

Factoring - Note

There are 4 things to look for when factoring:

- 1) Common Factor
- 2) Difference of Squares
- 3) Simple Trinomial
- 4) Complex Trinomial

1) Common Factor

- find the largest number and variable combination that go into each term
- divide each term by the common factor

Ex. Factor $6x^3 - 12x^2 + 24x$

$$\text{Solution: } = \underline{6x(x^2 - 2x + 4)}$$

2) Difference of Squares

- look for $a^2 - b^2$, since the two factors are $(a + b)$ and $(a - b)$

Ex. Factor $36x^2 - 49y^2$

$$\text{Solution: } = \underline{(6x - 7y)(6x + 7y)}$$

3) Simple Trinomial

- look for $x^2 + bx + c$, i.e. the coefficient of the x^2 term is 1
- find 2 numbers, m and n, that multiply to c and add to b
- the two factors are $(x + m)$ and $(x + n)$

Ex. Factor $x^2 + 5x + 6$

two numbers that multiply to 6 and add to 5 are: 3 and 2

$$\text{Solution: } x^2 + 5x + 6 = \underline{(x + 3)(x + 2)}$$

Ex. Factor $x^2 - 6x - 7$

two numbers that multiply to -7 and add to -6 are: 1 and -7

$$\text{Solution: } x^2 - 6x - 7 = \underline{(x - 7)(x + 1)}$$

4) Complex Trinomial

- look for $ax^2 + bx + c$, i.e. the coefficient of the x^2 term is not 1
- find 2 numbers, m and n, that multiply to $a \times c$ and add to b
- decompose (break) the middle term into 2 pieces: mx and nx
- common factor the first 2 terms and the last 2 terms
- write the solution as the product of the 2 factors

Ex. Factor $6x^2 - x - 12$

two numbers that multiply to -72 and add to -1 are: -9 and +8

$$\text{Solution: } 6x^2 - x - 12 = \underline{6x^2 - 9x + 8x - 12}$$

$$= \underline{3x(2x - 3) + 4(2x - 3)} \quad * \text{ note: 1 factor should be the same!!}$$

$$= \underline{(3x + 4)(2x - 3)}$$

Factoring Review Continued

1. $144x^2 - 25y^2$

$$= (12x - 5y)(12x + 5y)$$

2. $4x^2 + 25$

D.N.F

(sum of squares)

3. $8p^3 + 4p^2 - 2p - 1$

$$= 4p^2(2p+1) - (2p+1)$$

$$= (4p^2 - 1)(2p+1)$$

$$= (2p-1)(2p+1)(2p+1)$$

$$= (2p+1)^2(2p-1)$$

4. $(7x+4y)^2 - (8x-3y)^2$

$$= (7x+4y+8x-3y)(7x+4y-(8x-3y))$$

$$= (15x+y)(-x+7y)$$

5. $2x^2 + 4x + 1$

D.N.F

6. $9p^2 - 30p + 25$

$$= 9p^2 - 15p - 15p + 25$$

$$= 3p(3p-5) - 5(3p-5)$$

$$= (3p-5)^2$$

7. $12a^2 + 12a + 3$

$$= 3(4a^2 + 4a + 1)$$

$$= 3(4a^2 + 2a + 2a + 1)$$

$$= 3(2a(2a+1) + (2a+1))$$

$$8. -x^2 - 3x + 40 = 3(2a+1)^2$$

$$= -(x^2 + 3x - 40)$$

$$= -(x+8)(x-5)$$

9. $25x^2 - 20xy + 4y - 49$

$$= (25x^2 - 49) + (-20xy + 28y)$$

$$= (5x-7)(5x+7) - 4y(5x-7)$$

$$= (5x-7)(5x+7-4y)$$

10. $16x^2(2x-1) - 49(2x-1)$

$$= (16x^2 - 49)(2x-1)$$

$$= (4x-7)(4x+7)(2x-1)$$

11. $16x^4 - 81y^4$

$$= (4x^2 - 9y^2)(4x^2 + 9y^2)$$

$$= (2x-3y)(2x+3y)(4x^2+9y^2)$$

12. $2x^2 + 3x - 2$

$$= 2x^2 + 4x - x - 2$$

$$= 2x(x+2) - (x+2)$$

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

Solving Equations – Note

Solving Equations

- look for $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, i.e. the right hand side = 0
- if you have an x^2 term, then rearrange the equation so that the right hand side is 0
- factor, if possible, then set each factor = 0 to find the value of x that solves the equation

- if factoring is not possible, use the quadratic formula: $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$

Ex. Solve $x^2 + 3x + 2 = 0$

Solution: $(x + 1)(x + 2) = 0$

If $x + 1 = 0$, then $x = -1$

If $x + 2 = 0$, then $x = -2$

Therefore the solution is $x = -1$ or $x = -2$.

Ex. Solve $2x^2 - 7x - 4 = 0$

Solution: $2x^2 - 8x + x - 4 = 0$

$$2x(x - 4) + 1(x - 4) = 0$$

$$(x - 4)(2x + 1) = 0$$

If $x - 4 = 0$, then $x = 4$

If $2x + 1 = 0$, then $x = -\frac{1}{2}$

Therefore the solution is $x = 4$ or $x = -\frac{1}{2}$.

Ex. Solve $2x^2 + 3x + 4 = 5 - 2x$, correct to 2 decimal places

Rearrange so RHS = 0: $2x^2 + 5x - 1 = 0$ (cannot be factored, so use quadratic formula)

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{5^2 - 4(2)(-1)}}{2(2)}$$

$$x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{25 + 8}}{4}$$

Exact answer: $x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{33}}{4}$

*exact answer: stop here

Approx answer: $x = \frac{-5 + 5.745}{4}$ or $x = \frac{-5 - 5.745}{4}$

*carry at least 1 extra decimal place
until the final answer

$$x = 0.19 \quad \text{or} \quad x = -2.69$$

Therefore the solution is $x = 0.19$ or $x = -2.69$.

Factoring and Solving Quadratic Equations

1. Factor completely.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } & -3xyz - 21x^2yz \\ & = -3xyz(1+7x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } & a^2 + 5a + 6 \\ & = (a+3)(a+2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{e) } & 64x^2 - 9y^2 \\ & = (8x-3y)(8x+3y) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{g) } & 3m^2 - 5mn - 2n^2 \\ & = 3m^2 - 6mn + mn - 2n^2 \\ & = 3m(m-2n) + n(m-2n) \\ & = (3m+n)(m-2n) \end{aligned}$$

2. Factor completely.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } & 4s^3 + 12s^2 - 16s \\ & = 4s(s^2 + 3s - 4) \\ & = 4s(s+4)(s-1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } & 4x^2 - 26x - 14 \\ & = 2(2x^2 - 13x - 7) \\ & = 2(2x^2 - 14x + x - 7) \\ & = 2(2x(x-7) + (x-7)) \\ & = 2(2x+1)(x-7) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{e) } & 5t^2 - 5t - 30 \\ & = 5(t^2 - t - 6) \\ & = 5(t-3)(t+2) \end{aligned}$$

Solutions

$$\begin{aligned} 1. \text{ a) } & -3xyz(1+7x) \\ & \text{e) } (8x+3y)(8x-3y) \\ 2. \text{ a) } & 4s(s+4)(s-1) \\ & \text{e) } 5(t-3)(t+2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } & (5m+7)(5m-7) \\ \text{f) } & 7n(2m^2+m-3n) \\ \text{b) } & 12x(x-2)(3x-1) \\ \text{f) } & 3(2x-1)(3x+4) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } & 25m^2 - 49 \\ & = (5m-7)(5m+7) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d) } & 6x^2 - 7x - 5 \\ & = 6x^2 - 10x + 3x - 5 \\ & = 2x(3x-5) + (3x-5) \\ & = (2x+1)(3x-5) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{f) } & 14m^2n + 7mn - 21n^2 \\ & = 7(2m^2 + mn - 3n^2) \\ & = 7(2m+3n)(m-n) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{h) } & x^2 - 6xy - 16y^2 \\ & = x^2 - 8xy + 2xy - 16y^2 \\ & = x(x-8y) + 2y(x-8y) \\ & = (x+2y)(x-8y) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } & 36x^3 - 84x^2 + 24x \\ & = 12x(3x^2 - 7x + 2) \\ & = 12x(3x^2 - 6x - x + 2) \\ & = 12x(3x(x-2) - (x-2)) = 12x(3x-1)(x-2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d) } & 3a^2 + 18a + 27 \\ & = 3(a^2 + 6a + 9) \\ & = 3(a+3)(a+3) \\ & = 3(a+3)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{f) } & 18x^2 + 15x - 12 \\ & = 3(6x^2 + 5x - 4) \\ & = 3(6x^2 + 8x - 3x - 4) \\ & = 3(2x(3x+4) - (3x+4)) \\ & = 3(2x-1)(3x+4) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } & (a+3)(a+2) & \text{d) } & (3x-5)(2x+1) \\ \text{g) } & (m-2n)(3m+n) & \text{h) } & (x-8)(x+2) \\ \text{c) } & 2(x-7)(2x+1) & \text{d) } & 3(a+3)^2 \end{aligned}$$

3. Solve by factoring.

a) $x^2 - 4x - 12 = 0$

$$(x-6)(x+2) = 0$$

$$x = 6 \text{ or } x = -2$$

c) $5x = 6x^2 + 1$

$$6x^2 - 5x + 1 = 0$$

$$6x^2 - 3x - 2x + 1 = 0$$

$$3x(2x-1) - (2x-1) = 0$$

$$(3x-1)(2x-1) = 0$$

$$x = \frac{1}{3} \text{ or } x = \frac{1}{2}$$

4. Solve using the quadratic formula - exact roots.

a) $x^2 - 3x - 5 = 0$

$$x = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{9 - 4(1)(-5)}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{29}}{2}$$

b) $x^2 - 8x + 15 = 0$

$$(x-5)(x-3) = 0$$

$$x = 5 \text{ or } x = 3.$$

d) $50x^2 - 162 = 0$

$$2(25x^2 - 81) = 0$$

$$2(5x-9)(5x+9) = 0$$

$$x = \pm \frac{9}{5}$$

4. Solve using the quadratic formula - exact roots.

a) $x^2 - 3x - 5 = 0$

$$x = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{9 - 4(1)(-5)}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{29}}{2}$$

b) $4y^2 + 7y - 9 = 0$

$$y = \frac{-7 \pm \sqrt{49 - 4(4)(-9)}}{8}$$

$$= \frac{-7 \pm \sqrt{193}}{8}$$

5. Solve using the quadratic formula - approximate roots, rounded to 2 decimal places.

a) $2j^2 + 5j - 4 = 0$

$$j = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{25 - 4(2)(-4)}}{4}$$

$$= \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{57}}{4}$$

$$j_1 = \frac{-5 + \sqrt{57}}{4} = 0.64$$

$$j_2 = \frac{-5 - \sqrt{57}}{4} = -3.14$$

b) $3g^2 + 2 = 11g$

Homework: p. 102 #1-6 (p. 107 #6-10)

Solutions

3. a) $x = 6, x = -2$

b) $x = 5, x = 3$

c) $x = \frac{1}{2}, x = \frac{1}{3}$

d) $x = \frac{9}{5}, x = -\frac{9}{5}$

4. a) $x = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{29}}{2}$

b) $y = \frac{-7 \pm \sqrt{193}}{8}$

5. a) $j = 0.64, j = -3.14$

b) $g = 3.47, g = 0.19$