

3.1 Factoring Polynomial Expressions

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p, 176-183 # 3bd, 4bd, 5bd, 6bd, 7b, 8, 9
10bd, 13, 18bd, 20

Chapter 3.1 Factoring Polynomial Equations

Pre-Calculus 11

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Notes

Last year we spent a significant amount of time factoring. This section will review some of the factoring strategies we learned.

Example 1 Is $d-4$ a factor of each trinomial? Justify the answer.

$2d^2 + 6d - 56$

FOIL

a. $2d^2 + 6d - 56$

if $d-4$ is a factor then: $(d-4)(ad+b) = 2d^2 + 6d - 56$

$ad^2 + bd - 4ad - 4b$

$= (2d^2 + d(b-4a) - 4b) = (2d^2 + 6d - 56$

$= 2d^2 + d(b-4a) - 4b = 2d^2 + 6d - 56$

$-4b = -56$

$= 2d^2 + 6d - 56 = 2d^2 + 6d - 56$

yes $d-4$ is a factor.

b. $2d^2 + 13d + 4$ you try

$(d-4)(ad+b) = 2d^2 + 13d + 4$

$ad^2 + d(b-4a) - 4b = 2d^2 + 13d + 4$

$2d^2 + d(b-4a) - 4b = 2d^2 + 13d + 4$

$-4b = 4$

$2d^2 + (-9d) + 4 \neq 2d^2 + 13d + 4$

so $d-4$ is not a factor.

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Example 2 Factor each trinomial with rational coefficients.

a. $x^2 - 1.5x + 0.5$

↳ factor out a 0.1 to give integer coefficients.

$0.1(10x^2 - 15x + 5)$ (basically take out 0.1 and multiply by 10)

$= 0.1(10x^2 - 10x - 5x + 5)$ $ac = 10 \times 5 = 50$ $\begin{pmatrix} -10 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$

$= 0.1(10x(x-1) - 5(x-1))$

$= 0.1[(10x-5)(x-1)]$

$= 0.5(2x-1)(x-1)$

b. $x^2 - \frac{17}{3}x - 2$ you try factor out $\frac{1}{3}$

$\frac{1}{3}(3x^2 - 17x - 6)$ $ac = -18$
 $+1$

$\frac{1}{3}(3x^2 - 18x + x - 6)$

$\frac{1}{3}[(3x(x-6) + (x-6))]$

$\frac{1}{3}[(3x+1)(x-6)]$

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Some polynomial expressions contains functions of a variable, for instance

$x^2 - x - 16$
 $(x+3)^2 - 6(x+3) - 16$ contains $f(x) = x+3$. Therefore we will use substitution to help us factor

Example 3 Factor each polynomial expression.

a. $x^2 + 5x - 24$

$(x-3)(x+8)$

2^{th} $x - 24$ $-3, +8$
 $+ 5$

b. $2(x-6)^2 + 10(x-6) - 48$

let $a = x-6$

$2a^2 + 10a - 48$

use substitution to put into $ax^2 + bx + c$

-48 2 factors $(16, -6)$

$2a^2 + 16a - 6a - 48$

$2a(a+8) - 6(a+8)$

$(a+8)(2a-6)$

now put $x-6$ back in!

$2(a+8)(a-3)$

$2(x-6+8)(x-6-3) = 2(x+2)(x-9)$

c. $3(2x+5)^2 + 10(2x+5) - 8$

*Factor fully!

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Example 4 Factor each polynomial expression using the Difference of Squares Pattern.

a. $a^2 - b^2 \leftarrow \text{last year}$

$$(a-b)(a+b)$$

b. $(3x+4)^2 - (2y-1)^2$

$$(a+b)(a-b)$$

$$= [(3x+4) + (2y-1)][(3x+4) - (2y-1)]$$

simplify

$$= (3x+2y+3)(3x-2y+5)$$

Stop here.

c. $27(2x-3)^2 - 75(y-4)^2$

$$3[9(2x-3)^2 - 25(y-4)^2]$$

$$(a+b)(a-b)$$

$$3[3^2(2x-3)^2 - 5^2(y-4)^2]$$

$$3[3(2x-3) + 5(y-4)][3(2x-3) - 5(y-4)]$$

$$3[6x(-9) + 5y(-20)][6x(-9) - 5y(-20)]$$

$$3[6x+5y-29][6x-5y+11]$$

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* see 3.1 for more examples.