resistance Q 103

10.1

Radical Expressions and Rational Exponents

- Radical Notation
- Rational Exponents
- Properties of Rational Exponents

SQUARE ROOT

The number b is a *square root* of a if $b^2 = a$.

Every positive number a has two square roots, one positive and one negative. Recall that the *positive* square root is called the *principal square root*.

The symbol $\sqrt{\quad}$ is called the **radical sign**.

The expression under the radical sign is called the **radicand**, and an expression containing a radical sign is called a **radical expression**.

Examples of radical expressions:

$$\sqrt{7}, \quad 6 + \sqrt{x + 2}, \quad \text{and} \quad \sqrt{\frac{5x}{3x - 4}}$$

EXAMPLE Finding principal square roots

Evaluate each square root.

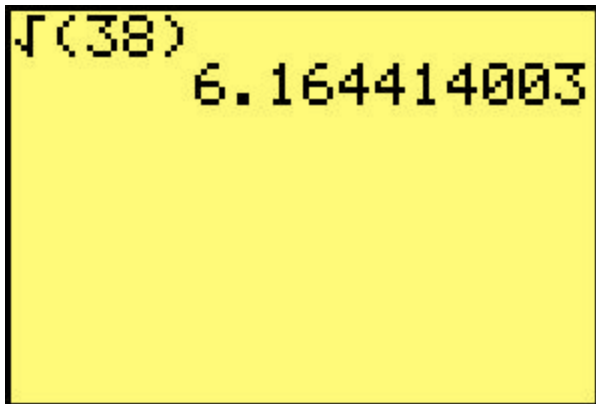
a. $\sqrt{36} = 6$

b. $\sqrt{0.64} = 0.8$

c. $\sqrt{\frac{16}{25}} = \frac{4}{5}$

EXAMPLE Approximating a square root

Approximate $\sqrt{38}$ to the nearest thousandth.



$\sqrt{(38)}$
6.164414003

$$= 6.164$$

CUBE ROOT

The number b is a *cube root* of a if $b^3 = a$.

THE NOTATION $\sqrt[n]{a}$

The equation $\sqrt[n]{a} = b$ means that $b^n = a$, where n is a natural number called the **index**. If n is odd, we are finding an **odd root** and if n is even, we are finding an **even root**.

1. If $a > 0$, then $\sqrt[n]{a}$ is a positive number.
2. If $a < 0$ and
 - a. n is odd, then $\sqrt[n]{a}$ is a negative number.
 - b. n is even, then $\sqrt[n]{a}$ is *not* a real number.

EXAMPLE Finding nth roots

Find each root, if possible.

a. $\sqrt[4]{256}$ b. $\sqrt[5]{-243}$ c. $\sqrt[4]{-1296}$

Solution

a. $\sqrt[4]{256} = 4$ because $4 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 = 256$.

b. $\sqrt[5]{-243} = -3$ because $(-3)^5 = -243$.

c. $\sqrt[4]{-1296}$ An *even* root of a *negative* number is *not* a real number.

THE EXPRESSION $\sqrt{x^2}$

For every real number x , $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$.

EXAMPLE Simplifying expressions

Write each expression in terms of an absolute value.

a. $\sqrt{(-5)^2}$

b. $\sqrt{(x+3)^2}$

c. $\sqrt{w^2 - 6w + 9}$

Solution

a. $\sqrt{(-5)^2} = |-5| = 5$

b. $\sqrt{(x+3)^2} = |x+3|$

c. $\sqrt{w^2 - 6w + 9} = \sqrt{(w-3)^2} = |w-3|$

THE EXPRESSION $a^{1/n}$

If n is an integer greater than 1 and a is a real number, then

$$a^{1/n} = \sqrt[n]{a}.$$

NOTE: If $a < 0$ and n is an even positive integer, then $a^{1/n}$ is not a real number.

EXAMPLE Interpreting rational exponents

Write each expression in radical notation. Then evaluate the expression and round to the nearest hundredth when appropriate.

a. $49^{1/2}$

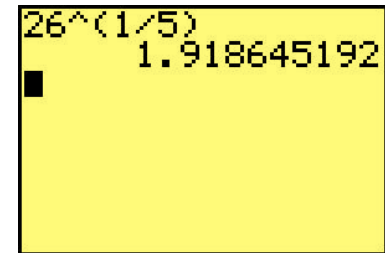
b. $26^{1/5}$

c. $(6x)^{1/2}$

Solution

a. $49^{1/2} = \sqrt{49} = 7$

b. $26^{1/5}$

A yellow rectangular box representing a calculator screen. It displays the expression 26^(1/5) on the top line and the result 1.918645192 on the line below it. A small black cursor is visible on the line below the result.

c. $(6x)^{1/2} = \sqrt{6x}$

THE EXPRESSION $a^{m/n}$

If m and n are positive integers with $\frac{m}{n}$ in lowest terms, then

$$a^{m/n} = \sqrt[n]{a^m} = (\sqrt[n]{a})^m.$$

NOTE: If $a < 0$ and n is an even integer, then $a^{m/n}$ is *not* a real number.

EXAMPLE Interpreting rational exponents

Write each expression in radical notation. Evaluate the expression by hand when possible.

a. $81^{3/4}$

b. $14^{4/5}$

Solution

a. $81^{3/4}$ Take the fourth root of 81 and then cube it.

$$= (81)^{3/4}$$

$$= \left(\sqrt[4]{81} \right)^3$$

$$= 3^3$$

$$= 27$$

b. $14^{4/5}$ Take the fifth root of 14 and then fourth it.

$$= 14^{4/5}$$

$$= \left(\sqrt[5]{14} \right)^4$$

Cannot be evaluated by hand.

TECHNOLOGY NOTE: Rational Exponents

When evaluating expressions with rational (fractional) exponents, be sure to put parentheses around the fraction. For example, most calculators will evaluate $8^{(2/3)}$ and $8^{2/3}$ differently. The accompanying figure shows evaluation of $8^{2/3}$ input correctly, $8^{(2/3)}$, as 4 but shows evaluation of $8^{2/3}$ input incorrectly, $8^{2/3}$, as $\frac{8^2}{3} = 21.\overline{3}$.

Correct →	$8^{(2/3)}$	4
Incorrect →	$8^{2/3}$	21.33333333

THE EXPRESSION $a^{-m/n}$

If m and n are positive integers with $\frac{m}{n}$ in lowest terms, then

$$a^{-m/n} = \frac{1}{a^{m/n}}, \quad a \neq 0.$$

EXAMPLE Interpreting negative rational exponents

Write each expression in radical notation and then evaluate.

a. $81^{-1/4}$

b. $64^{-2/3}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } 81^{-1/4} &= \frac{1}{81^{1/4}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{81}} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b. } 64^{-2/3} &= \frac{1}{64^{2/3}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\left(\sqrt[3]{64}\right)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{4^2} = \frac{1}{16} \end{aligned}$$

PROPERTIES OF EXPONENTS

Let p and q be rational numbers written in lowest terms. For all real numbers a and b for which the expressions are real numbers the following properties hold.

1. $a^p \cdot a^q = a^{p+q}$ Product rule for exponents
2. $a^{-p} = \frac{1}{a^p}, \quad \frac{1}{a^{-p}} = a^p$ Negative exponents
3. $\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{-p} = \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^p$ Negative exponents for quotients
4. $\frac{a^p}{a^q} = a^{p-q}$ Quotient rule for exponents
5. $(a^p)^q = a^{pq}$ Power rule for exponents
6. $(ab)^p = a^p b^p$ Power rule for products
7. $\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^p = \frac{a^p}{b^p}$ Power rule for quotients

EXAMPLE

Applying properties of exponents

Write each expression using rational exponents and simplify. Write the answer with a positive exponent. Assume that all variables are positive numbers.

a. $\sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt[4]{x}$

b. $\sqrt[4]{256x^3}$

Solution

a. $\sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt[4]{x} = x^{1/2} \cdot x^{1/4}$

$$= x^{1/2+1/4}$$

$$= x^{3/4}$$

b. $\sqrt[4]{256x^3} = (256x^3)^{1/4}$

$$= 256^{1/4} (x^3)^{1/4}$$

$$= 4x^{3/4}$$

EXAMPLE

Applying properties of exponents-continued

c. $\frac{\sqrt[5]{32x}}{\sqrt[4]{x}}$

d. $\left(\frac{x^3}{27}\right)^{-1/3}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\text{a. } \frac{\sqrt[5]{32x}}{\sqrt[4]{x}} &= \frac{(32x)^{1/5}}{x^{1/4}} \\ &= \frac{32^{1/5} x^{1/5}}{x^{1/4}} \\ &= 2x^{1/5-1/4} \\ &= 2x^{-1/20} \\ &= \frac{2}{x^{1/20}}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{b. } \left(\frac{x^3}{27}\right)^{-1/3} &= \left(\frac{27}{x^3}\right)^{1/3} \\ &= \frac{27^{1/3}}{(x^3)^{1/3}} \\ &= \frac{3}{x}\end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE

Applying properties of exponents

Write each expression with positive rational exponents and simplify, if possible.

a. $\sqrt[4]{\sqrt{x+2}}$

b. $\frac{y^{-1/4}}{x^{-1/5}}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\text{a. } \sqrt[4]{\sqrt{x+2}} &= \left((x+2)^{1/2}\right)^{1/4} \\ &= (x+2)^{1/8}\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{b. } \frac{y^{-1/4}}{x^{-1/5}} = \frac{x^{1/5}}{y^{1/4}}$$

Practice for section 10.1

- ⑩ Finding principal square roots Q 11-18
- ⑩ Approximating a square root Q 35-36
- ⑩ Finding n th roots Q 29-34
- ⑩ Simplifying expressions Q 103-110
- ⑩ Interpreting rational exponents Q 41-56, 63-68
- ⑩ Interpreting negative rational exponents Q 57-62
- ⑩ Applying properties of exponents Q 91-102

10.2

Simplifying Radical Expressions

- Product Rule for Radical Expressions
- Quotient Rule for Radical Expressions

Consider the following example:

$$\sqrt{4} \cdot \sqrt{25} = 2 \cdot 5 = 10$$

$$\sqrt{4 \cdot 25} = \sqrt{100} = 10$$

PRODUCT RULE FOR RADICAL EXPRESSIONS

Let a and b be real numbers, where $\sqrt[n]{a}$ and $\sqrt[n]{b}$ are both defined. Then

$$\sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b} = \sqrt[n]{a \cdot b}.$$

Note: the product rule only works when the radicals have the *same index*.

EXAMPLE Multiplying radical expressions

Multiply each radical expression.

Solution

$$\text{a. } \sqrt{36} \cdot \sqrt{4} = \sqrt{36 \cdot 4} = \sqrt{144} = 12$$

$$\text{b. } \sqrt[3]{-8} \cdot \sqrt[3]{27} = \sqrt[3]{-8 \cdot 27} = \sqrt[3]{-216} = -6$$

$$\text{c. } \sqrt[4]{\frac{1}{4}} \cdot \sqrt[4]{\frac{1}{16}} \cdot \sqrt[4]{\frac{1}{4}} = \sqrt[4]{\frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{16} \cdot \frac{1}{4}} = \sqrt[4]{\frac{1}{256}} = \frac{1}{4}$$

EXAMPLE

Multiplying radical expressions containing variables

Multiply each radical expression. Assume all variables are positive.

Solution

$$\text{a. } \sqrt{x^2} \cdot \sqrt{x^4} = \sqrt{x^2 \cdot x^4} = \sqrt{x^6} = x^3$$

$$\text{b. } \sqrt[3]{5a} \cdot \sqrt[3]{10a^2} = \sqrt[3]{5a \cdot 10a^2} = \sqrt[3]{50a^3} = a\sqrt[3]{50}$$

$$\text{c. } \sqrt[4]{\frac{3x}{y}} \cdot \sqrt[4]{\frac{7y}{x}} = \sqrt[4]{\frac{3x}{y} \cdot \frac{7y}{x}} = \sqrt[4]{\frac{21xy}{xy}} = \sqrt[4]{21}$$

SIMPLIFYING RADICALS (n th ROOTS)

STEP 1: Determine the largest perfect n th power factor of the radicand.

STEP 2: Use the product rule to factor out and simplify this perfect n th power.

EXAMPLE Simplifying radical expressions

Simplify each expression.

a. $\sqrt{500}$ b. $\sqrt[3]{40}$ c. $\sqrt{72}$

Solution

a. $\sqrt{500} = \sqrt{100} \cdot \sqrt{5} = 10\sqrt{5}$

b. $\sqrt[3]{40} = \sqrt[3]{8} \cdot \sqrt[3]{5} = 2\sqrt[3]{5}$

c. $\sqrt{72} = \sqrt{36} \cdot \sqrt{2} = 6\sqrt{2}$

EXAMPLE Simplifying radical expressions

Simplify each expression. Assume that all variables are positive.

a. $\sqrt{49x^4}$

b. $\sqrt{75y^5}$

c. $\sqrt[3]{3a} \cdot \sqrt[3]{9a^2w}$

Solution

$$\text{a. } \sqrt{49x^4} = \sqrt{49} \cdot \sqrt{x^4} = 7x^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b. } \sqrt{75y^5} &= \sqrt{(25y^4) \cdot 3y} \\ &= \sqrt{25y^4} \cdot \sqrt{3y} \\ &= 5y^2\sqrt{3y} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c. } \sqrt[3]{3a} \cdot \sqrt[3]{9a^2w} &= \sqrt[3]{3a \cdot 9a^2w} \\ &= \sqrt[3]{(27a^3)w} \\ &= \sqrt[3]{(27a^3)} \cdot \sqrt[3]{w} \\ &= 3a\sqrt[3]{w} \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE Multiplying radicals with different indexes

Simplify each expression.

a. $\sqrt{7} \cdot \sqrt[3]{7}$

b. $\sqrt[3]{a} \cdot \sqrt[5]{a}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\text{a. } \sqrt{7} \cdot \sqrt[3]{7} &= 7^{1/2} \cdot 7^{1/3} \\ &= 7^{1/2+1/3} \\ &= 7^{5/6}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{b. } \sqrt[3]{a} \cdot \sqrt[5]{a} &= a^{1/3} \cdot a^{1/5} \\ &= a^{1/3+1/5} \\ &= a^{8/15}\end{aligned}$$

Consider the following examples of dividing radical expressions:

$$\sqrt{\frac{4}{9}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{3}} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{4}{9}} = \frac{\sqrt{4}}{\sqrt{9}} = \frac{2}{3}$$

QUOTIENT RULE FOR RADICAL EXPRESSIONS

Let a and b be real numbers, where $\sqrt[n]{a}$ and $\sqrt[n]{b}$ are both defined and $b \neq 0$. Then

$$\sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{a}}{\sqrt[n]{b}}.$$

EXAMPLE Simplifying quotients

Simplify each radical expression. Assume that all variables are positive.

a. $\sqrt[3]{\frac{7}{27}}$

b. $\sqrt[5]{\frac{x}{32}}$

Solution

a. $\sqrt[3]{\frac{7}{27}} = \frac{\sqrt[3]{7}}{\sqrt[3]{27}}$

$$= \frac{\sqrt[3]{7}}{3}$$

b. $\sqrt[5]{\frac{x}{32}} = \frac{\sqrt[5]{x}}{\sqrt[5]{32}}$

$$= \frac{\sqrt[5]{x}}{2}$$

EXAMPLE Simplifying quotients

Simplify each radical expression. Assume that all variables are positive.

a. $\frac{\sqrt{90}}{\sqrt{10}}$

b. $\frac{\sqrt{x^4 y}}{\sqrt{y}}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\text{a. } \frac{\sqrt{90}}{\sqrt{10}} &= \sqrt{\frac{90}{10}} \\ &= \sqrt{9} \\ &= 3\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{b. } \frac{\sqrt{x^4 y}}{\sqrt{y}} &= \sqrt{\frac{x^4 y}{y}} \\ &= \sqrt{x^4} \\ &= x^2\end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE Simplifying radical expressions

Simplify the radical expression. Assume that all variables are positive.

$$\sqrt[5]{\frac{32x^4}{y^5}}$$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt[5]{\frac{32x^4}{y^5}} &= \frac{\sqrt[5]{32x^4}}{\sqrt[5]{y^5}} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt[5]{32} \cdot \sqrt[5]{x^4}}{\sqrt[5]{y^5}} \\ &= \frac{2\sqrt[5]{x^4}}{y}\end{aligned}$$

Practice for section 10.2

- ⑩ Multiplying radical expressions Q 11-22
- ⑩ Multiplying radical expressions containing variables Q 23-62 (not 33, 39,41)
- ⑩ Simplifying radical expressions Q 75-80
- ⑩ Multiplying radicals with different indexes Q 101-110
- ⑩ Simplifying quotients Q 33,39,41
- ⑩ Simplifying radical expressions Q 95-98

10.3

Operations on Radical Expressions

- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication
- Rationalizing the Denominator

Like radicals have the same index and the same radicand.

Like

$$3\sqrt{2} + 5\sqrt{2}$$

Unlike

$$3\sqrt{2} + 5\sqrt{3}$$

EXAMPLE Adding like radicals

If possible, add the expressions and simplify.

Solution

a. $4\sqrt{7} + 8\sqrt{7} = 12\sqrt{7}$

b. $7\sqrt[3]{5} + 2\sqrt[3]{5} = 9\sqrt[3]{5}$

c. $8 + \sqrt{13}$ The terms cannot be added because they are not like radicals.

d. $\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{16}$ The expression contains unlike radicals and *cannot* be added.

EXAMPLE Finding like radicals

Write each pair of terms as like radicals, if possible.

a. $\sqrt{80}, \sqrt{125}$

b. $4\sqrt[3]{16}, 7\sqrt[3]{54}$

Solution

a. $\sqrt{80} = \sqrt{16 \cdot 5} = 4\sqrt{5}$

$$\sqrt{125} = \sqrt{25 \cdot 5} = 5\sqrt{5}$$

b. $4\sqrt[3]{16} = 4\sqrt[3]{8 \cdot 2} = 4 \cdot 2\sqrt[3]{2} = 8\sqrt[3]{2}$

$$7\sqrt[3]{54} = 7\sqrt[3]{27 \cdot 2} = 7 \cdot 3\sqrt[3]{2} = 21\sqrt[3]{2}$$

EXAMPLE

Adding radical expressions

Add the expressions and simplify.

a. $\sqrt{20} + 5\sqrt{5}$

b. $5\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{50} + \sqrt{72}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\text{a. } \sqrt{20} + 5\sqrt{5} &= \sqrt{4 \cdot 5} + 5\sqrt{5} \\ &= 2\sqrt{5} + 5\sqrt{5} \\ &= 7\sqrt{5}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{b. } 5\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{50} + \sqrt{72} &= 5\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{25 \cdot 2} + \sqrt{36 \cdot 2} \\ &= 5\sqrt{2} + 5\sqrt{2} + 6\sqrt{2} \\ &= 16\sqrt{2}\end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE Subtracting like radicals

Simplify the expressions.

Solution

$$\text{a. } 8\sqrt{7} - 2\sqrt{7} = 6\sqrt{7}$$

$$\text{b. } 7\sqrt[3]{5} - 2\sqrt[3]{5} + \sqrt[3]{5} = (7 - 2 + 1)\sqrt[3]{5} = 6\sqrt[3]{5}$$

EXAMPLE Subtracting radical expressions

Subtract and simplify. Assume that all variables are positive.

a. $\sqrt{49x^5} - \sqrt{x^5}$

b. $\sqrt[3]{\frac{7y}{64}} - \frac{\sqrt[3]{7y}}{4}$

Solution

a. $\sqrt{49x^5} - \sqrt{x^5}$

$$= \sqrt{49x^4} \cdot \sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x^4} \cdot \sqrt{x}$$

$$= 7x^2\sqrt{x} - x^2\sqrt{x}$$

$$= 6x^2\sqrt{x}$$

b. $\sqrt[3]{\frac{7y}{64}} - \frac{\sqrt[3]{7y}}{4}$

$$= \frac{\sqrt[3]{7y}}{4} - \frac{\sqrt[3]{7y}}{4}$$

$$= 0$$

EXAMPLE Subtracting radical expressions

Subtract and simplify. Assume that all variables are positive.

a. $\frac{7\sqrt{2}}{5} - \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{3}$

b. $\sqrt[3]{343a^7b^4} - 24\sqrt[3]{27ab}$

Solution

a. $\frac{7\sqrt{2}}{5} - \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{3}$

$$= \frac{7\sqrt{2}}{5} \cdot \frac{3}{3} - \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{3} \cdot \frac{5}{5}$$

$$= \frac{21\sqrt{2}}{15} - \frac{15\sqrt{2}}{15}$$

$$= \frac{6\sqrt{2}}{15} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{5}$$

b. $\sqrt[3]{343a^7b^4} - \sqrt[3]{27ab}$

$$= \sqrt[3]{343a^6b^3} \cdot \sqrt[3]{ab} - \sqrt[3]{27} \cdot \sqrt[3]{ab}$$

$$= 7a^2b\sqrt[3]{ab} - 3\sqrt[3]{ab}$$

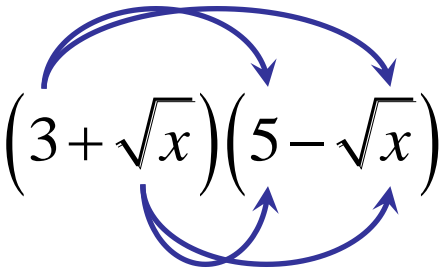
$$= (7a^2b - 3)\sqrt[3]{ab}$$

EXAMPLE Multiplying radical expressions

Multiply and simplify.

$$(3 + \sqrt{x})(5 - \sqrt{x})$$

Solution


$$\begin{aligned}(3 + \sqrt{x})(5 - \sqrt{x}) &= 3 \cdot 5 - 3\sqrt{x} + 5\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt{x} \\&= 15 - 3\sqrt{x} + 5\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x^2} \\&= 15 + 2\sqrt{x} - x\end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE Rationalizing the denominator

Rationalize each denominator. Assume that all variables are positive.

a. $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$

b. $\frac{7}{8\sqrt{3}}$

c. $\frac{ab}{\sqrt{b^5}}$

Solution

a. $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$

b. $\frac{7}{8\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{7\sqrt{3}}{8 \cdot 3} = \frac{7\sqrt{3}}{24}$

c. $\frac{ab}{\sqrt{b^5}} = \frac{ab}{b^2 \sqrt{b}} = \frac{ab}{b^2 \sqrt{b}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{b}}{\sqrt{b}} = \frac{ab\sqrt{b}}{b^2 \cdot b} = \frac{a\sqrt{b}}{b^2}$

Examples of conjugates.

TABLE 7.1

Expression	$1 + \sqrt{2}$	$\sqrt{3} - 2$	$\sqrt{x} + 7$	$\sqrt{a} - \sqrt{b}$
Conjugate	$1 - \sqrt{2}$	$\sqrt{3} + 2$	$\sqrt{x} - 7$	$\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b}$

EXAMPLE

Using a conjugate to rationalize the denominator

Rationalize the denominator of $\frac{1}{1+\sqrt{3}}$.

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{1+\sqrt{3}} &= \frac{1}{1+\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{1-\sqrt{3}}{1-\sqrt{3}} &= \frac{1}{-2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{-2} \\ &= \frac{1-\sqrt{3}}{1^2 - (\sqrt{3})^2} &= -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \\ &= \frac{1-\sqrt{3}}{1-3} \\ &= \frac{1-\sqrt{3}}{-2}\end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE Rationalizing the denominator

Rationalize the denominator. $\frac{4 + \sqrt{6}}{3 - \sqrt{6}}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{4 + \sqrt{6}}{3 - \sqrt{6}} &= \frac{4 + \sqrt{6}}{3 - \sqrt{6}} \cdot \frac{3 + \sqrt{6}}{3 + \sqrt{6}} \\&= \frac{12 + 4\sqrt{6} + 3\sqrt{6} + (\sqrt{6})^2}{9 - (\sqrt{6})^2} \\&= \frac{18 + 7\sqrt{6}}{3} \\&= \frac{18}{3} + \frac{7\sqrt{6}}{3} = 6 + \frac{7\sqrt{6}}{3}\end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE

Rationalizing the denominator having a cube root

Rationalize the denominator. $\frac{4}{\sqrt[3]{x^2}}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{4}{\sqrt[3]{x^2}} &= \frac{4}{x^{2/3}} \\ &= \frac{4}{x^{2/3}} \cdot \frac{x^{1/3}}{x^{1/3}} \\ &= \frac{4x^{1/3}}{x^{2/3+1/3}} \\ &= \frac{4\sqrt[3]{x}}{x}\end{aligned}$$

Practice for section 10.3

- ⑩ Adding like radicals Q 19-30
- ⑩ Finding like radicals Q 9-18
- ⑩ Adding radical expressions Q 29-49
- ⑩ Subtracting like radicals Q 33-40
- ⑩ Subtracting radical expressions Q 55-76
- ⑩ Multiplying radical expressions Q 77-88
- ⑩ Rationalizing the denominator Q 89-98
- ⑩ Using a conjugate to rationalize the denominator
Q 99-102
- ⑩ Rationalizing the denominator Q 103-108
- ⑩ Rationalizing the denominator having a cube root
Q 113-116

10.6

Complex Numbers

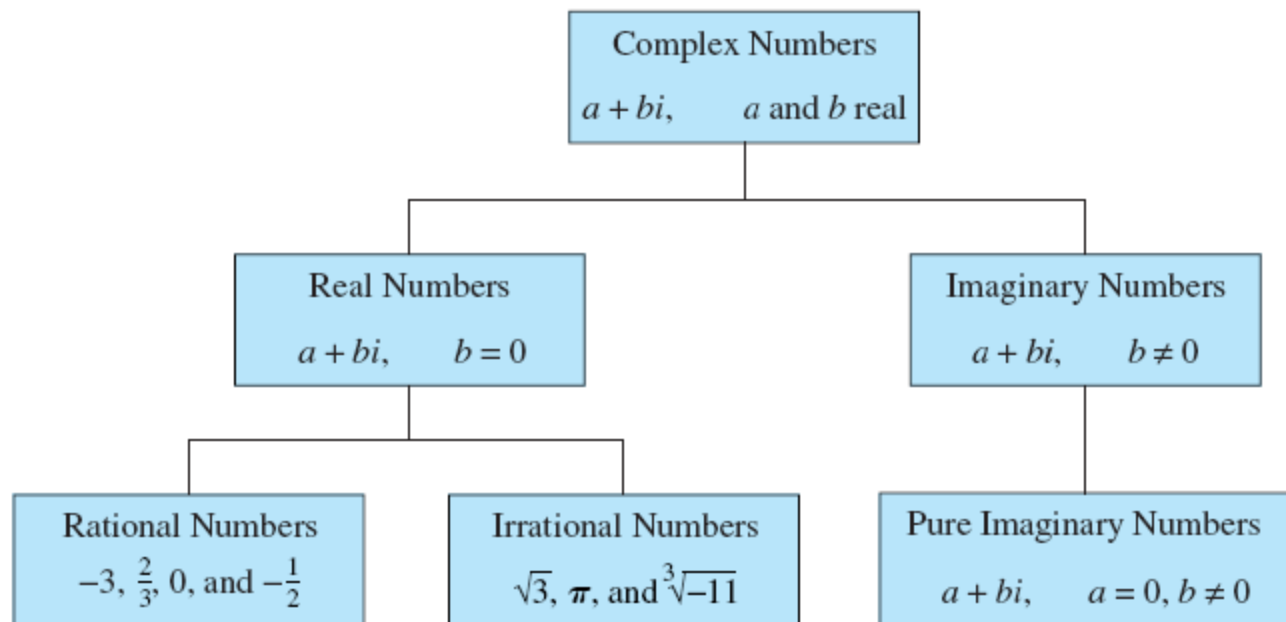
- Basic Concepts
- Addition, Subtraction, and Multiplication
- Powers of i
- Complex Conjugates and Division

PROPERTIES OF THE IMAGINARY UNIT i

$$i = \sqrt{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad i^2 = -1$$

THE EXPRESSION $\sqrt{-a}$

$$\text{If } a > 0, \text{ then } \sqrt{-a} = i\sqrt{a}.$$



EXAMPLE

Writing the square root of a negative number

Write each square root using the imaginary i .

a. $\sqrt{-36}$

b. $\sqrt{-15}$

c. $\sqrt{-45}$

Solution

a. $\sqrt{-36} = i\sqrt{36} = 6i$

b. $\sqrt{-15} = i\sqrt{15}$

c. $\sqrt{-45} = i\sqrt{45} = i\sqrt{9}\sqrt{5} = 3i\sqrt{5}$

SUM OR DIFFERENCE OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

Let $a + bi$ and $c + di$ be two complex numbers.
Then

$$(a + bi) + (c + di) = (a + c) + (b + d)i \quad \text{Sum}$$

and

$$(a + bi) - (c + di) = (a - c) + (b - d)i. \quad \text{Difference}$$

EXAMPLE

Adding and subtracting complex numbers

Write each sum or difference in standard form.

a. $(-8 + 2i) + (5 + 6i)$ b. $9i - (3 - 2i)$

Solution

a. $(-8 + 2i) + (5 + 6i) = (-8 + 5) + (2 + 6)i = -3 + 8i$

b. $9i - (3 - 2i) = 9i - 3 + 2i = -3 + (9 + 2)i = -3 + 11i$

EXAMPLE

Multiplying complex numbers

Write each product in standard form.

a. $(6 - 3i)(2 + 2i)$

b. $(6 + 7i)(6 - 7i)$

Solution

a. $(6 - 3i)(2 + 2i)$

$$= (6)(2) + (6)(2i) - (2)(3i) - (3i)(2i)$$

$$= 12 + 12i - 6i - 6i^2$$

$$= 12 + 12i - 6i - 6(-1)$$

$$= 18 + 6i$$

EXAMPLE continued

$$\text{b. } (6 + 7i)(6 - 7i)$$

$$= (6)(6) - (6)(7i) + (6)(7i) - (7i)(7i)$$

$$= 36 - 42i + 42i - 49i^2$$

$$= 36 - 49i^2$$

$$= 36 - 49(-1)$$

$$= 85$$

POWERS OF i

The value of i^n can be found by dividing n (a positive integer) by 4. If the remainder is r , then

$$i^n = i^r.$$

Note that $i^0 = 1$, $i^1 = i$, $i^2 = -1$, and $i^3 = -i$.

EXAMPLE Calculating powers of i

Evaluate each expression

a. i^{25} b. i^7 c. i^{44}

Solution

- a. When 25 is divided by 4, the result is 6 with the remainder of 1. Thus $i^{25} = i^1 = i$.
- b. When 7 is divided by 4, the result is 1 with the remainder of 3. Thus $i^7 = i^3 = -i$.
- c. When 44 is divided by 4, the result is 11 with the remainder of 0. Thus $i^{44} = i^0 = 1$.

EXAMPLE

Dividing complex numbers

Write each quotient in standard form.

a. $\frac{3+2i}{5+i}$

b. $\frac{9}{3i}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } \frac{3+2i}{5+i} &= \frac{(3+2i)(5-i)}{(5+i)(5-i)} = \frac{3(5)-3(i)+(2i)(5)-(2i)(i)}{5(5)-5(i)+5(i)-(i)(i)} \\ &= \frac{15-3i+10i-2i^2}{25-5i+5i-i^2} = \frac{15+7i-2(-1)}{25-(-1)} \\ &= \frac{17+7i}{26} = \frac{17}{26} + \frac{7i}{26} \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE continued

$$\begin{aligned}\text{b.} \quad & \frac{9}{3i} \\ &= \frac{9(-3i)}{(3i)(-3i)} \\ &= \frac{-27i}{-9i^2} \\ &= \frac{-27i}{-9(-1)} \\ &= \frac{-27i}{9} \\ &= -3i\end{aligned}$$

Practice for section 10.6

- ⑩ Writing the square root of a negative number
Q 13-22
- ⑩ Adding and subtracting complex numbers
Q 23-30
- ⑩ Multiplying complex numbers Q 31-36
- ⑩ Calculating powers of i Q 49-56
- ⑩ Dividing complex numbers Q 71-74

MTH 209 End of week 2

- You again have the answers to those problems not assigned
- Practice is SOOO important in this course.
- Work as much as you can with MyMathLab, the materials in the text, and on my Webpage.
- Do everything you can scrape time up for, first the hardest topics then the easiest.
- You are building a skill like typing, skiing, playing a game, solving puzzles.
- **NEXT TIME: Nonlinear Equations – quadratic equations, proportion and variation problems**