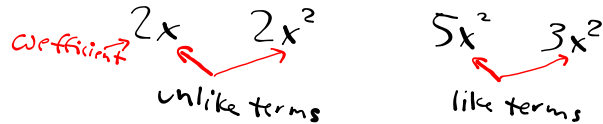


3.1a Combining Like Terms

Like terms - terms that have the same variable AND exponent



Simplest form - all like terms are combined & no parentheses

Ex. 1 $9x - 2 + 7 - x$

$9x - x - 2 + 7$

$8x + 5$

Ex. 2 $z^2 + 5z - 3z^2 + z$

$z^2 - 3z^2 + 5z + z$

$-2z^2 + 6z$

Ex. 3 $2.5x + 4.3x - 5$

$2.5x + 4.3x - 5$

$6.8x - 5$

Ex. 4 $\frac{1}{2}(4x+2) + 3x - 1$

$\frac{1}{2} \cdot 4x + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2 + 3x - 1$

$2x + 1 + 3x - 1$

$2x + 3x + 1 - 1$

$5x$