



2.5 Solving Rational Equations

- Steps:
1. Common Denominator.
 2. Drop the denominators and solve the numerators.
 3. Verify.
 4. NPV's.

Apr 8-7:44 AM



Let's review solving basic algebraic equations...

$$\cancel{2x} + 2 = 3x - 4$$

$$2 = x - \cancel{4}$$

$$6 = x$$

$$\cancel{\frac{x}{4}} + 3 = 7$$

$$\cancel{4} \cdot \frac{x}{4} = 4 \cdot 4$$

$$x = 16$$

$$\frac{4 \cdot m}{4 \cdot 3} + \frac{3m \cdot 3}{4 \cdot 3} = \frac{13 \cdot 12}{1 \cdot 12}$$

LCM: 12

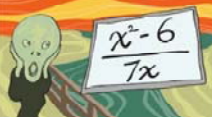
$$\frac{4m}{12} + \frac{9m}{12} = \frac{156}{12}$$

$$4m + 9m = 156$$

$$13m = 156$$

$$m = 12$$

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rational
expressions

denominator
numerator
restrictions

Ex.)

a) $\frac{5}{2x} + \frac{3x}{4x} = \frac{9}{4x}$ (5) + (-1) = 4 (1) *

-6.75 \approx -6.75

LCM: $4x$

$$\frac{10}{4x} + \frac{3x}{4x} = \frac{9}{4x}$$

$$10 + 3x = 9$$

$$-10 + 3x = 9$$

$$3x = 19$$

$$x = \frac{19}{3}$$

$x \neq 0$

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

LCM: x^2

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

$$3x^2 + x = 4$$

$$3x^2 + x - 4 = 0$$

a b c

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

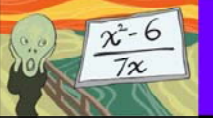
$$x = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{49}}{6}$$

$$= \frac{-1 \pm 7}{6}$$

$\left\langle \begin{aligned} & \frac{-1+7}{6} = \boxed{1} \\ & \frac{-1-7}{6} = \boxed{-\frac{4}{3}} \end{aligned} \right.$

$x \neq 0$

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rational
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Ex.) Solve each equation.

a) $\frac{1}{2x} - \frac{2x}{5} = \frac{1}{10x}$

LCM: $10x$

$$\frac{5}{10x} - \frac{4x}{10x} = \frac{1}{10x}$$

$$5 - 4x = 1$$

$$-4x = -4$$

$$x = 1$$

$x \neq 0$

b) $\frac{5x}{x^2} + \frac{6}{x^2} = \frac{6x^2}{x^2}$

$$\frac{5x}{x^2} + \frac{6}{x^2} = \frac{6x^2}{x^2}$$

$$5x + 6 = 6x^2$$

$$-6x^2 + 5x + 6 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{(5)^2 - 4(-6)(6)}}{2(-6)}$$

$$= \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{169}}{-12} = \frac{-5 \pm 13}{-12}$$

$\left\langle \begin{aligned} & \frac{-5+13}{-12} = \boxed{-\frac{2}{3}} \\ & \frac{-5-13}{-12} = \boxed{\frac{3}{2}} \end{aligned} \right.$

$x \neq 0$

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Storing 'X' to check your answer...

A graphing calculator can be used to check the solution of a rational equation.

In *Example 1a*, the equation $\frac{5}{2x} + \frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{4x}$ has solution $x = -\frac{1}{3}$.

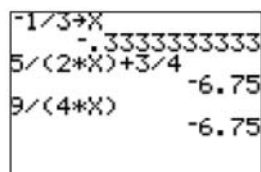
To check this solution, use a TI-83 Plus graphing calculator:

Press: $(-)$ 1 \div 3 $\text{STO} \rightarrow$ X,T,θ,n ENTER

This sets X equal to $-\frac{1}{3}$.

Enter the expression on the left side of the equation, then press ENTER .

Enter the expression on the right side of the equation, then press ENTER .



The left side equals the right side, so the solution is correct.

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Don't forget to factor first, if possible!

Ex.) Solve.

$$\frac{(x-2) \overset{5}{\cancel{5}}}{(x-2)(x+4)} = \frac{\overset{3}{\cancel{3}}(x+4)}{(x-2)(x+4)}$$

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

$$\frac{5x-10}{(x-2)(x+4)} = \frac{3x+12}{(x+4)(x-2)}$$

$$5x-10 = 3x+12$$

$$-3x+10 \quad -3x+10$$

$$2x = 22$$

$$x = 11 \quad x \neq -4, 2$$

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

LCM: $(x+1)(x-1)$

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

$$3x+1 = -x^2+x$$

$$+x^2-x \quad +x^2-x$$

$$x^2+2x+1 = 0$$


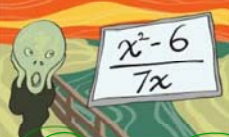
$$x = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{(2)^2 - 4(1)(1)}}{2(1)}$$

extraneous

$$= \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{0}}{2} = \frac{-2}{2} = -1$$

\therefore no solution $x \neq \pm 1$

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

$$\frac{-3x+9}{(x-3)(x+2)} = \frac{2x^2+4x}{(x-3)(x+2)}$$

$$-3x+9 = 2x^2+4x$$

$$+3x-9 \quad +3x-9$$

$$0 = 2x^2+7x-9$$

$$x = \frac{-7 \pm \sqrt{49 - 4(2)(-9)}}{2(2)}$$

$$x = \frac{-7 \pm \sqrt{121}}{4} = \frac{-7 \pm 11}{4}$$

$$x = \frac{(-7+11)}{4} = 1$$

$$x = \frac{(-7-11)}{4} = -\frac{9}{2}$$

$x \neq 3, -2$

$$\frac{(x-1) \cdot \frac{-2}{(x-3)}}{(x-1) \cdot \frac{7-5}{(x-1)(x-5)}} = \frac{(7-5)}{(x-1)(x-5)}$$

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

$$x^2+x-2 = x^2-5x$$

$$-x^2 \quad -x^2$$

$$x-2 = -5x$$

$$-x \quad -x$$

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

$x = \frac{1}{3}$

$x \neq 1, 5$

Pg. 258 # 1, 4, 5-7.

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