

Math

July 24, 2022

A polynomial is an expression with at least one variable. All powers in a polynomial must be non-negative integers. The degree of a polynomial is the degree of the term with the largest degree. The degree of a term is the exponents on the variables of the term added up.

For example the degree of the term $3x^2$, assuming x is a variable, would be 2 as x is the only variable and its exponent is 2. Similarly the degree of $3x^2 + 5x + 2$ is 2 as $3x^2$ is the term with the largest degree 2.

Another example is the term x^2y , assuming both x and y are variables, the degree of the term is 3 as the exponent of x is 2 and the exponent of y is 1. $2 + 1$ is 3. Similarly the degree of $2x^2y + x^2 + y^2 + 2xy + 5$ is 3. As the degree of the largest term, $2x^2y$ is 3.