

AMA Manual of Style

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Stacked vs Unstacked

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Stacking of fractions (ie, separating numerator and denominator by a horizontal line) should be avoided in favor of “unstacking” (ie, using a slash in place of the horizontal line) unless this sacrifices clarity (see , Punctuation, Forward Slash [Virgule, Solidus], In Equations). $y=(x_1+x_2)/(x_1-x_2)$ instead of $y=x_1+x_2x_1-x_2$ Whenever a fraction is unstacked, parentheses, brackets, and braces (collectively called “fences” in mathematical notation) should be used as appropriate to avoid ambiguity. For instance, the expression $a+b+cd+e$, if written as $a + b + c/d + e$, is ambiguous and could have several interpretations, such as $a+b+cd+e$ or $a+b+cd+e$. The expression’s meaning is unambiguous if set