

## Factoring Trinomials: $ax^2 + bx + c$ (5.5)

Math 098

Let's investigate patterns from factoring that we have learned to date:

a.)  $x^2 + 10x + 16$

$$= (x+8)(x+2)$$

b.)  $x^2 + 6x - 16$

$$= (x+8)(x-2)$$

c.)  $x^2 - 10x + 16$

$$= (x-8)(x+2)$$

d.)  $x^2 - 6x - 16$

$$= (x-8)(x+2)$$

In review:

$$a, b, c > 0$$

$$ax^2 \pm bx + c$$

same sign

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pm b & \nearrow & + \\ & \searrow & - \end{array}$$

$$ax^2 \pm bx - c$$

opposite signs

$$\begin{array}{cc} + & - \\ - & + \end{array} \quad \left. \right\} \text{careful.}$$

and multiply  $(2x+1)(x+6)$

$$= 2x^2 + 12x + x + 6$$

$$= 2x^2 + 13x + 6$$

and multiply  $(2x+3)(3x-4)$

$$= 6x^2 - 8x + 9x - 12$$

$$= 6x^2 + x - 12$$

Go back to the previous two questions and consider how many possibilities must be considered if we guess and check.

1st - 4 combos

2nd - 24 "

For the following "method" to work, we MUST ALWAYS factor out the GCF first.

Example 1: Factor

a.)  $4x^2 + 12x + 5 = (2x + 5)(2x + 1)$

$$\begin{array}{c|cc} 1 & & \\ \hline 4 & & \\ & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ \boxed{2} & 5 & 1 \\ & \boxed{2} & 1 \\ & & 5 \end{array}$$

check:  $4x^2 + 2x + 10x + 5 \checkmark$

Hint: When you can, start with the most "middle" values for a).

b.)  $6x^2 - 5x + 1 = (2x - 1)(3x - 1)$

$$\begin{array}{c|c} 1 & \\ \hline 6 & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|cc} 2 & 1^3 \\ \hline 3 & 1 \\ & 2 \end{array}$$

difference

c.)  $2x^2 - 11x + 12 = (2x - 3)(x - 4)$  d.)  $35x^2 + 4x - 4 = (5x + 2)(7x - 2)$

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccccc} \downarrow & & & & & & & \\ 2 & 2 & 3 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 1 & \\ \hline 1 & 3 & 4 & 4 & 4 & \} & 12 & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccccc} 5 & 28 & 7 & +14 \\ \hline 7 & 1 & 4 & -2 \\ \hline 35 & 4 & 1 & 2 \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 4 & 2 \end{array}$$

$$e.) 14a^2 - 3ab - 2b^2$$

$$= (7a + 2b)(2a - b)$$

consider difference  
 $14a^2 - 3a - 2$

$$\begin{array}{r} & +2 & 1 \\ 7 & \cancel{|} & \cancel{/} \\ 2 & -1 & \cancel{/} \\ & -7 & \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 1 \\ \hline 14 & 1 & 2 \end{array}$$

$$g.) -5x^2 - 19x + 4$$

$$= -(5x^2 + 19x - 4)$$

$$= -(5x - 1)(x + 4)$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 5 | & 2 & -1 \\ \textcircled{5} | & \cancel{2} & \cancel{-1} \\ 1 | & 2 & \textcircled{+4} \\ & 10 & +20 \end{array} \rightarrow 5x - 1$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 | & 2 & -1 \\ \textcircled{1} | & \cancel{2} & \cancel{-1} \\ & 10 & +20 \end{array} \rightarrow x + 4$$

$$i.) 42a^2b + 55ab - 25b$$

$$= b(14a - 5)(3a + 5)$$

$$42a^2b + 55ab - 25b$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 | & 1 & 25 & 5 \\ \textcircled{6} | & \cancel{1} & \cancel{25} & \cancel{5} \\ 7 | & 25 & 1 & 5 \\ & 30 & & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 | & 1 & 25 & -15 \\ 3 | & 25 & 1 & +5 \\ & 14 & +70 & \end{array}$$

$$b(14a - 5)(3a + 5)$$

$$f.) 6xy^2 + 33xy - 18x$$

$$= 3x(2y^2 + 11y - 6)$$

$$= 3x(2y - 1)(y + 6)$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 | & 3 & -1 \\ 1 | & \cancel{3} & \cancel{-1} \\ & 2 & +6 \\ & 4 & +12 \end{array}$$

$$h.) 30x^2 - 23x - 45$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 | & 1 & 45 & 5 & +9 \\ 3 | & \cancel{1} & \cancel{45} & \cancel{5} & \cancel{+9} \\ & 25 & 1 & -5 & -5 \\ & & & 30 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$= (10x + 9)(3x - 5)$$

check:

$$30x^2 - 50x + 27x - 45$$

$$j.) 12x^2 + 5x - 6$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 | & 1 & 6 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 | & 6 & 1 & 3 & 2 \\ & & 12 & & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 | & 1 & 6 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 | & \cancel{1} & \cancel{6} & \cancel{2} & \cancel{3} \\ & 6 & 1 & 3 & 2 \end{array}$$

prime.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 | & 1 & 6 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 | & \cancel{1} & \cancel{6} & \cancel{2} & \cancel{3} \\ & 6 & 1 & 3 & 2 \end{array}$$

Important: If the leading coefficient is 1 ( $x^2 + bx + c$ ) then you do NOT need a table.

Example 2: Solve  $30x^2 - 26x + 4 = 0$        $\text{GCF} = 2$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow 15x^2 - 13x + 2 &= 0 \quad \Rightarrow 5x - 1 = 0 \quad \text{OR} \quad 3x - 2 = 0 \\ \Rightarrow (5x - 1)(3x - 2) &= 0 \quad \Rightarrow 5x = 1 \quad \text{OR} \quad 3x = 2 \\ &\quad \Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{5} \quad \text{OR} \quad x = \frac{2}{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 15 \\ \hline 5 \\ 3 \\ \hline -2 \\ -10 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Example 3: Given  $f(x) = 24x^2 - 37x$ , find  $a$  such that  $f(a) = 72$ .

$$\begin{aligned} f(a) &= 24a^2 - 37a \quad (3a - 8)(8a + 9) = 0 \\ \text{Solve } 24a^2 - 37a &= 72 \quad a = \frac{8}{3} \text{ or } a = -\frac{9}{8} \\ \Rightarrow 24a^2 - 37a - 72 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ 4 \\ \hline 8 \quad 9 \quad 18 \quad 4 \quad 1 \quad 72 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 24 \quad 6 \quad 12 \\ 4 \quad 8 \quad 4 \quad 10 \quad 72 \quad 1 \quad 72 \quad 2 \quad 24 \quad 12 \quad 6 \quad 12 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Example 4: (You try) Factor  $-30p^3q + 88p^2q^2 + 6pq^3$

$$\begin{aligned} &= -2pq(15p^2 - 44pq - 3q^2) \\ &= -2pq(15p + q)(p - 3q) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ 8 \\ \hline -8 \\ 8 \\ \hline 14 \\ 14 \\ \hline 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ 5 \\ \hline 15 \\ 15 \\ \hline 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ 15 \\ \hline 45 \\ 45 \\ \hline 0 \end{array}$$

Example 5: Find the  $x$ -intercepts of  $f(x) = 63x^3 + 111x^2 + 36x$

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Solve } 63x^3 + 111x^2 + 36x = 0 \quad \begin{array}{r} 36 \\ 12 \\ 6 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ \hline 14 \\ 14 \\ \hline 0 \end{array} \\ &\Rightarrow 3x(21x^2 + 37x + 12) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow 3x(7x + 3)(3x + 4) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow 3x = 0 \quad \text{OR} \quad 7x + 3 = 0 \quad \text{OR} \quad 3x + 4 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow x = 0 \quad \text{OR} \quad x = -\frac{3}{7} \quad \text{OR} \quad x = -\frac{4}{3} \end{aligned}$$