

# Computing with rational numbers: Not easy even for college students

**Jennifer Jacobs**

Rutgers University- New Brunswick

**Rochel Gelman**

Rutgers University- New Brunswick

**Abstract:** Many individuals, including school children and adults, struggle with rational numbers, especially in fractional and decimal format (Hartnett & Gelman, 1998; Humberstone & Reeve, 2007; Jacobs & Gelman, 2010). A preliminary study with undergraduates revealed difficulty with problems where a price increase of  $x$