

Example 3: Multiply and Divide Rational Expressions

Simplify. Identify the non-permissible values.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{x^2 + 4x - 32}{x^2 + 3x - 40} \cdot \frac{3x^2 - 75}{3x^2 - 11x - 4} \div \frac{6x^2 + 18x - 60}{4x - x^3} \\
&= \frac{(x+8)(x-4)}{(x+8)(x-5)} \cdot \frac{3(x^2-25)}{(3x+1)(x-4)} \div \frac{6(x^2+3x-10)}{x(4-x^2)} \\
&= \frac{(x+8)(x-4)}{(x+8)(x-5)} \cdot \frac{3(x-5)(x+5)}{(3x+1)(x-4)} \div \frac{6(x+5)(x-2)}{x(2-x)(2+x)} \\
&= \frac{\cancel{(x+8)}\cancel{(x-4)}}{\cancel{(x+8)}\cancel{(x-5)}} \cdot \frac{\cancel{3}\cancel{(x-5)}\cancel{(x+5)}}{(3x+1)\cancel{(x-4)}} \cdot \frac{x\overset{(-1)}{\cancel{(2-x)}}(2+x)}{\underset{2}{\cancel{6}}\cancel{(x+5)}\cancel{(x-2)}} \\
&= \frac{-x(x+2)}{2(3x+1)} ; x \neq -8, \pm 5, -\frac{1}{3}, 4, \pm 2
\end{aligned}$$