

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

GPS # 32

7.3 OPERATIONS ON RADICAL EXPRESSIONS I

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Useful Guidelines:

If $\sqrt[n]{a}$ and $\sqrt[n]{b}$ are real numbers, and $b \neq 0$ and n is a natural number, then

* $\sqrt[n]{a} \cdot \sqrt[n]{b} = \sqrt[n]{ab}$ and $\sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{a}}{\sqrt[n]{b}}$. For example: $\sqrt[4]{8} \cdot \sqrt[4]{2} = \sqrt[4]{8 \cdot 2} = 2$ and $\sqrt[3]{\frac{8}{27}} = \frac{\sqrt[3]{8}}{\sqrt[3]{27}} = \frac{2}{3}$

* NOTE: $\sqrt[n]{a} + \sqrt[n]{b} \neq \sqrt[n]{a+b}$ and $\sqrt[n]{a} - \sqrt[n]{b} \neq \sqrt[n]{a-b}$

Only radical expression with the same index and the same radicand may be combined (combining the like terms or same family only).

For example: $\sqrt[3]{5} + 2\sqrt[3]{5} + 4\sqrt[3]{7} + 2\sqrt[3]{7} = 3\sqrt[3]{5} + 6\sqrt[3]{7}$.

Assume all variables represent positive real numbers. Simplify the following (if possible):

1. a) $\sqrt[3]{15} + 6\sqrt[3]{15}$ same
 $= 7\sqrt[3]{15}$

b) $\sqrt[3]{20} - \sqrt[3]{45} = \sqrt{4 \cdot 5} - \sqrt{9 \cdot 5}$
 $= \sqrt{4} \cdot \sqrt{5} - \sqrt{9} \cdot \sqrt{5}$
 $= 2\sqrt{5} - 3\sqrt{5}$ same
 $= -\sqrt{5}$

c) $2\sqrt[3]{45a} + \sqrt[3]{20a}$
 $= 2\sqrt[3]{9 \cdot 5a} + \sqrt[3]{4 \cdot 5a}$
 $= 6\sqrt[3]{5a} + 2\sqrt[3]{5a}$
 $= 8\sqrt[3]{5a}$

d) $3\sqrt[3]{5} - 5\sqrt[3]{2}$
 Can not simplify

2. a) $3\sqrt[3]{16} - 2\sqrt[3]{250}$
 $= 3\sqrt[3]{8 \cdot 2} - 2\sqrt[3]{125 \cdot 2}$
 $= 6\sqrt[3]{2} - 10\sqrt[3]{2}$
 $= -4\sqrt[3]{2}$

b) $5\sqrt[3]{12} - 3\sqrt[3]{27}$
 $= 5\sqrt[3]{4 \cdot 3} - 3\sqrt[3]{9 \cdot 3}$
 $= 10\sqrt[3]{3} - 9\sqrt[3]{3}$
 $= \sqrt[3]{3}$

c) $\sqrt[4]{81x^2y} + \sqrt[4]{16x^6y^5}$
 $= 3\sqrt[4]{x^2y} + \sqrt[4]{(2^4)(x^2x^4)(y^4y)}$
 $= 3\sqrt[4]{x^2y} + 2xy\sqrt[4]{x^2y}$
 $= (3+2xy)\sqrt[4]{x^2y}$

d) $\sqrt[3]{8m^2n} + 3\sqrt[3]{m^5n^7}$
 $= 2\sqrt[3]{m^2n} + 3\sqrt[3]{(m^3m^2)(n^3n^4)}$
 $= 2\sqrt[3]{m^2n} + 3mn^2\sqrt[3]{m^2n}$
 $= (2+3mn^2)\sqrt[3]{m^2n}$

3. a) $2\sqrt[4]{\frac{32}{25}} + 3\sqrt[4]{\frac{32}{8}} = 2\frac{\sqrt[4]{32}}{\sqrt[4]{25}} + 3\frac{\sqrt[4]{32}}{\sqrt[4]{8}}$
 $= 2\frac{\sqrt[4]{(16)(2)}}{5} + 3\frac{\sqrt[4]{(16)(2)}}{\sqrt[4]{(4)(2)}} = \frac{8\sqrt[4]{2}}{5} + \frac{12\sqrt[4]{2}}{2\sqrt[4]{2}} = \frac{8\sqrt[4]{2}}{5} + 6$

c) $\sqrt[3]{\frac{8x^3}{x^{12}}} + \sqrt[3]{\frac{16}{x^9}} = \frac{\sqrt[3]{8x^3}}{\sqrt[3]{x^{12}}} + \frac{\sqrt[3]{16}}{\sqrt[3]{x^9}} = \frac{2x}{\sqrt[3]{x^{12}}} + \frac{\sqrt[3]{(8)(2)}}{x^3} = \frac{2x^{(x^4)}}{x^4} + \frac{2\sqrt[3]{2}}{x^3}$
 $= \frac{2}{x^3} + \frac{2\sqrt[3]{2}}{x^3} = \frac{2+2\sqrt[3]{2}}{x^3}$

W
 Good
 job