

CHAPTER - NUMBER SYSTEM (PART-III.)Rationalisation

Suppose we are given a number whose denominator is irrational. Then, the process of converting its denominator to a rational number by multiplying its numerator and denominator by a suitable number, is called rationalisation.

E.g. → Simplify $\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}$ by rationalising the denominator.

Solution On multiplying the numerator and denominator of the given number by $\sqrt{5}$, we get

$$\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{5}} \times \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{3\sqrt{5}}{5}$$

Rationalising factor (RF)

If the product of two irrational numbers is rational then each one is called the rationalising factor of the other.

If a and b are integers, x and y are natural numbers, then

- (i) $(a + \sqrt{b})$ and $(a - \sqrt{b})$ are RF of each other as $(a + \sqrt{b}) \times (a - \sqrt{b}) = (a^2 - b)$, which is rational.
- (ii) $(a + b\sqrt{x})$ and $(a - b\sqrt{x})$ are RF of each other

as $(a+b\sqrt{x})(a-b\sqrt{x}) = (a^2 - b^2x)$, which is rational.

(iii) $(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y})$ and $(\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{y})$ are Rf of each other, as $(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y})(\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{y}) = (x - y)$ which is rational.

for rationalising the denominator of a number, we multiply its numerator and denominator by its rationalising factor.

E.g. ① Rationalise the denominator of $\frac{6}{\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{2}}$.

Solution

$$\frac{6}{\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{2}} = \frac{6}{\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{2}} \times \frac{\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{2}}$$

$$= \frac{6(\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{2})}{(\sqrt{5})^2 - (\sqrt{2})^2} = \frac{6(\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{2})}{5 - 2} = \frac{2 \times 3(\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{2})}{3}$$

$$= 2(\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{2})$$

E.g. ② Rationalise the denominator of $\frac{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}}$

Solution

$$\frac{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}} = \frac{(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}) \times (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})}{(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})}$$

$$= \frac{(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})^2}{(\sqrt{3})^2 - (\sqrt{2})^2} = \frac{(\sqrt{3})^2 + (\sqrt{2})^2 + 2 \times \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{2}}{3 - 2}$$

$$= \frac{3 + 2 + 2\sqrt{6}}{1} = (5 + 2\sqrt{6})$$

E.g. ③ If a and b are rational numbers and $\frac{\sqrt{11} - \sqrt{7}}{\sqrt{11} + \sqrt{7}} = a - b\sqrt{77}$. find a and b .

Solution

$$\frac{\sqrt{11}-\sqrt{7}}{\sqrt{11}+\sqrt{7}} = \frac{(\sqrt{11}-\sqrt{7}) \times (\sqrt{11}-\sqrt{7})}{(\sqrt{11}+\sqrt{7})(\sqrt{11}-\sqrt{7})} = \frac{(\sqrt{11}-\sqrt{7})^2}{(\sqrt{11})^2 - (\sqrt{7})^2}$$

$$= \frac{(\sqrt{11})^2 + (\sqrt{7})^2 - 2 \times \sqrt{11} \times \sqrt{7}}{11 - 7}$$

$$= \frac{11 + 7 - 2\sqrt{77}}{4} = \frac{18 - 2\sqrt{77}}{4}$$

$$= \frac{18}{4} - \frac{2}{4}\sqrt{77} = \frac{9}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{77} = a - b\sqrt{77}$$

$\Leftrightarrow a = \frac{9}{2}$ and $b = \frac{1}{2}$.

E.g. ④ If $x = (3 + \sqrt{8})$, find the value of $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}$

Solution Given: $x = 3 + \sqrt{8}$

$$\frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{3 + \sqrt{8}} = \frac{1}{3 + \sqrt{8}} \times \frac{(3 - \sqrt{8})}{(3 - \sqrt{8})} = \frac{3 - \sqrt{8}}{(3)^2 - (\sqrt{8})^2}$$

$$= \frac{3 - \sqrt{8}}{9 - 8} = \frac{3 - \sqrt{8}}{1}$$

$\therefore (x + \frac{1}{x}) = (3 + \sqrt{8}) + (3 - \sqrt{8}) = 6$

$\Rightarrow (x + \frac{1}{x})^2 = 6^2 = 36$

$\Rightarrow x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} + 2 \times x \times \frac{1}{x} = 36$

$\Rightarrow x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} + 2 = 36$

$\Rightarrow x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} = 36 - 2 = 34.$

Hence, $(x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}) = 34.$

E.g. ⑤ Simplify: $\left(\frac{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}} + \frac{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}} \right)$

Solution Taking L.C.M. of above no:

$$\frac{(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})}{(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})} + \frac{(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})}{(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(\sqrt{3}+\sqrt{2})^2 + (\sqrt{3}-\sqrt{2})^2}{(\sqrt{3})^2 - (\sqrt{2})^2} \\ &= \frac{(\sqrt{3})^2 + (\sqrt{2})^2 + 2 \times \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{2} + (\sqrt{3})^2 + (\sqrt{2})^2 - 2 \times \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{2}}{3-2} \\ &= \frac{3+2+3+2}{1} = 10 \end{aligned}$$

Law of Radicals

Let $a > 0$ be a real number, and let p and q be rational numbers, then we have

$$(i) a^p \times a^q = a^{(p+q)} \quad (ii) (a^p)^q = a^{pq}$$

$$(iii) \frac{a^p}{a^q} = a^{(p-q)} \quad (iv) a^p \times b^p = (ab)^p$$

E.g. → Simplify:

$$(a) 3^{3/4} \times 3^{1/4} = 3^{\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{4}} = 3^{\frac{4}{4}} = 3^1 = 3$$

[∵ $a^p \times a^q = a^{(p+q)}$]

$$(b) \frac{5^{1/3}}{5^{1/6}} = 5^{1/3 - 1/6} = 5^{\frac{2-1}{6}} = 5^{1/6}$$

[∵ $\frac{a^p}{a^q} = a^{(p-q)}$]

$$(c) 3^{2/3} \times 7^{2/3} = (3 \times 7)^{2/3} = (21)^{2/3}$$

[∵ $a^p \times b^p = (ab)^p$]

$$(d) (16)^{3/2} = (2^4)^{3/2} = 2^{2 \times 3} = 2^6 = 64$$

$$(e) (125)^{-1/3} = \left(\frac{1}{125} \right)^{1/3} = \left(\frac{1}{5^3} \right)^{1/3} = \frac{1}{5^3 \times \frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1}{5}$$

$$(f) (27)^{2/3} = (3^3)^{2/3} = 3^{3 \times \frac{2}{3}} = 3^2 = 9$$

EXERCISE

(I) Rationalise the denominator of each of the following:

① $\frac{1}{\sqrt{7}}$

② $\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{3}}$

③ $\frac{1}{2+\sqrt{3}}$

④ $\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}-\sqrt{2}}$

⑤ $\frac{1}{(5+3\sqrt{2})}$

⑥ $\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}-\sqrt{5}}$

⑦ $\frac{4}{(\sqrt{7}+\sqrt{3})}$

⑧ $\frac{\sqrt{3}-1}{\sqrt{3}+1}$

⑨ $\frac{3-2\sqrt{2}}{3+2\sqrt{2}}$

(II) Find the value of a and b in each of the following:

⑩ $\frac{\sqrt{3}+1}{\sqrt{3}-1} = a+b\sqrt{3}$

⑪ $\frac{3+\sqrt{2}}{3-\sqrt{2}} = a+b\sqrt{2}$

⑫ $\frac{5-\sqrt{6}}{5+\sqrt{6}} = a-b\sqrt{6}$

⑬ $\frac{5+2\sqrt{3}}{7+4\sqrt{3}} = a-b\sqrt{3}$

⑭ Simplify: $\left(\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{\sqrt{5}+1} + \frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{\sqrt{5}-1} \right)$

⑮ Simplify: $\left(\frac{4+\sqrt{5}}{4-\sqrt{5}} + \frac{4-\sqrt{5}}{4+\sqrt{5}} \right)$

⑯ If $x = (4-\sqrt{15})$, find the value of $x + \frac{1}{x}$

⑰ If $x = (2+\sqrt{3})$, find the value of $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}$

⑱ Show that $\frac{1}{(3-\sqrt{8})} - \frac{1}{(\sqrt{8}-\sqrt{7})} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{7}-\sqrt{6}} - \frac{1}{(\sqrt{6}-\sqrt{5})}$

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

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(19) Simplify:

(a) $6^{2/5} \times 6^{3/5}$ (b) $3^{1/2} \times 3^{1/3}$

(c) $7^{5/6} \times 7^{2/3}$ (d) $\frac{6^{14}}{6^{15}}$

(e) $\frac{8^{1/2}}{8^{2/3}}$

(f) $\frac{5^{6/7}}{5^{2/3}}$

(g) $3^{1/4} \times 5^{1/4}$

(h) $2^{5/8} \times 3^{5/8}$

(i) $6^{1/2} \times 7^{1/2}$

(j) $(3^4)^{1/4}$ (k) $(3^{1/3})^4$ (l) $\left(\frac{1}{3^4}\right)^{1/2}$

(20) Evaluate:

(a) $(49)^{1/2}$

(b) $(125)^{1/3}$

(c) $(64)^{1/6}$

(d) $(25)^{3/2}$

(e) $(32)^{2/5}$

(f) $(81)^{3/4}$

(g) $(64)^{-1/2}$

(h) $(8)^{-1/3}$

(i) $(81)^{-1/4}$