

Preliminaries and Objectives

Multiplying and Dividing Fractions



Preliminaries

- Factor polynomials
- Reduce fractions

Objectives

- Multiply and divide fractions

Dividing Fractions

$$\frac{(x^2 + 2x)}{(3x - 1)} \div \frac{(x^2 + 6x + 8)}{(3x^2 + 8x - 3)}$$

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Example 1

$$\frac{(x+1)}{(x-4)} \cdot \frac{5}{(x^2-1)} = \frac{(x+1)}{(x-4)} \cdot \frac{5}{(x+1)(x-1)} = \frac{5}{(x-4)(x-1)}$$

Recap

- Factor numerators and denominators
- Multiply numerators; multiply denominators in factored form
- Reduce fractions by cancelling common factors
- Division is multiplication by the reciprocal

Dividing Fractions

$$\frac{(x^2+2x)}{(3x-1)} \div \frac{(x^2+6x+8)}{(3x^2+8x-3)}$$

$$= \frac{(x^2+2x)}{(3x-1)} \cdot \frac{(3x^2+8x-3)}{(x^2+6x+8)}$$

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