

# AMA Manual of Style

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## Stacked vs Unstacked

Stephen J. Lurie

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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).  $y=(x1+x2)/(x1-x2)$  instead of  $y=x1+x2x1-x2$  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 off as follows: