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Evaluating Polynomial Functions

• **Polynomial function:** The expression used to describe the function is a polynomial.

Example: $f(x) = 2x^3 - 3x^2 + 7x + 8$ $g(x) = -3x^4 + 5x^2 - 2$ Polynomials f(x) & g(x) are functions.

Evaluating polynomial functions

Example: 1. If $f(x) = 2x^3 + 1$, find f(2) and f(-1). $f(2) = 2(2)^3 + 1 = 16 + 1 = 17$ Replace x with 2. $f(-1) = 2(-1)^3 + 1 = -2 + 1 = -1$ Replace x with -1.

2. If
$$R(x) = -8x^3 + x^2 + 2$$
, find $R(0)$ and $R(\frac{1}{2})$.

$$R(0) = -8(0)^3 + (0)^2 + 2 = 2$$

Replace x with 0 .

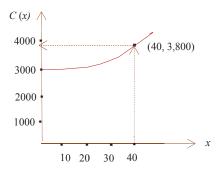
$$R(\frac{1}{2}) = -8(\frac{1}{2})^3 + (\frac{1}{2})^2 + 2$$

Replace x with $\frac{1}{2}$.

$$= -1 + \frac{1}{4} + 2 = \frac{5}{4}$$

Example: The polynomial function $C(x) = 3,000 + 0.5x^2$ can be used to determine the total cost (in dollars) of producing x laptops in an electronics firm.

- 1. What is the total cost of producing 10 laptops?
- **2.** Use the following graph to estimate C(40).



Solution:

- 1. $C(10) = 3,000 + 0.5(10)^2$ = \$3.050
- $C(x) = 3,000 + 0.5x^2$, replace x with 10.
- 2. C(40): locate x = 40 on the x axis, move vertically to the graph, and then move horizontally to the C(x) axis. Thus $C(40) \approx $3,800$.

Adding and Subtracting Polynomials

Adding or subtracting polynomials

Example: Find the sum of $2x^3 - 3x^2 + x - 4$ and $x^3 + 4x^2 + 2x + 1$.

Steps

Solution

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

- $=(2x^3+x^3)+(-3x^2+4x^2)+(x+2x)+(-4+1)$ Regroup like terms.
- $=3x^3+x^2+3x-3$ Combine like terms.

Example: Find the difference of $5x^2 + 4x - 2$ and $2x^2 - 3x + 13$.

Steps

Solution

$$(5x^2 + 4x - 2) - (2x^2 - 3x + 13)$$

= $5x^2 + 4x - 2 - 2x^2 + 3x - 13$

 $= (5x^2 - 2x^2) + (4x + 3x) + (-2 - 13)$

- Remove parentheses.
- (Reverse each sign in second parentheses.) Regroup like terms.
- $=3x^2+7x-15$ Combine like terms.
- Column method

Example: Find the sum of $3x^3 - 5x^2 + 7x - 3$ and $2x^3 + 3x + 5$.

Steps

Solution

- Line up like terms in columns.
- Add.

Example: Find the difference of $(5x^2 - 2x + 3) - (2x^2 - 5)$.

Steps

Solution

- $5x^2 2x + 3$ Line up like terms in columns: Subtrahend
- Change signs in minuend and add: + $-2x^2$ + 5 Minuend (Leave space for the missing term.) Difference
- **The opposite of the polynomial:** p: the opposite of the polynomial

p: polynomial

p + (-p) = 0

Example: Write two expressions for the opposite of the polynomial.

$$7a^4b^2 - 3a^3b - 4a^2$$

Solution: opposite expression: $-(7a^4b^2 - 3a^3b - 4a^2)$

or $-7a^4b^2 + 3a^3b + 4a^2$

Replace each term with its opposite.

Factoring Polynomials by Grouping

Steps for factoring by grouping:

Steps

Group terms with the GCF.

Factor out the GCF from each group.

Factor out the GCF again from the last step.

Example: $8v^2 - 2v + 12v - 3$

$$8y^2 - 2y + 12y - 3 = (8y^2 - 2y) + (12y - 3)$$

= **2**v (4v -1) + **3**(4v -1)

=(4y-1)(2y+3)

Factor out the GCF; $(2b-a) = (2b-a) \cdot 1$

Rearrange and group terms with the same

Factoring completely: Continue factoring until no further factors can be found.

Example: Factor the following completely.

1.
$$6ab^2 - 3a^2b + 2b - a = (6ab^2 - 3a^2b) + (2b - a)$$

= $3ab(2b - a) + (2b - a) \cdot 1$
= $(2b - a)(3ab + 1)$

2ab + bc - 2bc + 4ab = (2ab + 4ab) + (bc - 2bc)2. = 6ab - bc= b(6a-c)

3.
$$x^3 - xy^2 - x^2y + y^3 = (x^3 - x^2y) - (xy^2 - y^3)$$

 $= x^2(x - y) - y^2(x - y)$
 $= (x - y)(x^2 - y^2)$
 $= (x - y)(x + y)(x - y)$
 $= (x - y)^2(x + y)$

Combine like terms.

Group terms with the GCF.

Factor out the GCF again.

Factor out the GCF.

Group

Factor out the GCF.

$$a^2 - b^2 = (a + b)(a - b)$$

Keep factoring until cannot factor any further.

Tip: Recognize factoring patterns, such as 2b - a, x - y, ...

4.
$$32x^3y - 2xy^3 = 2xy (16x^2 - y^2)$$

= $2xy [(4x)^2 - y^2)]$
= $2xy (4x + y) (4x - y)$

Factor out the GCF.

$$a^2 - b^2 = (a + b)(a - b)$$

(4x + y) and (4x - y) cannot be factored further.