

Adding and Subtracting Rational Functions

Given a rational expression, identify the excluded values by finding the zeroes of the denominator.

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

$x \neq -4, 1$

2. $\frac{4}{x(x+17)}$

Simplify the given expression:

3. $\frac{x+8}{x^2+9x+8} = \frac{(x+8)}{(x+1)(x+8)} = \frac{1}{(x+1)}$

4. $\frac{6x^2+5x+1}{3x^2+4x+1} = \frac{(2x+1)(3x+1)}{(3x+1)(x+1)} = \frac{2x+1}{x+1}$

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

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

Find the LCD for each set of rational expressions

11. $\frac{4x+12}{x^2+5x+6}$ and $\frac{5x+15}{10x+20}$

12. $\frac{-11}{x^2-3x-28}$ and $\frac{2}{x^2-2x-24}$
 $(x-7)(x+4)$ $(x-6)(x+4)$

LCD: $(x-7)(x+4)(x-6)$

Add or subtract the given expressions, simplifying each result and noting the combined excluded values

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

LCD: $(x+1)(x)$
 $= \frac{-x^2+x+1}{x(x+1)}$ ← Not factorable

$x \neq -1, 0$

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

21. $\frac{3}{x^2-4} - \frac{(x+5)}{x+2} \cdot \frac{(x-2)}{(x-2)}$
 $(x+2)(x-2)$ $x \neq -2, 2$

LCD: $(x+2)(x-2)$
 $\frac{-x^2-3x+13}{(x+2)(x-2)}$

$\frac{3}{(x+2)(x-2)} - \frac{(x^2+3x-10)}{(x+2)(x-2)} = \frac{3-x^2-3x+10}{(x+2)(x-2)}$
 ~~$\frac{-x^2+3x+13}{(x+2)(x-2)}$~~

8. $\frac{x-1}{x^2-5x+6} + \frac{x(x-2)}{(x-3)(x-2)}$ LCD: $(x-3)(x-2)$
 $x \neq 3, 2$

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

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

29. Match each expression with the correct excluded value(s).

a. $\frac{3x+5}{x+2}$ _____ no excluded values

b. $\frac{1+x}{x^2-1}$ _____ $x \neq 0, -2$

c. $\frac{3x^4-12}{x^2+4}$ _____ $x \neq 1, -1$

d. $\frac{3x+6}{x^2(x+2)}$ _____ $x \neq -2$

31. **Communicate Mathematical Ideas** Write a rational expression with excluded values at $x = 0$ and $x = 17$.

$x \neq 0, 17$

$\frac{\text{Anything}}{x(x-17)}$

Review

State the domain and range of each function

1. $f(x) = -2\sqrt{x-3}$

2. $f(x) = \sqrt{3x+9} - 5$

Graph the following function

3. $g(x) = 2\sqrt[3]{x-2}$

