

0.5 Operations with Algebraic Expressions

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$+, -, \times, \div, \dots$

Def Polynomial is sum of finite number of terms with nonnegative integer powers. The general form of a Polynomial in x of degree n is

$$a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0 \quad \text{where}$$

a_0 : constant term (coefficient)

a_1 : coefficient of x

a_2 : coefficient of x^2

\vdots

a_n : coefficient of x^n (leading coefficient), $a_n \neq 0$

n : degree of polynomial (n is nonnegative integer)

a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n are all real numbers

Exp Give the degree of the following polynomials, state the constant term, give the leading coefficient, decide whether it is polynomial of one or several variables or constant (no variables)

[1] $5x^4 - 2x^2 + 7$

- degree $n=4$ "poly. of degree 4"

- constant term $7 = a_0$

- leading coefficient $5 = a_4$

- Poly of one variable x

[2] 8

- degree $n=0$ "poly. of degree 0"

- constant term $8 = a_0$

- leading coefficient $8 = a_0$

- Poly of no variables (constant)

[3] $7xy^2$

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- degree $1+2=3$ "poly of degree 3"

- constant term 0

- Poly of several variables x, y

[4] $9xy - 4x + 5y + 6$

- degree $1+1=2$ "poly of degree 2"

- constant term 6

- Poly of several variables

Exp Given the poly. $3x^4 - 7x^2 + 5$ Find degree and all coefficients

- degree $4=n \Rightarrow a_4x^4 + a_3x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_1x^1 + a_0$

$a_4=3, a_3=0, a_2=-7, a_1=0, a_0=5$

Exp Evaluate the following algebraic expression at the indicated values of variables

[1] $7x - 2x^2 + 1$ at $x=2$

$7(2) - 2(2)^2 + 1 = 14 - 2(4) + 1 = 14 - 8 + 1 = 6 + 1 = 7$

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[2] $\frac{2x-y}{x^2-2y}$ at $x=-5$ and $y=-3$

$\frac{2(-5) - (-3)}{(-5)^2 - 2(-3)} = \frac{-10 + 3}{25 + 6} = \frac{-7}{31}$

Remark • Poly with single term is called **monomial**

$$x, 2y^3, 3x^5, 7, -8x^2, \dots$$

• Poly with two terms is called **binomial**

$$x^2-1, 2x+x^3, 5-x^4, 3x^7-x^5, \dots$$

• Poly with three terms is called **trinomial**

$$x^3-2x^2+1, x^2+2x+5, x^8-x+1, \dots$$

Note : Terms with exactly the same variable factors are called **like terms**

Example of like terms: $8xy$ and $-3xy$

$$-5x^2 \text{ and } 8x^2$$

$$3x^3y \text{ and } -yx^3$$

$$17 \text{ and } -3$$

Exp Simplify by combining **like terms** (Remove parentheses)

$$(1) (\underline{3x^3} + \underline{4x^2y^2}) + (\underline{3x^2y^2} - \underline{7x^3}) = -4x^3 + 7x^2y^2$$

$$(2) -[8 - 4(y+5) + y] = -[8 - 4y - 20 + y] = -[-12 - 3y]$$

$$(3) (3x^2 + 4xy + 5y^2 + 1) - (6x^2 - 2xy + 4)$$

$$= 3x^2 + 4xy + 5y^2 + 1 - 6x^2 + 2xy - 4$$

$$= -3x^2 + 6xy + 5y^2 - 3$$

Exp (Products and Quotients)

Perform the indicated operations and simplify:

$$(1) (-3x^2y)(2xy^3)(4x^2y^2)$$

$$(-3 \cdot 2 \cdot 4)(x^2 \cdot x \cdot x^2)(y \cdot y^3 \cdot y^2) = -24x^5y^6$$

$$(2) (-15m^3n) \div (5mn^4)$$

$$\frac{-15m^3n}{5mn^4} = -3m^{3-1}n^{1-4} = -3m^2n^{-3} = \frac{-3m^2}{n^3}$$

Exp (Symbols of Grouping)

Perform the indicated operations and simplify:

$$(1) 3x^2 - [2x - (3x^2 - 2x)]$$

$$3x^2 - [2x - 3x^2 + 2x] = \underline{3x^2} - \underline{2x} + \underline{3x^2} - \underline{2x} = 6x^2 - 4x$$

$$(2) \underline{(3x-2)} - 3x - \underline{2(3x-2)} + 5$$

$$- (3x-2) - 3x + 5 = \underline{-3x} + \underline{2} - \underline{3x} + \underline{5} = -6x + 7$$

Exp (Distributive Law)

Perform the indicated operations and simplify

$$(1) ax^2(2x^2 + ax + ab) = 2ax^4 + a^2x^3 + a^2bx^2$$

$$(2) (4a + 5b + c)ac = 4a^2c + 5abc + ac^2$$

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$$(3) -5(4 - x^3) = -20 + 5x^3$$

$$(4) (4x+1)(x-3) = (4x+1)(x) + (4x+1)(-3)$$

$$= 4x^2 + x - 12x - 3 = 4x^2 - 11x - 3$$

$$(5) 9(2x+1)(2x-1) = (18x+9)(2x-1) = 36x^2 - \cancel{18x} + \cancel{18x} - 9 = 36x^2 - 9$$

Exp (Product of Two Polynomials)

Multiply the following

$$(1) (3x+1)(5-x) = 15x - 3x^2 + 5 - x = 14x - 3x^2 + 5$$

$$(2) (x^3-1)(x^7-2x^4-5x^2+5)$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x^{10} - 2x^7 - 5x^5 + 5x^3 - x^7 + 2x^4 + 5x^2 - 5 \\ x^{10} - 3x^7 - 5x^5 + 2x^4 + 5x^3 + 5x^2 - 5 \end{array}$$

Special Products

• Binomial squared $(x+a)^2 = x^2 + 2ax + a^2$
 $(x-a)^2 = x^2 - 2ax + a^2$

• Difference of two squares $x^2 - a^2 = (x-a)(x+a)$

• Binomial cubed $(x+a)^3 = x^3 + 3ax^2 + 3a^2x + a^3$
 $(x-a)^3 = x^3 - 3ax^2 + 3a^2x - a^3$

Exp (Special Products)

Multiply the following

$$(1) (x+3)^2 = x^2 + 2(x)(3) + 3^2 = x^2 + 6x + 9$$

$$(2) (3x-4y)^2 = (3x)^2 + 2(3x)(-4y) + (-4y)^2 = 9x^2 - 24xy + 16y^2$$

$$(3) (x^2-y^3)^2 = (x^2)^2 + 2(x^2)(-y^3) + (-y^3)^2 = x^4 - 2x^2y^3 + y^6$$

$$(4) (x+2)^3 = x^3 + 3(x)(2)^2 + 3(x)^2(2) + (2)^3 = x^3 + 12x + 6x^2 + 8$$

$$(5) (x^2 - \frac{1}{2})^2 = (x^2)^2 + 2(\frac{-1}{2})(x^2) + (-\frac{1}{2})^2 = x^4 - x^2 + \frac{1}{4}$$

$$(6) (2x-3)^3 = (2x)^3 + 3(2x)(-3)^2 + 3(2x)^2(-3) + (-3)^3$$

$$= 8x^3 + (6x)(9) - 9(4x^2) + (-27) = 8x^3 + 54x - 36x^2 - 27$$

Exp (Operations with Algebraic Expressions)

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Perform the indicated operations and simplify

$$[1] \quad \underline{3\sqrt{3}} + \underline{4x\sqrt{y}} - \underline{5\sqrt{3}} - \underline{11x\sqrt{y}} - (\underline{\sqrt{3}} - \underline{x\sqrt{y}})$$

$$3\sqrt{3} - 5\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{3} + 4x\sqrt{y} - 11x\sqrt{y} + x\sqrt{y} = -3\sqrt{3} - 6x\sqrt{y}$$

$$[2] \quad x^{-\frac{2}{3}} (x^{\frac{5}{3}} - x^{-\frac{1}{3}})$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^{-\frac{2}{3}} \cdot x^{\frac{5}{3}} - x^{-\frac{2}{3}} \cdot x^{-\frac{1}{3}} &= x^{-\frac{2}{3} + \frac{5}{3}} - x^{-\frac{2}{3} + \frac{-1}{3}} = x^{\frac{3}{3}} - x^{-\frac{3}{3}} = x - x^{-1} \\ &= x - \frac{1}{x} \end{aligned}$$

$$[3] \quad (\sqrt{x} - \sqrt[3]{x})^2$$

$$\left(x^{\frac{1}{2}} - x^{\frac{1}{3}}\right)^2 = \left(x^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)^2 + 2\left(x^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)\left(-x^{\frac{1}{3}}\right) + \left(-x^{\frac{1}{3}}\right)^2$$

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

$$= x^1 - 2x^{\frac{3}{6} + \frac{2}{6}} + x^{\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$= x - 2x^{\frac{5}{6}} + x^{\frac{2}{3}} = x - 2\sqrt[6]{x^5} + \sqrt[3]{x^2}$$

$$[4] \quad (\sqrt{x} + 3)(\sqrt{x} - 3)$$

$$(\sqrt{x})^2 - (3)^2 = x - 9$$

$$\text{or } (\sqrt{x} + 3)(\sqrt{x} - 3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{x}\sqrt{x} - 3\sqrt{x} + 3\sqrt{x} - (3)(3) \\ x - 9 \end{aligned}$$

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$$[5] \quad \left(x^{\frac{1}{5}} + x^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)\left(x^{\frac{1}{5}} - x^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)$$

$$\left(x^{\frac{1}{5}}\right)^2 - \left(x^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)^2 = x^{\frac{2}{5}} - x$$

$$\text{or } \left(x^{\frac{1}{5}} + x^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)\left(x^{\frac{1}{5}} - x^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^{\frac{1}{5}}x^{\frac{1}{5}} - x^{\frac{1}{5}}x^{\frac{1}{2}} + x^{\frac{1}{2}}x^{\frac{1}{5}} - x^{\frac{1}{2}}x^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ x^{\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5}} - x^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5}} + x^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5}} - x^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}} \\ x^{\frac{2}{5}} - x \end{aligned}$$

Exp (Division of Polynomials - Long Division)

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① Divide $4x^3 - 13x - 22$ by $x - 3$, $x \neq 3$

$$\frac{4x^3 - 13x - 22}{x - 3} = 4x^2 + 12x + 23 + \frac{47}{x - 3}$$

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The quotient

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The answer is $4x^2 + 12x + 23 + \frac{47}{x - 3}$

$$\begin{array}{r} 4x^2 + 12x + 23 \\ x - 3 \overline{) 4x^3 - 13x - 22} \\ \underline{-4x^3 + 12x^2} \\ 12x^2 - 13x - 22 \\ \underline{-12x^2 + 36x} \\ 23x - 22 \\ \underline{-23x + 69} \\ 47 \end{array}$$

Remainder ← 47

② Use long division to find $(x^3 + x - 1) \div (x + 2)$

$$\frac{x^3 + x - 1}{x + 2} = x^2 - 2x + 5 - \frac{11}{x + 2}$$

The quotient is $x^2 - 2x + 5$

Remainder is -11

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 - 2x + 5 \\ x + 2 \overline{) x^3 + x - 1} \\ \underline{-x^3 + 2x^2} \\ -2x^2 + x - 1 \\ \underline{+2x^2 + 4x} \\ 5x - 1 \\ \underline{-5x + 10} \\ -11 \end{array}$$

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Answer is $x^2 - 2x + 5 - \frac{11}{x + 2}$