

Polynomials

Expression(s)	Term
0	Zero polynomial
x	Monomials
x^2	
4	
$-5x$	
$2x^5$	
$x + 2$	Binomials
$2y - 6$	
$a^3 - 4$	

Examples	Linear	Quadratic	Cubic
Monomial	$2x$	x^2	$4x^3$
Binomial	$3x + 8$	$x^2 - 25$	$8a^3 + 27b^3$
Trinomial		$3x^2 - 5x + 4$	$3x^3 + 5y^3 - 15xy$

An expression cannot be called a polynomial if any of the terms contain a power less than 0.

\sqrt{x} , $a^{0.25}$, $\frac{1}{x}$ are not polynomials.

	Constant	Variable(s)	Exponent
$5x$	5	x	1
$-4x^2$	-4	x	2
$24ab$	24	ab	1
9	9	x	0
$\frac{3}{5}ab^2$	$\frac{3}{5}$	ab	2
$\frac{1}{x^2}$	1	x	-2

Zeros (Roots) of a polynomial:

Any value(s) of a variable that makes the polynomial equal to zero.

$$x - 1$$

When $x = 1$, the expression becomes zero.

$$a^2 = 49$$

Roots are $a = +7$ and $a = -7$

$$2x + 7$$

The root is $-7/2$

Linear expressions have **one** root

Quadratic expressions have **two** roots

Cubic expressions have **three** roots

Remainder theorem

To find the remainder when one polynomial is divided by another, without long division.

Example:

Find remainder when $x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x - 1$ is divided by $x + 2$

1. Find the zero (root) of the divisor.

$$x + 2 = 0. \quad \text{Therefore } x = -2$$

2. Substitute this root in the dividend $x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x - 1$

$$p(-2) = (-2)^3 - 3(-2)^2 + 5(-2) - 1$$

$$p(-2) = -31$$

The remainder is -31

Factorisation

It means finding the factors of a polynomial.

A quadratic polynomial has two factors.

A cubic polynomial has three factors.

Finding factors using Factor theorem (for both quadratic and cubic)

A. Find factors of $x^2 + 3x - 10$

1. This is in the form of $px^2 + qx + r$

Find the factors of pr

Factors of 10 are +1, +2, +5, +10, -1, -2, -5, -10

2. Substitute one by one till the expression equates to zero.

$$p(1) = 1^2 + 3(1) - 10 \quad \text{This is not equal to zero}$$

$$p(2) = 2^2 + 3(2) - 10 \quad \text{This is equal to zero}$$

2 is one of the roots, and $x - 2$ is one of the factors

3. The second factor can be found either by long division, or by substituting the other factors.

$$p(-5) = (-5)^2 + 3(-5) - 10 = 0$$

4. The factors are $(x - 2)(x + 5)$ and the roots are $x = +2, x = -5$

B. Find factors of $a^3 - 2a^2 - 5a + 6$

1. Factors of 6 are +1, -1, +2, -2, +3, -3, +6, -6

2. $p(1) = 1^3 - 2(1)^2 - 5(1) + 6 = 0$ $a - 1$ is one of the factors
 $p(3) = 3^3 - 2(3)^2 - 5(3) + 6 = 0$ $a - 3$ is one of the factors
 $p(-2) = (-2)^3 - 2(-2)^2 - 5(-2) + 6 = 0$ $a + 2$ is one of the factors

C. Find factors of $2x^2 + 5x - 3$ using Factor theorem

1. When the coefficient of the highest power is more than 1, make it 1

$$2\left(x^2 + \frac{5}{2}x - \frac{3}{2}\right)$$

2. Find the factors of $3/2$

+1, -1, +3/2, -3/2, +1/2, -1/2, +3, -3 are some of the factors

3. Substituting one by one, the factors are $(2x - 1)(x + 3)$

Roots are $x = 1/2$ and -3

Finding factors using Splitting the Middle Term theorem (only quadratic)

A. Factorise $x^2 - 5x + 6$

1. The equation is of the form $px^2 + qx + r$

Find the factors of pr

$$pr = 6$$

Factors of 6 are 1, 2, 3, 6

2. When pr is **positive**, the factors must be **added** to form the middle term, q

When pr is **negative**, the factors must be **subtracted** to form q

$$pr = +6$$

$$q = -5$$

$2 + 3 = 5$. So, 2 and 3 must be selected such that their addition gives -5

$$-2 - 3 = -5$$

3. $x^2 - 5x + 6$ is changed to $x^2(-2x - 3x) + 6$

$$x^2 - 2x - 3x + 6$$

4. Take common out of 1st and 2nd, and 3rd and 4th
 $x(x - 2) - 3(x - 2)$
 $(x - 2)(x - 3)$ are the factors. Roots are 2 and 3

B. Factorize $2a^2 - 5a - 3$

- $2 \times 3 = 6$
- Factors of 6 are 1, 2, 3, 6
- pr = -6. Since it is negative, factors must be subtracted to get the middle term, -5
- $1 - 6 = -5$
- $2a^2 - a + 6a - 3$
- $a(2a - 1) + 3(2a - 1)$
 $(2a - 1)(a + 3)$ are the factors. Roots are $\frac{1}{2}$ and -3

Algebraic Identities

- $(x + y)^2 = x^2 + 2xy + y^2$
- $(x - y)^2 = x^2 - 2xy + y^2$
- $x^2 - y^2 = (x + y)(x - y)$
- $(x + a)(x + b) = x^2 + (a + b)x + ab$

A. Find 98×102

$$(100 - 2)(100 + 2) = 100^2 - 2^2 = 10000 - 4 = 9996$$

B. Factorise $36x^2 - 25y^2$

$$(6x)^2 - (5y)^2 = (6x + 5y)(6x - 5y)$$

C. Factorise $9x^2 + 12xy + 4y^2$

- $(3x)^2 + 2(3x)(2y) + (2y)^2$
 - It is in the form $a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = (a + b)^2$
 - Factors are $(3x + 2y)^2$
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V. $(x + y)^3 = x^3 + y^3 + 3xy(x + y)$

VI. $(x - y)^3 = x^3 - y^3 - 3xy(x - y)$

VII. If $x + y + z = 0$, $x^3 + y^3 + z^3 = 3xyz$

[Factorise quadratic equation by splitting the middle term](#)