

5.1 Operations With Polynomials

Simplifying = rewriting expressions w/out parentheses or negative exponents

Monomials = 1 term all things connected
with mult/Div
 $-23a^2b^3c^4d^7$

polynomials $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x+1 \text{ binomial} \\ x^2+12x+20 \text{ trinomial} \\ \text{more} \end{array} \right.$

Caveats

exceptions non-integer exponents on variables

no radicals $\sqrt{x} = x^{\frac{1}{2}}$

no variables in a denominator $\frac{1}{x} = x^{-1}$

Degree of a polynomial: is the degree of its term with the highest degree
 ↑ exponent on a variable

$$x^2 + 3x - 17 \quad 2^\circ$$


$2^\circ \quad 1^\circ \quad 0^\circ$
 const.


$$3x^4 + 2x^9 - 7x^5 + 2$$


$4^\circ \quad 9^\circ \quad 5^\circ \quad 0^\circ$


$$2x^3y^4 \quad 3+4=7^\circ$$


Determine which of the following is a polynomial and find its degree.

a) $2x - 5y$
 $1^\circ \quad 1^\circ$


b) $\frac{1}{3}x^2 - 17$
 2°


c) $x^2 + 2x - x^{\frac{1}{2}}$
 $-\sqrt{x}$


d) $\frac{3x^2 + 2}{2y^3 - 3}$


e) $\sqrt{4}x^3$
 $2x^3 \quad 3^\circ$


f) $\frac{x^3}{y}$


Power Rules

• product

$$x^a \cdot x^b = x^{a+b}$$

$$2^3 \cdot 2^4 = 2^{3+4} = 2^7$$

$$2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \times 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 = \curvearrowright$$

• quotient

$$\frac{x^a}{x^b} = x^{a-b}$$

$$\frac{2^5}{2^2} = 2^{5-2} = 2^3$$

• negative exponents
(reciprocals)

$$\frac{\cancel{2} \cdot \cancel{2} \cdot \cancel{2} \cdot 2 \cdot 2}{\cancel{2} \cdot \cancel{2}} = 2^3$$

$$x^{-1} = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\frac{1}{x^{-2}} = x^2$$

$$2^{-3} = \frac{1}{2^3} \quad \frac{1}{3^{-2}} = 3^2$$

• power to a power

$$(x^2)^3 = x^{2 \cdot 3} = x^6$$

$$(2x^3)^4 = 2^4 x^{3 \cdot 4} = 2^4 x^{12} = 16x^{12}$$

$$\left(\frac{x^3}{y^4}\right)^2 = \frac{x^{3 \cdot 2}}{y^{4 \cdot 2}} = \frac{x^6}{y^8}$$

$$\left(\frac{a^2}{b^5}\right)^{-3} = \left(\frac{b^5}{a^2}\right)^3 = \frac{b^{5 \cdot 3}}{a^{2 \cdot 3}} = \frac{b^{15}}{a^6}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (3x^4y^7)(-2x^1y^{-4}) \\
 & (3 \cdot -2)(x^4 \cdot x^1)(y^7 \cdot y^{-4}) \quad \frac{y^7}{y^4} = y^{7-4} = \\
 & -6x^5y^3
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{15x^6y^8}{3x^7y^5} &= \left(\frac{15}{3}\right) \left(\frac{x^6}{x^7}\right) \left(\frac{y^8}{y^5}\right) \\
 & 5x^{-1}y^3 = \frac{5y^3}{x}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3m^5n^{-3})^2 & (3)^2 (m^5)^2 (n^{-3})^2 \\
 9m^{10}n^{-6} & \frac{9m^{10}}{n^6}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left(\frac{3x^4 \cdot 2x^5}{4y^3}\right)^2 &= \left(\frac{6x^9}{4y^3}\right)^2 = \frac{(6x^9)^2}{(4y^3)^2} = \frac{36x^{18}}{16y^6} \\
 \text{or } \left(\frac{3x^9}{2y^3}\right)^2 &= \frac{9x^{18}}{4y^6}
 \end{aligned}$$

Zero Powers

$$3 \wedge 0 = 3^0 = 1$$

$$138 \wedge 0 = 138^0 = 1$$

$$3 y^0 = 1$$

$$x^0 = 1$$

$$3 x^y 0 = 1$$

$$(mnp)^0 = 1$$

$$0^0 = \text{undefined}$$

$$-3^0 = (-1) \cdot 3^0 = (-1) \cdot 1 = -1$$

$$(-3)^0 = 1$$

$$\left(\frac{(-73x^{14}y^{17}z^{43})^{18}}{(47x^{-3}y^{74}z^{-23})} \right)^0 = 1$$