

NOTES: Section 8.5 – Add and Subtract Rational Expressions

Goals: #1 - I can add and subtract rational expressions with common denominators.

#2 - I can find the least common multiple (LCM) of polynomials.

#3 - I can add and subtract rational expressions with uncommon denominators.

Homework: Lesson 8.5 Worksheet



Exploration #1: Work with a partner and add the following fractions.

1. $\frac{3}{5} + \frac{1}{5}$

$$\boxed{\frac{4}{5}}$$

2. $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{3}$

$$\boxed{\frac{4}{3}}$$

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

$$\frac{4}{4} \quad \boxed{1}$$

Notes:

As with fractions, to add or subtract rational expressions with like denominators, combine their numerators and keep the common denominator.

Example #1: Perform the indicated operation.

1. $\frac{7}{4x} + \frac{3}{4x}$

$$\frac{10}{4x}$$

$$\frac{5 \cdot 2}{2 \cdot 2 \cdot x}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{5}{2x}}$$

2. $\frac{2x}{x+6} - \frac{5}{x+6}$

$$\boxed{\frac{2x-5}{x+6}}$$

You practice: Perform the indicated operation.

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

$$\frac{2x^2+2}{x^2+1}$$

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

$$\boxed{2}$$

2. $\frac{7}{12x} - \frac{5}{12x}$

$$\frac{2}{12x}$$

$$\frac{2}{3 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot x}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{6x}}$$

Name: _____ Hour: _____ Date: _____

Exploration #1: Work with a partner and add the following fractions.

1. $\frac{3}{5} + \frac{1}{10}$

$$\frac{6}{10} + \frac{1}{10}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{7}{10}}$$

2. $\frac{7}{10} + \frac{1}{3}$

$$\frac{21}{30} + \frac{10}{30}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{31}{30}}$$

3. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{8}$

$$\frac{4}{8} + \frac{1}{8}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{5}{8}}$$

Notes:

As with fractions to add or subtract

rational expressions with unlike denominators, we need to first rewrite the expressions to have common denominators.

Then we can add or subtract the rational expressions.

Example #2: Find the least common multiple.

1. $4x^2 - 16$ and $6x^2 - 24x + 24$

$$4(x^2 - 4)$$

$$6(x^2 - 4x + 4)$$

$$4(x+2)(x-2)$$

$$6(x-2)(x-2)$$

$$\underline{2 \cdot 2 \cdot (x+2)(x-2)}$$

$$\underline{3 \cdot 2 \cdot (x-2)(x-2)}$$

$$\text{LCM: } \underline{2 \cdot 2 \cdot (x+2)(x-2) \cdot 3 \cdot (x-2)}$$

$$\boxed{12(x+2)(x-2)^2}$$

You practice: Find the least common multiple.

1. $5x^2 - 45$ and $4x^2 + 24x + 36$

$$5(x^2 - 9)$$

$$4(x^2 + 6x + 9)$$

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

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

$$\underline{2 \cdot 2 \cdot (x+3)(x+3)}$$

$$\text{LCM: } \underline{5(x+3)(x-3) \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot (x+3)}$$

$$\boxed{20(x+3)^2(x-3)}$$

Example #3: Perform the indicated operation.

$$1. \frac{7}{9x^2} + \frac{x}{3x^2+3x}$$

LCD: $3 \cdot 3 \cdot x \cdot x \cdot (x+1)$

$$\frac{7}{9x^2} = \frac{7 \cdot (x+1)}{9x^2(x+1)} \quad \frac{x}{3x(x+1)} = \frac{x \cdot 3x}{9x^2(x+1)}$$

$$\frac{7x+7}{9x^2(x+1)} + \frac{3x^2}{9x^2(x+1)}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{3x^2 + 7x + 7}{9x^2(x+1)}}$$

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

LCD: $2(x-1)(x-3)$

$$\frac{x+2}{2(x-1)} = \frac{(x+2) \cdot (x-3)}{2(x-1)(x-3)} = \frac{x^2-x-6}{2(x-1)(x-3)}$$

$$\frac{-2x-1}{(x-3)(x-1)} = \frac{(-2x-1) \cdot 2}{2(x-1)(x-3)} = \frac{-4x-2}{2(x-1)(x-3)}$$

$$\frac{x^2-x-6}{2(x-1)(x-3)} - \frac{-4x-2}{2(x-1)(x-3)}$$

$$\frac{x^2+3x-4}{2(x-1)(x-3)} = \frac{(x+4)(x-1)}{2(x-1)(x-3)}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{x+4}{2(x-3)}}$$

You practice: Perform the indicated operation.

$$1. \frac{x+1}{x^2+4x+4} - \frac{6}{x^2-4}$$

LCD: $(x+2)(x+2)(x-2)$

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

$$\frac{6}{(x+2)(x-2)} = \frac{6 \cdot (x+2)}{(x+2)(x+2)(x-2)} = \frac{6x+12}{(x+2)^2(x-2)}$$

$$\frac{x^2-x-2}{(x+2)^2(x-2)} - \frac{6x+12}{(x+2)^2(x-2)}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{x^2-7x-14}{(x+2)^2(x-2)}}$$

$$2. \frac{x}{x^2-x-12} + \frac{5}{12x-48}$$

LCD: $12(x-4)(x+3)$

$$\frac{x}{(x-4)(x+3)} = \frac{x \cdot 12}{12(x-4)(x+3)} = \frac{12x}{12(x-4)(x+3)}$$

$$\frac{5}{12(x-4)} = \frac{5 \cdot (x+3)}{12(x-4)(x+3)} = \frac{5x+15}{12(x-4)(x+3)}$$

$$\frac{12x}{12(x-4)(x+3)} + \frac{5x+15}{12(x-4)(x+3)}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{17x+15}{12(x-4)(x+3)}}$$