5.2 Like Terms & Unlike Terms

May 8, 2015 11:42 AM

When simplifying expressions, you start by combining **like terms**

Like terms terms that have the same variable and differ only by their numerical coefficients

Ex #1 Simplify

(a) $3a + 6 + 1a - 4$

$= 3a + 1a + 6 - 4$

$= \boxed{4a + 2}$

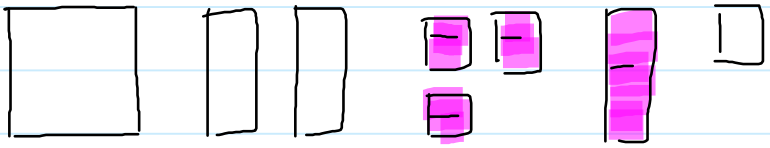
(b) $-1x^2 + 4x - 5 + 3x^2 - 4x + 1$

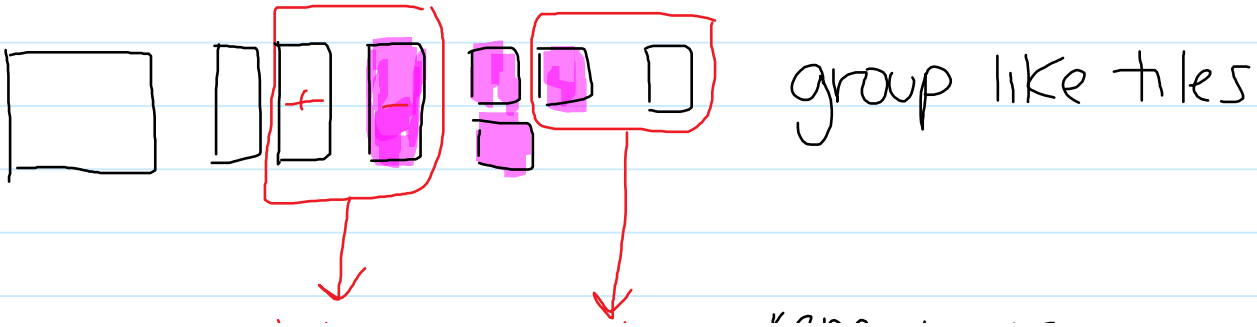
$= -1x^2 + 3x^2 + 4x - 4x - 5 + 1$

$= 2x^2 + 0x - 4$

$= \boxed{2x^2 - 4}$

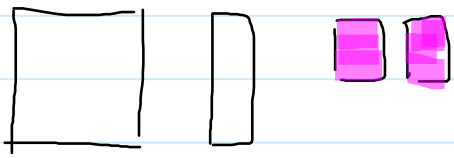
(c)





tiles cancel each other out

remove zero pairs



$x^2 + x - 2$

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