

1 Algebra tricks

Various useful algebraic tricks that can be tried when stuck on a problem.

1.1 Forcing the denominator into the numerator

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{x^2}{x^2 - 9} \\ & \equiv \frac{(x^2 + 9) + 9}{x^2 - 9} \\ & \equiv \frac{x^2 - 9}{x^2 - 9} + \frac{9}{x^2 - 9} \\ & \equiv 1 + \frac{9}{x^2 - 9} \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$