

Rational numbers.

Positive rational number is a number which can be represented as a ratio of two natural numbers:

$$a = \frac{p}{q}; \quad p, q \in N$$

As we know such number is also called a fraction, p in this fraction is a numerator and q is a denominator. Any natural number can be represented as a fraction with denominator 1:

$$b = \frac{b}{1}; \quad b \in N$$

Basic property of fraction: numerator and denominator of the fraction can be multiplied by any non-zero number n , resulting the same fraction:

$$a = \frac{p}{q} = \frac{p \cdot n}{q \cdot n}$$

In the case that numbers p and q do not have common prime factors, the fraction $\frac{p}{q}$ is irreducible fraction. If $p < q$, the fraction is called “proper fraction”, if $p > q$, the fraction is called “improper fraction”.

If the denominator of fraction is a power of 10, this fraction can be represented as a finite decimal, for example,

$$\frac{37}{100} = \frac{37}{10^2} = 0.37, \quad \frac{3}{10} = \frac{3}{10^1} = 0.3, \quad \frac{12437}{1000} = \frac{12437}{10^3} = 12,437$$

$$10^n = (2 \cdot 5)^n = 2^n \cdot 5^n$$

$$\frac{2}{5} = \frac{2}{5^1} = \frac{2 \cdot 2^1}{5^1 \cdot 2^1} = \frac{4}{10} = 0.4$$

Therefore, any fraction, which denominator is represented by $2^n \cdot 5^m$ can be written in a form of finite decimal. This fact can be verified with the help of the long division, for example $\frac{7}{8}$ is a proper fraction, using the long division this fraction can be written as a decimal $\frac{7}{8} = 0.875$. Indeed,

$$\begin{array}{r} 0.875 \\ 8 \overline{) 7.000} \\ \underline{-6.4} \\ 60 \\ \underline{-56} \\ 40 \\ \underline{-40} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{7}{8} = \frac{7}{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2} = \frac{7 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5}{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5} = \frac{7 \cdot 5^3}{2^3 \cdot 5^3} = \frac{7 \cdot 125}{(2 \cdot 5)^3} = \frac{875}{10^3} = \frac{875}{1000} = 0.875$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
0.71428571... \\
7 \overline{) 5.000} \\
\underline{-00} \\
50 \\
\underline{-49} \\
10 \\
\underline{-7} \\
30 \\
\underline{-28} \\
20 \\
\underline{-14} \\
60 \\
\underline{-56} \\
40 \\
\underline{-35} \\
50 \\
\underline{-49} \\
10 \\
.....
\end{array}$$

Also, any finite decimal can be represented as a fraction with denominator 10^n .

$$0.375 = \frac{375}{1000} = \frac{3}{8} = \frac{3}{2^3};$$

$$0.065 = \frac{65}{1000} = \frac{13 \cdot 5}{5^3 2^3} = \frac{13}{5^2 2^3};$$

$$6.72 = \frac{672}{100} = \frac{168}{25} = \frac{168}{5^2};$$

$$0.034 = \frac{34}{1000} = \frac{17 \cdot 2}{5^3 2^3} = \frac{17}{5^3 2^2};$$

In other words, if the finite decimal is represented as an irreducible fraction, the denominator of this fraction will not have other factors besides 5^m and 2^n . Converse statement is also true: if the irreducible fraction has denominator which only contains 5^m and 2^n than the fraction can be written as a finite decimal. (Irreducible fraction can be represented as a finite decimal if and only if it has denominator containing only 5^m and 2^n as factors.)

If the denominator of the irreducible fraction has a factor different from 2 and 5, the fraction cannot be represented as a finite decimal. If we try to use the long division process, we will get an infinite periodic decimal.

At each step during this division, we will have a remainder. At some point during the process, we will see the remainder which occurred before. Process will start to repeat itself. On the example on the left, $\frac{5}{7}$, after 7, 1, 4, 2, 8, 5, remainder 7 appeared again, the fraction $\frac{5}{7}$ can be represented only as an infinite periodic decimal and should be written as $\frac{5}{7} = 0.\overline{714285}$. (Sometimes you can find the periodic infinite decimal written as $0.\overline{714285} = 0.(714285)$).

How we can represent the periodic decimal as a fraction?

Let's take a look on a few examples: $0.\overline{8}$, $2.35\overline{7}$, $0.\overline{0108}$.

$0.\overline{8}$	$2.35\overline{7}$	$0.\overline{0108}$
$x = 0.\overline{8}$	$x = 2.35\overline{7}$	$x = 0.\overline{0108}$
$10x = 8.\overline{8}$	$100x = 235.\overline{7}$	$10000x = 108.\overline{0108}$
$10x - x = 8.\overline{8} - 0.\overline{8} = 8$	$1000x = 2357.\overline{7}$	$10000x - x = 108$
$9x = 8$	$1000x - 100x = 2357.\overline{7} - 235.\overline{7}$	$x = \frac{108}{9999} = \frac{12}{1111}$
$x = \frac{8}{9}$	$= 2122$	
	$x = \frac{2122}{900} = \frac{1061}{450}$	

Now consider $2.4\overline{0}$ and $2.3\overline{9}$

$$\begin{aligned}
x &= 2.4\overline{0} \\
10x &= 24.\overline{0} \\
100x &= 240.\overline{0}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
100x - 10x &= 240 - 24 \\
x &= \frac{240 - 24}{90} = \frac{216}{90} = 2.4
\end{aligned}$$

$$x = 2.3\bar{9}$$

$$10x = 23.\bar{9}$$

$$100x = 239.\bar{9}$$

$$100x - 10x = 239 - 23$$

$$x = \frac{239 - 23}{90} = \frac{216}{90} = 2.4$$

Algebraic expression.

Expressions where variables, and/or numbers are added, subtracted, multiplied, and divided.

For example:

$$2a; \quad 3b + 2; \quad 3c^2 - 4xy^2$$

We can do a lot with algebraic expressions, even so we don't know exact values of variables. First, we always can combine like terms:

$$2x + 2y - 5 + 2x + 5y + 6 = 2x + 2x + 5y + 2y + 6 - 5 = 4x + 7y + 1$$

We can multiply an algebraic expression by a number or a variable:

$$3 \cdot (1 + 3y) = 3 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot 3y = 3 + 9y$$

In this example the distributive property was used. Using the definition of multiplication we can write:

$$3 \cdot (1 + 3y) = (1 + 3y) + (1 + 3y) + (1 + 3y) = 3 + 3 \cdot y = 3 + 9y$$

Another example:

$$5a(5 - 5x) = \underbrace{(5 - 5x) + (5 - 5x) + \dots + (5 - 5x)}_{5a \text{ times}} = \underbrace{5 + 5 + \dots + 5}_{5a \text{ times}} - \underbrace{5x - 5x - \dots - 5x}_{5a \text{ times}}$$

$$= \underbrace{5 + 5 + \dots + 5}_{5a \text{ times}} - \underbrace{5x - 5x - \dots - 5x}_{5a \text{ times}} = 5a \cdot 5 - 5a \cdot 5x = 25a - 25ax$$

If we need to multiply two expressions

$$(a + 2) \cdot (a + 3)$$

We can use a substitution technic, we will substitute one of the expressions with a variable, for example, instead of $(a + 2)$ we can use u .

$$(a + 2) = u$$

And then we will multiply

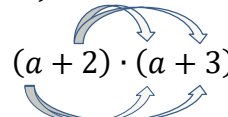
$$u \cdot (a + 3) = u \cdot a + 3u$$

We know, that actually u should not be there, $(a + 2)$ should.

$$u \cdot (a + 3) = (a + 2) \cdot a + 3(a + 2)$$

We know how to multiply an expression by a variable (or number):

$$(a + 2) \cdot a + 3(a + 2) = a \cdot a + 2a + 3a + 3 \cdot 2 = a^2 + 5a + 6$$



$$(a + 2) \cdot (a + 3) = a \cdot a + 3a + 2a + 3 \cdot 2 = a^2 + 5a + 6$$

$$(a + 2) \cdot (a + 3) = a^2 + 5a + 6$$

There are a few very useful products:

$$(a + b)^2 = (a + b) \cdot (a + b) = a \cdot a + a \cdot b + b \cdot a + b \cdot b = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$$

Let's do a few examples:

$$(2 + x)^2 = (2 + x)(2 + x) = 2 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot x + x \cdot 2 + x \cdot x = 2^2 + 2x + 2x + x^2 = x^2 + 2 \cdot 2x + 4$$

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

$$(ab + 2y)^2 = (ab + 2y)(ab + 2y) = ab \cdot ab + ab \cdot 2y + 2y \cdot ab + 2y \cdot 2y = a^2b^2 + 2yab + 2yab + 4y^2$$

$$= a^2b^2 + 4yab + 4y^2$$

$$(a - b)(a + b) = a \cdot a + a \cdot b - a \cdot b + b \cdot b = a^2 - b^2$$

Exercises.

1. Evaluate the following using decimals:

$$a. 0.36 + \frac{1}{2}; \quad b. 5.8 - \frac{3}{4}; \quad c. \frac{2}{5} : 0.001; \quad d. 7.2 \cdot \frac{1}{1000}$$

2. Evaluate the following using fractions:

$$a. \frac{2}{3} + 0.6; \quad b. 1\frac{1}{6} - 0.5; \quad c. 0.3 \cdot \frac{5}{9}; \quad d. \frac{8}{11} : 0.4;$$

3. Write as a periodical decimal;

$$\text{Example: } 0.\bar{8} = 0.88888 \dots; \quad 0.34\overline{543} = 0.34543543543 \dots$$

$$a. 0.\bar{5}; \quad b. 0.12\overline{333}; \quad c. 0.\overline{1243};$$

4. Write as a fraction

$$a. 0.\bar{5}, \quad b. 0.5, \quad c. 0.\bar{7}, \quad d. 0.7, \quad e. 0.1\bar{2}, \quad f. 0.\overline{12}, \quad g. 0.12$$

5. Multiply.

$$a. (a + 2)(a + 2); \quad f. (a + 1)(a + 3); \quad b. (3 + y)(y + 4); \quad g. (c + d)(c - 2d);$$

$$c. (3 + x)(3 - x); \quad h. (y - 2)(3 - y); \quad d. (x - y)(x + y); \quad i. (x - m)(x - m);$$

$$e. (2a + c)(a + ac); \quad j. (2d + 3l)(2d + 3l)$$