

Math-3

Lesson 2-8  
Divide Polynomials

# Long Division

$$\frac{541}{12} = 12 \overline{)541}$$

$$= \textcircled{12} \overline{) \textcircled{541}}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 45 \\ 12 \overline{)541} \\ \underline{-48} \\ 6 \\ = 61 \\ \underline{-60} \\ 1 \end{array}$$

Look at the left numbers

12 divides 54

4 times 12 = 48

Subtract 48 from 54

Bring the "1" down.

5 times 12 = 60;  
subtract 60 from 61

$$\frac{541}{12} = 45 + \frac{1}{12} \begin{array}{l} \text{Remainder} \\ \text{Divisor} \end{array}$$

The Factor Theorem If a polynomial  $f(x)$  is divided by  $(x - k)$ , and the remainder is “0,” then  $(x - k)$  is a factor of the original polynomial and the zero of  $(x - k)$  is a zero of the polynomial.

Polynomial Long division: One method used to divide polynomials similar to long division for numbers.

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

The remainder = 0 0

Is  $(x + 4)$  a factor of:  
 $x^2 + 5x + 4$  ?

YES, according to the  
Factor Theorem.

The zero of  $(x + 4)$  is  
a zero of

$$f(x) = x^2 + 5x + 4$$

# Polynomial Long Division

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{x} - 1 \quad ) \quad \textcircled{x^3} + 3x^2 + 14x - 18 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

1) Look at left-most numbers

2) What # times “left” = “left”?

$$\frac{x^3}{x} = ? = x^2$$

3) Multiply

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

4) Subtract

$$-(x^3 - x^2)$$

# Polynomial Long Division

$$\begin{array}{r} x-1 \overline{) x^3 + 3x^2 + 14x - 18} \\ \underline{-(x^3 - x^2)} \phantom{+ 14x - 18} \\ 4x^2 + 14x - 18 \end{array}$$

4) Subtract

Careful with the  
negatives!

5) Bring down.

# Polynomial Long Division

$x - 1$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x^2 + 4x \\
 \hline
 ) x^3 + 3x^2 + 14x - 18 \\
 -(x^3 - x^2) \\
 \hline
 4x^2 + 14x - 18 \\
 -(4x^2 - 4x) \\
 \hline
 18x
 \end{array}$$

6) Repeat steps 1-5.

1) Look at left-most numbers

2) What # times "left" = "left"?

$$\frac{4x^2}{x} = ? = 4x$$

3) Multiply

$$4x(x - 1) = 4x^2 - 4x$$

4) Subtract

$$-(4x^2 - 4x)$$

# Polynomial Long Division

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 + 4x \\ \hline x-1 \ ) \ x^3 + 3x^2 + 14x - 18 \\ \underline{-(x^3 - x^2)} \end{array}$$

4) Subtract

$$\begin{array}{r} 4x^2 + 14x - 18 \\ \underline{-(4x^2 - 4x)} \end{array}$$

Careful of the negatives

$$\begin{array}{r} 18x - 18 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

5) Bring down.

# Polynomial Long Division

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x^2 + 4x + 18 \\
 \hline
 (x - 1) \overline{) x^3 + 3x^2 + 14x - 18} \\
 \underline{-(x^3 - x^2)} \phantom{- 18} \\
 4x^2 + 14x - 18 \\
 \underline{-(4x^2 - 4x)} \phantom{- 18} \\
 18x - 18 \\
 \underline{-(18x - 18)} \\
 0
 \end{array}$$

6) Repeat steps 1-5.

1) Look at left-most numbers

2) What # times "left" = "left"?

$$\frac{18x}{x} = 18$$

3) Multiply

$$18(x - 1)$$

$$18x - 18$$

4) Subtract

$$\underline{-(18x - 18)}$$



$$\begin{array}{r}
 x^2 + 4x - 18 \\
 \hline
 x - 1 \ ) \ x^3 + 3x^2 + 14x - 18 \\
 \quad -(x^3 - x^2) \\
 \hline
 \qquad 4x^2 + 14x - 18 \\
 \qquad -(4x^2 - 4x) \\
 \hline
 \qquad \qquad 18x - 18 \\
 \qquad \qquad -(18x - 18) \\
 \hline
 \qquad \qquad \qquad 0
 \end{array}$$

$$x^3 + 3x^2 + 14x - 18 = (x - 1)(x^2 + 4x - 18)$$

How do we find the zeroes of the unfactorable quadratic factor?

Convert to vertex form and take square roots.

## Division with remainders

$$x - 2 \overline{) x^4 + x^3 - 4x^2 + 2x - 12}$$



Is there an easier way to do this?

Yes!

$$x - 1 \overline{) x^3 - 4x^2 - 15x + 18}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \overline{) 1 \quad -4 \quad -15 \quad 18} \\ \underline{1 \quad -3} \end{array}$$

4<sup>th</sup> step: Multiply the “zero” by the lead coefficient.

5<sup>th</sup> step: Write the product under the next term to the right.

6<sup>th</sup> step: add the second column downward

Is there an easier way to do this?

Yes!

$$x - 1 \overline{) x^3 - 4x^2 - 15x + 18}$$

1	1	-4	-15	18
	1	-3	-18	

7<sup>th</sup> step: Multiply the “zero” by the second number

8<sup>th</sup> step: Write the product under the next term to the right.

9<sup>th</sup> step: add the next column downward

Is there an easier way to do this?

Yes!

$$x - 1 \overline{) x^3 - 4x^2 - 15x + 18}$$

1	1	-4	-15	18
		1	-3	-18
	1	-3	-18	0

10<sup>th</sup> step: Multiply the “zero” by the 3rd number

11th step: Write the product under the next term to the right

12<sup>th</sup> step: add the next column downward

$$x-1 \overline{) \begin{array}{r} x^2 - 3x - 18 \\ x^3 - 4x^2 - 15x + 18 \end{array}}$$

$$1 \overline{) \begin{array}{r} 1 \quad -4 \quad -15 \quad 18 \\ \phantom{1} \quad 1 \quad -3 \quad -18 \\ \hline 1 \quad -3 \quad -18 \quad 0 \end{array}}$$

remainder

$$x^3 - 4x^2 - 15x + 18 \div (x - 1) = x^2 - 3x - 18$$

Because the remainder = 0, then  $(x - 1)$  is a factor AND  $x = 1$  is a zero of the original polynomial!

Is  $(x + 3)$  a factor of  $f(x)$ ?

$$f(x) = 3x^3 - x^2 - 20x - 12$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -3 \overline{) 3 \quad -1 \quad -20 \quad -12} \\ \hline \end{array}$$



Is  $(x + 2)$  a factor of  $f(x)$ ?

$$f(x) = 3x^3 - x^2 - 20x - 12$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -2 \overline{) 3 \quad -1 \quad -20 \quad -12} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

The “gotcha” of Synthetic Division is that you must account for the missing terms of the polynomial (whose coefficients = 0).

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

$$x - 2 \overline{) x^2 - 4}$$

$$2 \overline{) 1 \quad -4}$$

$$\underline{\quad 2}$$

$$1 \quad -2$$



remainder not = 0

$$x - 2 \overline{) x^2 + 0x - 4}$$

$$2 \overline{) 1 \quad 0 \quad -4}$$

$$\underline{\quad 2 \quad 4}$$

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 0$$



remainder = 0

Another “gotcha” of Synthetic Division is that you can divide by linear factors whose lead coefficient = 1.

$$x - 2 \overline{) x^3 - x^2 + x - 1}$$

$$2 \overline{) 1 \quad -1 \quad 1 \quad -1}$$

$$\quad \quad 2 \quad 2 \quad 6$$

$$\hline 1 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad \boxed{5}$$

The remainder of division is the output value when the input is the zero of the divisor!

remainder = 5

$$(x^3 - x^2 + x - 1) \div (x - 2) = x^2 + x + 3 + \frac{5}{x - 2}$$

Now here is something that is really cool.

$$f(x) = x^3 - x^2 + x - 1$$

$$f(2) = ?$$

$$f(2) = (2)^3 - (2)^2 + (2) - 1$$

$$\boxed{f(2) = 5}$$

Polynomial Division      Box Method

$(2x^3 + 15x^2 + 27x + 5) \div (2x + 5)$

Only the upper left box is known.      Remainder

	_____	_____	_____	
$2x$	$2x^3$			
$5$				

	<u><math>x^2</math></u>	<u><math>5x</math></u>	<u><math>1</math></u>	
$2x$	$2x^3$	$10x^2$	$2x$	$0$
$5$	$5x^2$	$25x$	$5$	

$2x^3 + 15x^2 + 27x + 5$

$2x^3 + 15x^2 + 27x + 5$

Diagonals have "like terms"

$(2x^3 + 15x^2 + 27x + 5) \div (2x + 5) = x^2 + 5x + 1$

# Division of Polynomials

# Box Method

$$(3x^5 + 12x^4 + 11x^3 + 2x^2 - 4x - 2) \div (3x^2 - 1)$$

Only the upper left box is known.

Diagonals have "like terms"

	<u><math>x^3</math></u>	<u><math>4x^2</math></u>	<u><math>4x</math></u>	<u><math>2</math></u>	
$3x^2$	$3x^5$	$12x^4$	$12x^3$	$6x^2$	
$0x$	$0x^4$	$0x^3$	$0x^2$	$0x$	$0$
$-1$	$-x^3$	$-4x^2$	$-4x$	$-2$	

$$3x^5 + 12x^4 + 11x^3 + 2x^2 - 4x - 2$$

$$(3x^5 + 12x^4 + 11x^3 + 2x^2 - 4x - 2) \div (3x^2 - 1) = x^3 + 4x^2 + 4x + 2$$

## Division with remainders

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

Only the upper left box is known.      Diagonals have “like terms”

	<u><math>-x^3</math></u>	<u><math>-2x^2</math></u>	<u><math>4x</math></u>	<u><math>-8</math></u>	
$x$	$-x^4$	$-2x^3$	$4x^2$	$-8x$	25
$3$	$-3x^3$	$-6x^2$	$12x$	$-24$	

Remainder

$-x^4 - 5x^3 - 2x^2 + 4x + 1$

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

$$= -x^3 - 2x^2 + 4x - 8 + \frac{25}{x + 3}$$

Divide.  $x^4 + x^3 - 4x^2 + 2x - 12 \div x^2 - 2$


Divide.  $2x^4 + 9x^3 - 8x^2 - 15x \div 2x - 3$




$$y = x^5 - 5x^4 + 12x^3 - 24x^2 + 32x - 16$$

1. Test to see if '1' is a zero

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1 \overline{) 1 \quad -5 \quad 12 \quad -24 \quad 32 \quad -16} \\
 \underline{\phantom{1} \phantom{-5} \phantom{12} \phantom{-24} \phantom{32} \phantom{-16}} \\
 \phantom{1} 1 \quad -4 \quad 8 \quad -16 \quad 16 \\
 \underline{\phantom{1} \phantom{1} \phantom{-4} \phantom{8} \phantom{-16} \phantom{16}} \\
 \phantom{1} 1 \quad -4 \quad 8 \quad -16 \quad 16 \quad \boxed{0}
 \end{array}$$

2. Test to see if '1' is a zero (with multiplicity two)

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1 \overline{) 1 \quad -4 \quad 8 \quad -16 \quad 16} \\
 \underline{\phantom{1} \phantom{-4} \phantom{8} \phantom{-16} \phantom{16}} \\
 \phantom{1} 1 \quad -3 \quad 5 \quad -11 \\
 \underline{\phantom{1} \phantom{1} \phantom{-3} \phantom{5} \phantom{-11}} \\
 \phantom{1} 1 \quad -3 \quad 5 \quad -11 \quad \boxed{5}
 \end{array}$$

'1' is not a repeat zero  $\rightarrow x = 1$  (multiplicity 1)

$$y = (x - 1)(x^4 - 4x^3 + 8x^2 - 16x + 16)$$

'1' is not a repeat zero  $\rightarrow x = 1$  (multiplicity 1)

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrrr} 1 & 1 & -5 & 12 & -24 & 32 & -16 \\ & & 1 & -4 & 8 & -16 & 16 \\ \hline & 1 & -4 & 8 & -16 & 16 & 0 \end{array}$$

3. Test to see if '2' is a zero.

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr} 2 & 1 & -4 & 8 & -16 & 16 \\ & & 2 & -4 & 8 & -16 \\ \hline & 1 & -2 & 4 & -8 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$y = (x - 1)(x - 2)(x^3 - 2x^2 + 4x - 8)$$

$$y = (x - 1)(x - 2)(x^3 - 2x^2 + 4x - 8)$$

4. Try “box factoring” of the 3<sup>rd</sup> – degree polynomial factor or continue trying synthetic division.

	$x$	$-2$
$x^2$	$x^3$	$-2x^2$
$4$	$4x$	$-8$

$$y = (x - 1)(x - 2)(x^2 + 4)(x - 2)$$

5. List the zeroes.

$$x = 1, 2i, -2i, 2 \text{ (multiplicity 2)}$$