

Math 105 TOPICS IN MATHEMATICS
REVIEW OF LECTURES – III (SUPPLEMENT)

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APPENDIX TO §3. ALGEBRA REFRESHER.

• Refresher #1

$$2 + 3 - 3 = ?$$

$$5 + 7 - 7 = ?$$

$$18 - 6 + 6 = ?$$

$$120 + 240 - 240 = ?$$

Answers

$$2 + 3 - 3 = 2.$$

$$5 + 7 - 7 = 5.$$

$$18 - 6 + 6 = 18.$$

$$120 + 240 - 240 = 120.$$

★ More generally,

$$x + a - a = x.$$

★ Sometimes, depending on a context, it is beneficial to

$$\underline{\underline{\text{rewrite}}}\ \underline{\underline{x}}\ \underline{\underline{\text{as}}}\ \underline{\underline{x + a - a}},$$

with an appropriate a . We will see such an example in the main text.

• [Refresher #2]

$$2 \cdot 5 + 2 \cdot 3 = 2(5 + 3).$$

$$2 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 6 + 2 \cdot 9 = 2(1 + 6 + 9).$$

$$2 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 7 + 2 \cdot 5 + 2 \cdot 4 = 2(2 + 7 + 5 + 4).$$

More generally:

$$2a + 2b = 2(a + b),$$

$$2a + 2b + 2c = 2(a + b + c),$$

$$2a + 2b + 2c + 2d = 2(a + b + c + d),$$

$$\vdots$$

• [Refresher #3] Solve the equation $x = 360 - 2x$.

[Solution]: Drag the term $2x$ to the other side.

$$x = 360 - \boxed{2x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{2x} + x = 360$$

$$\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_{3x}$$

$$\Rightarrow 3x = 360$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{360}{3} = 120.$$