

Polynomials

Monomial

A monomial is a term of the form ax^m , where a is a constant and m is a positive, whole number.

Examples of Monomials are:

$3x^2$, $5x^3$, $-6x$, $6y^3$

↓ ↓
Coefficient Variable

Polynomial

A monomial or two or more monomials combined by addition or subtraction, is a polynomial.

Examples of polynomials are:

$3x^2$ → monomial

$5x^3 + 4x^2$ → Binomial

$4x^2 - 2x + 7$ → Trinomial

$x^4 - 5x^3 + 2x^2 + 6$ Polynomial

Some Polynomials have special names based on the number of terms

Monomial → One term

Binomial → Two terms

Trinomial → Three terms

Addition of Polynomials

We will add polynomials by adding like terms

- Remove parenthesis
- Add coefficients
Keep variable part

Example 1:

Add $(3x^2 - 5x + 2) + (5x^2 + 8x - 3)$

Solution:

~~$(3x^2 - 5x + 2) + (5x^2 + 8x - 3)$~~

$\underline{3x^2} - \underline{5x} + \underline{2} + \underline{5x^2} + \underline{8x} - \underline{3}$

$(2+5)x^2 + (2-3)x + (2-3)$

$$(3+3)x + (-2+0) \dots$$

$$8x^2 + 3x + (-1)$$

$$\boxed{8x^2 + 3x - 1}$$

Example 2: Add

$$\cancel{(8x - 5x^2 + 7)} + \cancel{(5 - 7x + 9x^2)}$$

Sol:

$$\underline{8x} - \underline{5x^2} + 7 \quad + 5 - 7x + 9x^2$$

$$(-5+9)x^2 + (8-7)x + 7+5$$

$$4x^2 + 1x + 12$$

$$\boxed{4x^2 + x + 12}$$

Subtraction of Polynomials

We subtract polynomials by removing parenthesis, keeping first polynomial unchanged, Changing signs of 2nd polynomial and combining like terms

Example 1:

Subtract:

$$\cancel{(5x^2 - 2x + 7)} - \cancel{(2x^2 - 4x + 3)}$$

Sol:

$$3x(4x - 2x + 3) \quad = x$$

$$(3x^2)(4x^2) - (3x^2)(2x) + (3x^2)(3)$$

$$12x^4 - 6x^3 + 9x^2$$

Example 2:

Multiply

$$3a^2(a^4 - 2a^2)$$

Sol:

$$(3a^2)(a^4) - 3a^2(2a^2)$$

$3 \cdot 1 a^{2+4} - 3 \cdot 2 a^{2+2}$

$$3a^6 - 6a^4$$

Binomial x Binomial

Use the Distributive Property twice

(Equivalently use the FOIL method)

Example 1:

Multiply

$$(3x - 2)(5x + 1)$$

Sol:

$$(3x - 2)(5x + 1)$$

First

Outer

Inner Last

$$= 15x^2 - 2(1)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 (3x)(5x) & + & (3x)(1) & - & (2)(3x) & - & (2)(1) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 15x^2 & + & \underline{3x} & - & \underline{10x} & - & 2 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \boxed{15x^2 - 7x - 2}
 \end{array}$$

Binomial x Polynomial

Use Distributive property
twice.

Example:

Multiply

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

Solution:

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

$$x \cdot x^2 - x \cdot 2x + x \cdot 3$$

$$2x^2 - 2 \cdot 2x + 2 \cdot 3$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x^3 - 2x^2 + 3x \\ \downarrow \\ \hline x^3 - x + 6 \end{array}$$

