

Long Division of Polynomials

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Now that we have seen how to [▶ Add and Subtract](#) and [▶ Multiply](#) Polynomials, we will look at an example of Dividing Polynomials

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Example 1: Simplify $\frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x + 1}{x^2 - 2}$

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Example 1: Simplify $\frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x + 1}{x^2 - 2}$

$$x^2 - 2 \overline{) 2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x + 1}$$

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First we divide the lead terms:
 $\frac{2x^3}{x^2} = 2x$

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First we divide the lead terms:
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Next we multiply $2x \cdot (x^2 - 2)$
and subtract

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

First we divide the lead terms:
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Example 1: Simplify $\frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x + 1}{x^2 - 2}$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x \\ \hline x^2 - 2) \\ \underline{- 2x^3} \\ 9x + 1 \end{array}$$

First we divide the lead terms:
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$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 - 2 \overline{) 2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x + 1} \\ \underline{- 2x^3} \\ - 3x^2 + 9x + 1 \end{array}$$

First we divide the lead terms:
 $\frac{2x^3}{x^2} = 2x$

Next we multiply $2x \cdot (x^2 - 2)$
and subtract

Now we have a lower degree

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Now we have a lower degree

Now we repeat this process.

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$$\begin{array}{r} 2x \\ \overline{2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x + 1} \\ \underline{- 2x^3} \\ - 3x^2 + 9x + 1 \end{array}$$

First we divide the lead terms:
 $\frac{2x^3}{x^2} = 2x$

Next we multiply $2x \cdot (x^2 - 2)$ and subtract

Now we have a lower degree

Now we repeat this process.

Dividing the new lead terms:

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

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$$\begin{array}{r} 2x - 3 \\ x^2 - 2) \\ \underline{- 2x^3} \\ - 3x^2 + 9x + 1 \end{array}$$

First we divide the lead terms:
 $\frac{2x^3}{x^2} = 2x$

Next we multiply $2x \cdot (x^2 - 2)$ and subtract

Now we have a lower degree

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$$\begin{array}{r} 2x - 3 \\ x^2 - 2) \\ \underline{- 2x^3} \\ - 3x^2 + 9x + 1 \\ \underline{ 3x^2} - 6 \end{array}$$

First we divide the lead terms:
 $\frac{2x^3}{x^2} = 2x$

Next we multiply $2x \cdot (x^2 - 2)$ and subtract

Now we have a lower degree

Now we repeat this process.

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$$\begin{array}{r} 2x - 3 \\ x^2 - 2) 2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x + 1 \\ \underline{- 2x^3} \\ - 3x^2 + 9x + 1 \\ \\ 3x^2 \\ \\ 9x - 5 \end{array}$$

First we divide the lead terms:
 $\frac{2x^3}{x^2} = 2x$

Next we multiply $2x \cdot (x^2 - 2)$ and subtract

Now we have a lower degree

Now we repeat this process.

Dividing the new lead terms:

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

Once the degree of what is being divided is smaller than the degree we are dividing by, the process is complete:

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$$\begin{array}{r} 2x - 3 \\ x^2 - 2) 2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x + 1 \\ \underline{- 2x^3} \\ - 3x^2 + 9x + 1 \\ \underline{3x^2} - 6 \\ 9x - 5 \end{array}$$

First we divide the lead terms:
 $\frac{2x^3}{x^2} = 2x$

Next we multiply $2x \cdot (x^2 - 2)$ and subtract

Now we have a lower degree

Now we repeat this process.

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

Once the degree of what is being divided is smaller than the degree we are dividing by, the process is complete:

Conclusion: $\frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x + 1}{x^2 - 2} = 2x - 3 + \frac{9x - 5}{x^2 - 2}$

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$$\begin{array}{r} 2x - 3 \\ x^2 - 2) 2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x + 1 \\ \underline{- 2x^3} 4x \\ - 3x^2 + 9x + 1 \\ 3x^2 - 6 \\ 9x - 5 \end{array}$$

First we divide the lead terms:
 $\frac{2x^3}{x^2} = 2x$

Next we multiply $2x \cdot (x^2 - 2)$ and subtract

Now we have a lower degree

Now we repeat this process.

Dividing the new lead terms:

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

Once the degree of what is being divided is smaller than the degree we are dividing by, the process is complete:

Conclusion: $\frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x + 1}{x^2 - 2} = 2x - 3 + \frac{9x - 5}{x^2 - 2}$

Note: $2x - 3$ is called the **Quotient** and $9x - 5$ the **Remainder**