Math 9 – Unit 2: Algebra One Name: Mr. Hagen

Lesson #5: Dividing Monomials Date: October 2, 2012

We've added, subtracted, multiplied, and even raised monomials to powers. All that is left is dividing by monomials. First, let's develop a rule with numbers.

Simplify $\frac{4^5}{4^3}$ $= \frac{4\times4\times4\times4\times4}{4\times4\times4} = 4^2$

This leads to our 4th exponent law. When dividing, subtract the exponents. Time to put it into practice!

a) $\frac{x^8}{x^5}$ $= x^{8-5} = x^3$

b) $\frac{y^{72}}{y^{46}}$ $= y^{26}$

c) $\frac{m^5n^3}{m^2n}$ $= m^3n^2$

d) $\frac{18p^7q^9}{3p^2q^2}$ (divide) $= 6p^5q^7$

The final step is to divide a monomial into a polynomial, such as $\frac{4x^5-2x^3+6x^2}{2x^2}$. However, first let's look back at adding fractions so we can see an integral step that we will need to use:

$\frac{1}{2}+\frac{3}{4}+\frac{5}{8}$ $= \frac{4}{8}+\frac{6}{8}+\frac{5}{8} = \frac{4+6+5}{8} = \frac{15}{8}$

Keep in mind when doing the following questions that the denominator gets applied to all the terms in the numerator.

a) $\frac{4x^5-2x^3+6x^2}{2x^2}$

$= \frac{4x^5}{2x^2} - \frac{2x^3}{2x^2} + \frac{6x^2}{2x^2}$

$\frac{x^2}{x^2} = x^{2-2} = x^0 = 1$

$= 2x^3 - x + 3$

b) $\frac{16x^3y^5+8x^2y^4}{4x^2y}$

$= \frac{16x^3y^5}{4x^2y} + \frac{8x^2y^4}{4x^2y}$

$= 4xy^4 + 2y^3$

c) $\dfrac{40a^3b^6 - 50a^2b^3 + 10ab}{10ab}$

$= \dfrac{40a^3b^6}{10ab} - \dfrac{50a^2b^3}{10ab} + \dfrac{10ab}{10ab}$

$= 4a^2b^5 - 5ab^2 + 1$

d) $\dfrac{9x^7 + 27x^5 - 15x^4}{-3x^3}$

$= \dfrac{9x^7}{-3x^3} + \dfrac{27x^5}{-3x^3} - \dfrac{15x^4}{-3x^3}$

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

e) $\dfrac{192r^{78}s^{34} - 144r^{65}s^{53} - 256r^{98}s^{23} + 80r^{88}s^{45}}{16r^{33}s^{21}}$

$= \dfrac{192r^{78}s^{34}}{16r^{33}s^{21}} - \dfrac{144r^{65}s^{53}}{16r^{33}s^{21}} - \dfrac{256r^{98}s^{23}}{16r^{33}s^{21}} + \dfrac{80r^{88}s^{45}}{16r^{33}s^{21}}$

$= 12r^{45}s^{13} - 9r^{32}s^{32} - 16r^{65}s^{2} + 5r^{55}s^{24}$