

2.4 Exponent Laws I

Product of Powers	Product as Repeated Multiplication	Product as a Power
$5^4 \times 5^2$	$(5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5) \times (5 \times 5)$	5^6
$3^2 \times 3^5$	$(3 \times 3) \times (3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3)$	3^7
$2^3 \times 2$	$(2 \times 2 \times 2) \times 2$	2^4
$6^3 \times 6^4$	$(6 \times 6 \times 6) \times (6 \times 6 \times 6 \times 6)$	6^7
$7^2 \times 7^3$	$(7 \times 7) \times (7 \times 7 \times 7)$	7^5

$2^3 \times 2 = 2^4$

Exponent Law for Product of Powers

To multiply powers with the same base add the exponents.

$$a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$$

Quotient of Powers	Quotient as Repeated Multiplication	Quotient as a Power
$5^4 \div 5^2 = \frac{5^4}{5^2}$	$\frac{\cancel{5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5}}{\cancel{5 \times 5}}$	5^2
$3^5 \div 3^4$	$\frac{\cancel{3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3}}{\cancel{3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3}}$	3^1
$2^7 \div 2^3$	$\frac{\cancel{2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2}}{\cancel{2 \times 2 \times 2}}$	2^4
$6^4 \div 6$	$\frac{\cancel{6 \times 6 \times 6 \times 6}}{\cancel{6}}$	6^3
$-5^3 \div 5^2$	$- \left[\frac{\cancel{5 \times 5 \times 5}}{\cancel{5 \times 5}} \right]$	-5^1

the negative is NOT a part of the base

Exponent Law for Quotient of Powers

To divide powers with the Same base subtract the exponents.

$$a^m \div a^n = a^{m-n}$$

Example (1): Simplify Products and Quotients with the Same Base

Write each expression as a power.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } 6^2 \times 6^4 \\ &= 6^{2+4} \\ &= 6^6 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } (-9)^7 \div (-9)^6 \\ &= (-9)^{7-6} \\ &= (-9)^1 \\ &= (-9) \end{aligned}$$

Example (2): Evaluating Expressions Using Exponent Laws

Evaluate.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } (-2)^3 \times (-2)^5 \\ &= (-2)^8 \\ &= 256 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } 3^4 \times 3^5 \div 3^3 \\ &= 3^9 \div 3^3 \\ &= 3^6 \\ &= 729 \end{aligned}$$

Example (3): Using Exponent Laws and the Order of Operations

Evaluate.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } 6^3 + 6^2 \times 6^5 \\ &= 6^3 + 6^7 \\ &= 216 + 279936 \\ &= 280152 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } (-10)^3 [(-10)^5 \div (-10)^2] - 10^7 \\ &= (-10)^3 [(-10)^3] - 10^7 \\ &= (-10)^6 - 10^7 \\ &= 1\,000\,000 - 10\,000\,000 \\ &= -9\,000\,000 \end{aligned}$$