

MATH 115 FINAL EXAM REVIEW NOTES

ALGEBRAIC EXPRESSIONS

Distributive Property of • over + $a(b+c) = ab + ac$

Simplification – remove parentheses and combine **like terms**

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & 2x - 3(x+5) - (x-2) \\ & = 2x - 3x - 15 - x + 2 \\ & = 2x - 3x - x - 15 + 2 \\ & = -2x - 13 \end{aligned}$$

Exponent Rules:

$$a^n = \underbrace{a \cdot a \cdot \dots \cdot a}_{n \text{ factors}}$$

$$a^m \cdot a^n = a^{m+n}$$

$$(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$$

$$(ab)^m = a^m b^m$$

$$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^m = \frac{a^m}{b^m}, b \neq 0$$

$$\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}, a \neq 0$$

$$a^0 = 1$$

$$a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}$$

Examples

$$\begin{aligned} 1. \quad & x^2(x^{-3}) \\ & = x^{2+(-3)} \\ & = x^{-1} \\ & = \frac{1}{x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2. \quad & \frac{-2x^3y^{-2}}{7x^{-3}y^4} \\ & = \frac{-2x^3x^3}{7y^4y^2} \\ & = \frac{-2x^6}{7y^6} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 3. \quad & x^0 + 3x^0 - (-3x)^0 \\ & = 1 + 3 \cdot 1 - 1 \\ & = 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 4. \quad & \left(\frac{2x^2y^{-1}z^{-3}}{5xy^2z^4}\right)^{-2} \\ & = \frac{2^{-2}x^{-4}y^2z^6}{5^{-2}x^{-2}y^{-4}z^{-8}} \\ & = \frac{5^2x^2y^2y^4z^6z^8}{2^2x^4} \\ & = \frac{25x^2y^6z^{14}}{4x^4} \\ & = \frac{25y^6z^{14}}{4x^2} \end{aligned}$$

A. Polynomial Expressions

- **Addition and Subtraction** – combine like terms
- **Multiplication** – use the distributive property and applicable exponent rules

Examples

$$4x(x^2 - 3x - 5) = 4x^3 - 12x^2 - 20x$$

$$(5x - 1)(x + 7) = 5x^2 + 35x - x - 7 = 5x^2 + 34x - 7 \quad (\text{FOIL})$$

$$(x + 5)^2 = (x + 5)(x + 5) = x^2 + 10x + 25$$

- **Division** – arrange dividend and divisor in descending order before doing **long division**

Example

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x^2 + 7x + 8 \\
 x - 2 \overline{) x^3 + 5x^2 - 6x + 9} \\
 \underline{-(x^3 - 2x^2)} \\
 7x^2 - 6x + 9 \\
 \underline{-(7x^2 - 14x)} \\
 8x + 9 \\
 \underline{-(8x - 16)} \\
 25
 \end{array}$$

Answer: $x^2 + 7x + 8 + \frac{25}{x - 2}$

- **Factoring** – the process of undoing multiplication
 - **GCF** or greatest common factor

Example $12x^3y^2 + 20xy^3 = 4xy^2(3x^2 + 5y)$

- **Binomial** factoring

Examples $x^2 + y^2$ prime

$$x^2 - y^2 = (x + y)(x - y)$$

$$16a^2 - 25b^2 = (4a + 5b)(4a - 5b)$$

$$9t^2 + 16s^2 \text{ prime}$$

- **Trinomial** factoring

Examples

$$x^2 + 12x - 13 = (x + 13)(x - 1)$$

$$2x^2 + 3x - 20 = (x + 4)(2x - 5)$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 + \\
 12 \\
 \diagdown \quad \diagup \\
 13 \quad -1 \\
 \square \\
 -13 \\
 \diagup \quad \diagdown \\
 + \\
 3 \\
 \frac{+8}{2} \quad \frac{-5}{2} \\
 \square \\
 2 \square (-20)
 \end{array}$$

- **Grouping** – 4 or more terms

Example

$$\begin{aligned}
 &x^2 - 3xy - 2x + 6y \\
 &= (x^2 - 3xy) - (2x - 6y) \\
 &= x(x - 3y) - 2(x - 3y) \\
 &= (x - 3y)(x - 2)
 \end{aligned}$$

B. Rational Expressions

- **Simplification** – factor numerator and denominator and cancel common factors

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{x^2 - 3x + 2}{x^2 - 4} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{(x-2)}(x-1)}{\cancel{(x-2)}(x+2)} \\ &= \frac{x-1}{x+2} \end{aligned}$$

- **Multiplication:** $\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ac}{bd}$

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2x^2 - x - 1}{x^2 - 1} \cdot \frac{x^2 - 3x - 4}{4x^2 + 4x + 1} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{(2x+1)}\cancel{(x-1)}(x-4)\cancel{(x+1)}}{\cancel{(x+1)}\cancel{(x-1)}\cancel{(2x+1)}(2x+1)} \\ &= \frac{x-4}{2x+1} \end{aligned}$$

- **Division:** $\frac{a}{b} \div \frac{c}{d} = \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{d}{c}$

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{x}{x+2} \div \frac{3x}{2x+4} \\ &= \frac{x}{x+2} \cdot \frac{2x+4}{3x} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{x} \cdot 2 \cdot \cancel{(x+2)}}{\cancel{(x+2)} \cdot 3 \cdot \cancel{x}} \\ &= \frac{2}{3} \end{aligned}$$

- **Addition and Subtraction:** combine **like fractions** (same denominator); otherwise get the **LCD** first before combining

Examples

$$\begin{aligned} 1. \quad & \frac{x}{x+5} + \frac{x+10}{x+5} \\ &= \frac{x+x+10}{x+5} \\ &= \frac{2x+10}{x+5} \\ &= \frac{2\cancel{(x+5)}}{\cancel{x+5}} \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2. \quad & \frac{x}{x+5} - \frac{1}{x-3} \\ &= \frac{x(x-3) - (x+5)}{(x+5)(x-3)} \\ &= \frac{x^2 - 3x - x - 5}{(x+5)(x-3)} \\ &= \frac{x^2 - 4x - 5}{(x+5)(x-3)} \end{aligned}$$

Finding the LCD: Align the factors of the denominators.

Examples

$$1. \frac{2}{3xy^2} - \frac{1}{9x^2y^3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 3x^3y^2 &= 3 \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x \cdot y \cdot y \\ 9x^2y^3 &= 3 \cdot 3 \cdot x \cdot x \cdot y \cdot y \cdot y \\ \text{LCD} &= 3 \cdot 3 \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x \cdot y \cdot y \cdot y \\ &= 9x^3y^3 \end{aligned}$$

$$2. \frac{5}{x^2 - 3x + 2} + \frac{x}{x^2 - 4}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 - 3x + 2 &= (x-1)(x-2) \\ x^2 - 4 &= (x-2)(x+2) \\ \text{LCD} &= (x-1)(x-2)(x+2) \end{aligned}$$

▪ **Combined Operations:** apply PEMDAS

Example

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{x}{x+2} - \frac{x+1}{x} \cdot \frac{2x}{4x+4} \\ &= \frac{x}{x+2} - \frac{\cancel{(x+1)} 2\cancel{x}}{\cancel{x} \cdot 4(x+1)} \\ &= \frac{x}{x+2} - \frac{1}{2} \\ &= \frac{2x - (x+2)}{2(x+2)} \\ &= \frac{2x - x - 2}{2(x+2)} \\ &= \frac{x-2}{2(x+2)} \end{aligned}$$

▪ **Complex Fractions**

Examples

$$\begin{aligned} 1. &\frac{\frac{2}{x^2}}{\frac{8}{x^3}} \\ &= \frac{2}{x^2} \cdot \frac{x^3}{8} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{2} x^{3-2}}{\cancel{2} \cdot 4} \\ &= \frac{x}{4} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2. &\frac{\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{y^2}}{\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{y}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{y^2}{x^2y^2} - \frac{x^2}{x^2y^2}}{\frac{y}{xy} - \frac{x}{xy}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{y^2 - x^2}{x^2y^2}}{\frac{y-x}{xy}} \\ &= \frac{y^2 - x^2}{x^2y^2} \cdot \frac{y-x}{y-x} \\ &= \frac{y^2 - x^2}{x^2y^2} \cdot \frac{xy}{y-x} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{(y-x)}(y+x)xy}{x^2y^2 \cancel{(y-x)}} \\ &= \frac{y+x}{x^{2-1}y^{2-1}} \\ &= \frac{y+x}{xy} \end{aligned}$$

C. Radical Expressions (square roots): assume all variables are positive

▪ **Simplification**

Examples $\sqrt{25x^2y^4z^{16}} = 5xy^2z^8$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sqrt{32x^3y^5z^6} \\ &= \sqrt{16x^2y^4z^6} \cdot 2xy \\ &= 4xy^2z^3\sqrt{2xy} \end{aligned}$$

▪ **Addition and Subtraction:** combine like radicals

Examples $4\sqrt{3x} - 9\sqrt{3x} + 12\sqrt{3x} = 7\sqrt{3x}$

$$\begin{aligned} & 2y\sqrt{50x^2y} - 3x\sqrt{8y^3} \\ &= 2y\sqrt{25x^2} \cdot 2y - 3x\sqrt{4y^2} \cdot 2y \\ &= 2y \cdot 5x \cdot \sqrt{2y} - 3x \cdot 2y \cdot \sqrt{2y} \\ &= 10xy\sqrt{2y} - 6xy\sqrt{2y} \\ &= 4xy\sqrt{2y} \end{aligned}$$

▪ **Multiplication:** multiply the radicands (must be the **same index**)

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & 3\sqrt{2} \cdot 4\sqrt{5} \\ &= 3 \cdot 4 \cdot \sqrt{2 \cdot 5} \\ &= 12\sqrt{10} \end{aligned}$$

▪ **Division:** divide the radicands (must be the **same index**)

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\sqrt{72x^5y}}{\sqrt{2xy}} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{72x^5y}{2xy}} \\ &= \sqrt{36x^4} \\ &= 6x^2 \end{aligned}$$

- **Rationalizing the denominator** – means removing the radical(s) from the denominator

Examples

$$\begin{aligned}
 1. \quad & \frac{3}{\sqrt{7}} \\
 &= \frac{3 \cdot \sqrt{7}}{\sqrt{7} \cdot \sqrt{7}} \\
 &= \frac{3\sqrt{7}}{7}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 2. \quad & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} && \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \\
 &= \frac{\sqrt{2} \cdot 3}{\sqrt{3} \cdot 3} &&= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \\
 &= \frac{\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{9}} & \text{OR} &&= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}} \\
 &= \frac{\sqrt{6}}{3} &&= \frac{\sqrt{6}}{3}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 3. \quad & \frac{3}{\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{5}} \\
 &= \frac{3}{\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{5}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{5}} \\
 &= \frac{3(\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{5})}{2 - 5} \\
 &= \frac{\cancel{3}(\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{5})}{-\cancel{3}} \\
 &= -\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{5}
 \end{aligned}$$

EQUATIONS IN ONE VARIABLE

A. Linear Equations

Strategy: Simplify each side of the equation by removing parentheses and combining like terms. Isolate the variable using the addition and/or multiplication properties of equality.

Example:

$$2x - 5(x + 3) - 4 = 3(x - 1) + 5$$

$$2x - 5x - 15 - 4 = 3x - 3 + 5$$

$$3x - 19 = 3x + 2$$

$$3x - 3x = 2 + 19$$

$$-6x = 21$$

$$x = -21/6$$

$$x = -7/2$$

B. Quadratic Equations

Strategy: Write the equation in the form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ and then either **factor and set each**

factor to zero OR use the **quadratic formula** $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$

Example:

$$x^2 - 2x = 8$$

$$x^2 - 2x - 8 = 0$$

$$(x-4)(x+2) = 0$$

$$x-4=0 \text{ or } x+2=0$$

$$x=4 \text{ or } x=-2$$

$$a=1, b=-2, c=-8$$

$$x = \frac{-(-2) \pm \sqrt{(-2)^2 - 4(1)(-8)}}{2(1)}$$

$$= \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4+32}}{2} = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{36}}{2} = \frac{2 \pm 6}{2}$$

$$x=4 \text{ or } x=-2$$

or

Note: 1. For an equation of degree 3 or higher, factor first to get linear and/or quadratic factors.

2. The **method of completing the square** can be used instead of the quadratic formula.

C. Rational Equations

Strategy: Multiply the equation by the LCD. WATCH out for RESTRICTIONS!

Example:

$$\frac{1}{x-1} + \frac{2}{x+1} = \frac{3}{x^2-1}; \text{ LCD} = (x-1)(x+1); \text{ Restrictions: } x \neq \pm 1$$

$$(x-1)(x+1) \left[\frac{1}{x-1} + \frac{2}{x+1} \right] = (x-1)(x+1) \frac{3}{(x+1)(x-1)}$$

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

$$x+1 + 2(x-1) = 3$$

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

$$3x-1=3$$

$$3x=4$$

$$x=4/3$$

D. Proportions

Strategy: Cross-multiply. May also be solved like a regular rational equation.

Example:

$$\frac{2}{x+5} = \frac{3}{x+8}$$

$$2(x+8) = 3(x+5)$$

$$2x+16 = 3x+15$$

$$16-15 = 3x-2x$$

$$1 = x$$

E. Equations with Fractions

Strategy: Multiply the equation by the LCD.

Example:

$$\frac{2}{3}(x+1) - \frac{1}{5}x = \frac{1}{2}; \text{ LCD} = 30$$

$$30 \left[\frac{2}{3}(x+1) - \frac{1}{5}x \right] = 30 \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)$$

$$30 \cancel{\square} \frac{2}{\cancel{3}}(x+1) - 30 \cancel{\square} \frac{1}{\cancel{5}}x = 30 \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)$$

$$20(x+1) - 6x = 15$$

⋮

F. Equations with Decimals

Strategy: Multiply the equation by a power of 10 to remove the decimal.

Example:

$$0.5x - 0.02(x + 3) = 0.01; \text{ Multiply by 100}$$

$$50x - 2(x + 3) = 1$$

$$50x - 2x - 6 = 1$$

⋮

G. Equations with Square Roots

Strategy: Isolate one radical and square both sides.

Example:

$$\sqrt{x+1} - 3 = 2$$

$$\sqrt{x+1} = 5$$

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

$$x+1 = 25$$

$$x = 24$$

CHECK!

SOLVING TWO LINEAR EQUATIONS IN TWO VARIABLES

- equivalent to finding the point of intersection of two lines, if any

2 methods: **substitution** or **addition**

Example 1:

$$\begin{cases} x = y + 1 & (1) \\ 2x + 3y = 4 & (2) \end{cases}$$

substitute (1) into (2):

$$2(y+1) + 3y = 4$$

$$2y + 2 + 3y = 4$$

⋮

Example 2:

$$\begin{cases} 3x - 2y = 1 & (1) \\ 2x + 5y = 7 & (2) \end{cases}$$

multiply (1) by 5 and (2) by 2, then add to eliminate y :

$$15x - 10y = 5$$

$$4x + 10y = 14$$

$$19x = 19$$

$x = 1$ substitute in either equation to get y

LINES

Equations of a Line

- **Standard form** $ax + by = c$ a and b not both 0
- **Slope-intercept form** $y = mx + b$ slope m , y -intercept $(0, b)$
- **Point-slope form** $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$ slope m , point (x_1, y_1)
- **Vertical line through (a, b)** $x = a$
- **Horizontal line through (a, b)** $y = b$

Graphing Lines

- o **Table** – ASSIGN a value to one variable and SOLVE for the other

Examples

$$y = 2x - 3 \quad \text{Assign values to } x, \text{ solve for } y$$

x	y
0	-3
1	-1
2	1

Then plot the points (0,-3),(1,-1), and (2,1) and connect.

$$x = y + 5 \quad \text{Assign values to } y, \text{ solve for } x$$

x	y
5	0
6	1
4	-1

Then plot the points (5,0),(6,1), and (4,-1) and connect.

- o **Intercepts** – get the x- and y-intercepts of the graph;
set $x = 0$ and solve for y to get the y-intercept;
set $y = 0$ and solve for x to get the x-intercept
- works best when the equation is in **standard form**

Example

$$2x - 5y = -20$$

x	y
0	4
-10	0

Then plot the points (0,4) and (-10,0) and connect.

The x-intercept is (0,4) and the y-intercept is (-10,0).

- o **Slope and y-intercept** – works best when the equation is given in **slope-intercept form**

Examples

$$y = 3x + 4$$

Start with the point (0,4) on the y-axis.

The slope is $3 = \frac{3}{1} = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}}$ means from (0,4) go **up** 3 units and then go **right** 1 unit. The second point is (1,7). Connect the two points.

$$y = -\frac{2}{5}x - 3$$

Start with the point (0,-3) on the y-axis.

The slope is $-\frac{2}{5} = \frac{-2}{5} = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}}$ which means from (0,-3) go **down** 2 units and then go **right** 5 units to get to the point (5,-5). Connect the two points.

Note: We could have written $-\frac{2}{5} = \frac{2}{-5}$, in which case we go **up** 2 units from (0,-3) and then **left** 5 units to get to (-5,-1). We land on the same line.

The Slope of a Line

- o gives the **direction** or **steepness** of the line
- o a **positive slope** means the line **rises** (or goes up) from left to right
- o a **negative slope** means the line **falls** (or goes down) from left to right
- o **vertical lines** have **no slope** or **undefined slope**
- o **horizontal lines** have **zero** slope

3 ways to find the slope of a line:

1. given two points on the line (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) ,

Strategy: use the formula $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ or $\frac{y_1 - y_2}{x_1 - x_2}$

Example $(1,6)$ and $(-3,4)$; $m = \frac{4-6}{-3-1} = \frac{-2}{-4} = \frac{1}{2}$

2. given the graph,

Strategy: count how you go up/down and left/right to go from one point to the next

3. given the equation,

Strategy: make sure the equation is in **slope-intercept** form, i.e., **y is isolated**; the coefficient of x is the slope

Examples $y = 5x - 9 \Rightarrow m = 5$

$$x = y - 3 \Rightarrow y = x + 3 \Rightarrow m = 1$$

$$2x + 3y = 5 \Rightarrow 3y = -2x + 5 \Rightarrow y = -\frac{2}{3}x + \frac{5}{3} \Rightarrow m = -\frac{2}{3}$$

Parallel and Perpendicular Lines

Parallel lines have the **same slope**.

Perpendicular lines have **slopes** whose **product is -1**, i.e. the slope of one line is the **negative (opposite) reciprocal** of the slope of the other.

Examples $y = 3x - 5$ and $y = 3x - 23$ are parallel since $m = 3$ for both

$$y = 3x - 5 \text{ and } y = -\frac{1}{3}x + 17 \text{ are perpendicular since } (3)\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) = -1$$

Vertical and Horizontal Lines

A vertical line is **parallel to the y-axis** and **perpendicular to the x-axis**.

A horizontal line is **parallel to the x-axis** and **perpendicular to the y-axis**.

Writing Equations of Lines

Necessary Ingredients: A point and THE slope

Baking Pan: the **point-slope** form $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$

Strategy for non-vertical and non-horizontal lines:

- a. Check if the 2 ingredients are given. If yes, go to step c, otherwise, go to step b.
- b. Solve for the missing ingredient. Then go to Step c.
- c. Plug in the given values of the slope **m** and the **x₁** and **y₁** of the point in the **point-slope** form of the equation of a line. $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$
- d. "Clean up" your answer in Step c to get either the **standard** form or **slope-intercept** form.

Examples

1. line contains $(1,2)$ and has slope 7

Both ingredients are given so start with Step c:

$$y - 2 = 7(x - 1)$$

Write in standard form:

$$y - 2 = 7x - 7$$

$$y = 7x - 5$$

$$-7x + y = -5$$

2. line goes through (1,2) and (3,4)

The slope is **not given** so we need to solve for it and we can use the formula:

$$m = \frac{4-2}{3-1} = \frac{2}{2} = 1. \text{ Then go to Step c using either point (1,2) or (3,4). If we}$$

use (1,2), we get

$$y - 2 = 1(x - 1)$$

$$y - 2 = x - 1$$

$$y = x + 1$$

$$-x + y = 1$$

3. line goes through (1,2) and is parallel to $6x - y = 5$

The slope is **not given** but we know the line we want is parallel to the given line.

From the given equation,

$$6x - y = 5 \Rightarrow -y = -6x + 5 \Rightarrow y = 6x - 5 \Rightarrow m = 6$$

and since the line we want is **parallel** to this line then the slope is **the same**.

Thus,

$$y - 2 = 6(x - 1)$$

$$y - 2 = 6x - 6$$

$$y = 6x - 4$$

$$-6x + y = -4$$

4. line contains (1,2) and is perpendicular to $2x + 5y = 9$

The slope is **not given** but we know the line we want is perpendicular to the given line. From the given equation,

$$2x + 5y = 9 \Rightarrow 5y = -2x + 9 \Rightarrow y = -\frac{2}{5}x + \frac{9}{5} \Rightarrow m = -\frac{2}{5}$$

and since the line we want is **perpendicular** to this line then the slope is

the **negative reciprocal** which is $+\frac{5}{2}$. Thus,

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

$$2(y - 2) = 5(x - 1)$$

$$2y - 4 = 5x - 5$$

$$2y = 5x - 1$$

$$-5x + 2y = -1$$

5. line contains the x-intercept of $4x + 3y = 12$ and has slope -5

The slope is given but **no point** is given. The problem says use the x-intercept of the given line. Setting $y = 0$, we get $4x = 12$ or $x = 3$, and the point we can use is (3,0). Thus,

$$y - 0 = -5(x - 3)$$

$$y = -5x + 15$$

$$5x + y = 15$$

Strategy for vertical and horizontal lines: SKETCH!

Examples vertical line through (1,2) is the line $x = 1$

horizontal line through (1,2) is the line $y = 2$

line through (1,2) that is parallel to the x-axis is the line $y = 2$

line through (1,2) that is perpendicular to the x-axis is the line $x = 1$