

2.4 Simplifying Rational Functions

Feb 26

$$y = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$$

Ex. Simplify each rational expression and state restrictions.

$$\frac{30x^4y^3}{-6x^7y} = \frac{\cancel{30}^5\cancel{x^4}^4\cancel{y^3}^3}{\cancel{-6}^1\cancel{x^7}^3\cancel{y}^1} = \frac{5y^2}{-x^3} = -\frac{5y^2}{x^3}, \quad x \neq 0, y \neq 0$$

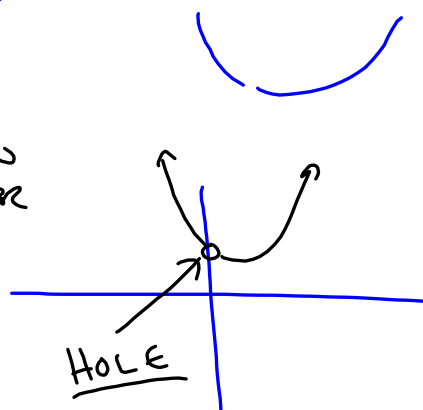
Necessary
↓

$$= -\frac{5y^2}{x^3}, y \neq 0$$

$$\frac{10x^4 - 8x^3 + 4x^2}{2x^2} \leftarrow \text{COMMON FACTOR}$$

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

$$= 5x^2 - 4x + 2, \quad x \neq 0$$

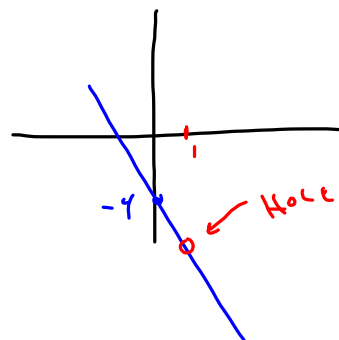


$$\frac{x^2 + 7x - 8}{2 - 2x} = \frac{(x + 8)(\cancel{x - 1})}{-2(\cancel{x - 1})}$$

↪ $-2x + 2$

$$= \frac{x + 8}{-2}, \quad x \neq 1$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}x - 4, \quad x \neq 1$$



$$\frac{3x^3 - 3x^2}{8x^3 - 12x^2 + 4x}$$

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

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

$$= \frac{3x}{4(2x - 1)}, \quad x \neq 0, 1$$

↪ ALSO $x \neq \frac{1}{2}$

$$\frac{4x^2 - 16y^2}{x^2 + xy - 6y^2} \rightarrow \frac{4(x^2 - 4y^2)}{4(x - 2y)(x + 2y)}$$

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

$$= \frac{2(\cancel{x - 2y})(2)(x + 2y)}{(\cancel{x - 2y})(x + 3y)}$$

$$= \frac{4(x + 2y)}{x + 3y}, \quad x \neq 2y$$

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