

Math 45 Dividing Polynomials (5.5)

Example: $(64x^6 - 29) \div (4x^2 - 3)$

Polynomial $\div$ Polynomial
use long division

$$(64x^6 + 0x^5 + 0x^4 + 0x^3 + 0x^2 + 0x - 29) \div (4x^2 + 0x - 3)$$

write each polynomial in standard form,
with placeholders for missing exponents.

$$\begin{array}{r} 16x^4 + 12x^2 + 9 \\ 4x^2 + 0x - 3 \overline{) 64x^6 + 0x^5 + 0x^4 + 0x^3 + 0x^2 + 0x - 29} \\ \underline{-(64x^6 + 0x^5 + 12x^4 + 36x^2)} \\ -48x^4 + 0x^3 + 0x^2 \\ \underline{-(-48x^4 + 0x^3 + 36x^2)} \\ 36x^2 + 0x - 29 \\ \underline{-(36x^2 + 0x - 27)} \\ -2 \end{array}$$

solution

$$\boxed{16x^4 + 12x^2 + 9 + \frac{-2}{4x^2 - 3}}$$

Divisor

Remainder

(If remainder is 0, don't need this part.)

Consider the first terms:

$$(4x^2) \cdot (?) = (64x^6)$$

$$4 \cdot (16) = 64 \quad \} \text{ use } 16x^4$$

$$x^2 \cdot (x^4) = x^6$$

Multiply times the divisor:

$$16x^4(4x^2 + 0x - 3) = 64x^6 + 0x^5 - 48x^4$$

Change the signs and add.

Bring down next two terms — we need three terms because divisor has three terms $(4x^2 + 0x - 3)$.

Repeat.

$$16x^2(4x^2 + 0x - 3) = 64x^4 + 0x^3 - 48x^2$$

Repeat.

$$4x^2(4x^2 + 0x - 3) = 16x^4 + 0x^3 - 12x^2$$