15.3 Least Common Multiples and Denominators

**FINDING THE LEAST COMMON MULTIPLES**

Recall: \( \frac{2}{15} + \frac{7}{18} \)

The **LCD** (the least common denominator) is the LCM of the denominators. It should contain all the factors of the denominators.

Ex. Find the LCM.

(a) \( 6x^3, 8x^5 \)

(b) \( a^2 - 25, 3a^3 - 15a^2 \)

(c) \( x^2 + 4x + 4, x^2 - 4 \)

(d) \( x^5 + 2x^4 + x^3, 2x^3 - 2x, 5x - 5 \)

**LCM:** ____________________  **LCM:** ____________________

**LCM:** ____________________  **LCM:** ____________________