

Project 2: Subtraction of Polynomials

Problem description

Given two polynomials of the same variable, find their difference. For example, subtract $x^5 + 2x^3 + 1$ from $-x^5 + x^4 - 2x^3$. We get $2x^5 - x^4 + 4x^3 + 1$.

Data structure to represent a polynomial

A polynomial consists of polynomial terms. For example, in $x^5 + 2x^3 + 1$, we have three terms x^5 , $2x^3$, and 1. Each term has coefficient, variable, and power. Since we assume that polynomials are of the same variable, without loss of generality, we can name that variable x . So it remains to save the coefficient and power.

```
#ifndef POLY_NODE_H_
#define POLY_NODE_H_
class PolyNode {
public:
    PolyNode(double coeff, int pow);
    double getCoeff() const;
    int getPow() const;
    void setCoeff(double coeff);
    void setPow(int pow);

private:
    double coeff;
    int pow;
};
#endif
```

Next, how do we save all terms of a polynomial? We have two options:

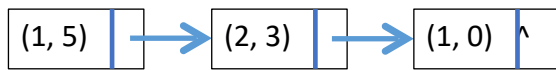
- (1) Use an array. Since power of a polynomial term is always non-negative, we can put the coefficient of term x^i in the cell indexed at i . For example, for polynomial $x^5 + 2x^3 + 1$, we can represent it in an array.

Array Index (for power)	0	1	2	3	4	5
Array element (for coefficient)	1	0	0	2	0	1

For example, `arr[3]` is 2, so we have term $2x^3$.

Array representation is not suitable for this application. Suppose we have a polynomial $x^{100} + 1$, then we need to use an array of size 101 since the indices of an array cannot be omitted, but only two cells in the array are not zero.

- (2) Use a linked list of `PolyNode*` to represent a polynomial. For example, the following list represents $x^5 + 2x^3 + 1$.



In C++, you can use `list` in its library.

```
#include <list>
```

Google “list c++” for operations. Read <http://www.cplusplus.com/reference/list/list/>.

Some piece of code in main function that may be useful for your program.

```
list<PolyNode*> polyHead;  
polyHead.push_back(new PolyNode(2, 3));  
polyHead.push_back(new PolyNode(1, 0));  
polyHead.push_back(new PolyNode(1, 5));
```

What you need to do

- (1) Implement `PolyNode.cpp`.
- (2) Define `subtract_polynomials.cpp`,
 - (2.1) Instantiate two polynomials.
 - (2) Write a `sortByPow` function to sort the terms of a polynomial by power in descending order.
 - (3) Define `subtract` function that takes two polynomials and return the polynomial that is the result of subtracting the second polynomial from the first one.
 - (4) Call `subtract` function on the two polynomials instantiated in (2.1).