



# Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

## 8 Using Synthetic Division to Factor Polynomials

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 4y &= 5 \\ 2x - y &= -10 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

### Learning Objectives

$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1 - z^{n+1}}{1 - z}$$

- Use division to factor polynomials and determine zeros.
- Use synthetic division to simplify the division process.
- Use the Remainder Theorem to find function values of polynomials.
- Use the Factor Theorem to relate zeros to factors of polynomials.

When solving for the zeros of a function, it helps if we can break the function down into factors. Synthetic division will be useful to us.

$k \in \mathbb{R}$  (i.e.  $k$  is a constant)

<p><b>Factor Theorem</b></p> <p>A polynomial <math>f(x)</math> has a factor <math>(x-k)</math> if and only if <math>f(k) = 0</math>.</p>	<p><b>Remainder Theorem</b></p> <p>If a polynomial <math>f(x)</math> is divided by <math>(x-k)</math>, then the remainder <math>r = f(k)</math>.</p>
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*Note*  $k$  is a zero  $\Leftrightarrow (x-k)$  is factor i.e. remainder value is same as value  $f(k)$ .  
 Long division is ALWAYS useful for division of polynomials.

Synthetic division is only useful when dividing by  $(x-k)$  where  $k \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Ex 1: Use long division to divide  $(4x^3 + 10x^2 - 2x - 5)$  by  $(2x^2 - 1)$ .

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2x+5 \\
 2x^2-1 \overline{) 4x^3+10x^2-2x-5} \\
 \underline{-(4x^3+0x^2-2x)} \phantom{-5} \\
 10x^2+0x-5 \\
 \underline{-(10x^2-5)} \\
 0
 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow (4x^3+10x^2-2x-5) \div (2x^2-1) = 2x+5$$

Notice this process can help us factor the cubic (third degree) polynomial.

We get  $(2x+5)(2x^2-1) = 4x^3+10x^2-2x-5$

Remember long division of numbers:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 32 \\
 71 \overline{) 2304} \\
 \underline{-213} \\
 174 \\
 \underline{-142} \\
 32
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Rightarrow 2304 \div 71 \\
 &= 32 + \frac{32}{71} \\
 &= 32 \frac{32}{71}
 \end{aligned}$$

Ex 2: Divide  $(x^3 + 4x^2 - 3x + 2)$  by  $(x-3)$  in two ways. ↙ dividing by linear polynomial.

Long division

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x^2 + 7x + 18 \\
 x-3 \overline{) x^3 + 4x^2 - 3x + 2} \\
 \underline{-(x^3 - 3x^2)} \phantom{+ 2} \\
 7x^2 - 3x + 2 \\
 \underline{-(7x^2 - 21x)} \phantom{+ 2} \\
 18x + 2 \\
 \underline{-(18x - 54)} \\
 56 \text{ remainder}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &(x^3 + 4x^2 - 3x + 2) \div (x-3) \\
 &= x^2 + 7x + 18 + \frac{56}{x-3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Synthetic division

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr}
 3 & 1 & 4 & -3 & 2 \\
 & & 3 & 21 & 54 \\
 \hline
 & 1 & 7 & 18 & 56 \text{ remainder}
 \end{array}$$

$x-3=0$   
 $x=3$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\Rightarrow (x^3 + 4x^2 - 3x + 2) \div (x-3) \\
 &= x^2 + 7x + 18 + \frac{56}{x-3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Ex 3: Use synthetic division to compute this quotient.

$$(5x^3 + 6x + 8) \div (x + 2)$$

$q(x) = \text{quotient}$

Write the result in the form  $f(x) = (x-k)(q(x)) + r(x)$   $r(x) = \text{remainder}$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} -2 & 5 & 0 & 6 & 8 \\ & \textcircled{1} & & & \\ \hline & & -10 & 20 & -52 \\ \textcircled{3} & 5 & -10 & 26 & \textcircled{-44} \end{array}$$

remainder

Tips to help w/ process:

- ① bring left # down
- ② multiply by root
- ③ in columns, add down

in our case  $f(x) = 5x^3 + 6x + 8, k = -2$   
 $q(x) = 5x^2 - 10x + 26, r(x) = -44$   
 answer:  $f(x) = (x+2)(5x^2 - 10x + 26) - 44$

Ex 4: Use the remainder theorem and synthetic division to show that  $(x+3)$  is a factor of this function.

$$f(x) = 3x^3 + 5x^2 - 3x + 27$$

(b)

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} -3 & 3 & 5 & -3 & 27 \\ & & \downarrow & & \\ \hline & & -9 & 12 & -27 \\ & 3 & -4 & 9 & \textcircled{0} \end{array}$$

remainder

$$\begin{aligned} x+3 &= 0 \\ x &= -3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{3x^3 + 5x^2 - 3x + 27}{(x+3)} = 3x^2 - 4x + 9$$

$$\Rightarrow 3x^3 + 5x^2 - 3x + 27 = (x+3)(3x^2 - 4x + 9)$$

(a)  $f(-3) = 3(-3)^3 + 5(-3)^2 - 3(-3) + 27$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 3(-27) + 5(9) + 9 + 27 = -81 + 45 + 36 \\ &= -81 + 81 = \textcircled{0} \end{aligned}$$

remainder

$\Rightarrow x+3$  is factor of  $f(x)$  since the remainder is 0.

Ex 5: Use division to show that  $\frac{2}{3}$  is a solution of  $48x^3 - 80x^2 + 41x - 6 = 0$ .  
 Use the result to factor the polynomial completely and find all solutions.

$$\frac{2}{3} \overline{) \begin{array}{r} 48 \quad -80 \quad 41 \quad -6 \\ \underline{32 \quad -32 \quad 6} \\ 48 \quad -48 \quad 9 \quad \textcircled{0} \end{array}}$$

*remainder*  $\Rightarrow (x - \frac{2}{3})$  is factor of the cubic polynomial

$$48x^3 - 80x^2 + 41x - 6 = 0$$

$$(x - \frac{2}{3})(48x^2 - 48x + 9) = 0$$

$$(x - \frac{2}{3})(3)(16x^2 - 16x + 3) = 0$$

$$\underline{3(x - \frac{2}{3})(4x - 1)(4x - 3)} = 0$$

$$(3x - 2)(4x - 1)(4x - 3) = 0$$

$$3x - 2 = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad 4x - 1 = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad 4x - 3 = 0$$

$$3x = 2$$

$$\textcircled{x = \frac{2}{3}}$$

$$4x = 1$$

$$\textcircled{x = \frac{1}{4}}$$

$$4x = 3$$

$$\textcircled{x = \frac{3}{4}}$$