

## Chapter 2 – Polynomials

### 2.1 Classifying Polynomials

#### Term

A **term** is composed of a coefficient and variable(s) with exponents.

Ex.             $x$                      $5xy^2$                      $\pi r^2$                     10

$x$                     Coefficient is 1, variable is  $x$

$5xy^2$                     Coefficient is 5, variables are  $x$  and  $y$

$\pi r^2$                     Coefficient is  $\pi$ , variable is  $r$

10                    Coefficient is 10, no variable

Note: terms with no variables are called **constant** terms

#### Polynomials

A **polynomial** is a mathematical expression involving one or more terms.

In a polynomial, each term must satisfy the following:

- all variables must have whole number exponents
- Terms are separated by “+” or “–” sign within a polynomial expression

#### Examples of Polynomials Terms

$9x^2$                      $5x^3 + 6y^2$                      $x^2 + 2x - 3$

#### Examples of non-Polynomial Terms:

$x^{-2} = \frac{1}{x^2}$                      $x^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{x}$                      $\sqrt{2x} = 2^{\frac{1}{2}}x^{\frac{1}{2}}$

Note:            the coefficient must be a real number

## Examples of Polynomials with Radical Coefficients

A term can still be polynomial even if the coefficient is a radical

$$\sqrt{2}x = 2^{\frac{1}{2}}x \qquad \sqrt{35}g^4 \qquad \sqrt{18}$$

$\sqrt{-2}x$  is NOT a polynomial, because  $\sqrt{-2}$  is not a real number

## Special Names for Polynomials

**Monomial:** 1 term polynomial

Ex.  $x$   $7x^4y$   $-11x^2y^3z$

**Binomial:** 2 term polynomials

Ex.  $x + 1$   $-x + 2y$   $3x^3y - 5xy$

**Trinomial:** 3 term polynomials

Ex.  $a + 2b + 3$   $5x^2 + 2xy + 3y^2$   $5\alpha - 6\beta + 7\delta$

**Polynomial:** 4 or more terms

Ex.  $x + y + z + 1$   $a + 2b + 3c + 4d + 5e + 6$

## Degree of a Polynomial

The largest exponent of a term within a polynomial is the **degree of the polynomial**

Ex. Determine the degree of the polynomial  $x^3 + 2x^2 + 3x + 4$ .

First, determine the degree of each term:

$x^3$  has a degree of 3  $2x^2$  has a degree of 2

$3x$  has a degree of 1  $4$  has a degree of 0

Note: constant terms always have a degree of 0

Since the largest degree is **3**, the degree of the polynomial is **3**.

Ex. Determine the degree of the polynomial  $x^4 - 5x^2y^3 + 7xy$ .

$x^4$  has a degree of 4

$5x^2y^3$  has a degree of 5

$7xy$  has a degree of 2

$\therefore$  the degree of the polynomial is 5

### Leading Term and Leading Coefficient

The **leading term** of a polynomial is the term with the largest degree

In the polynomial  $x^3 + 2x^2 + 3x + 4$ ,  $x^3$  would be the leading term.

Since 1 is the coefficient of  $x^3$ , the **leading coefficient** is 1.

### Collecting Like Terms

Add or subtract terms together that have the exact same variables and exponents

Ex. Simplify the following:

a.  $2x - 5x + 6x$

$$= 3x$$

b.  $4x + 5y - 6x + 2$

$$= 4x + 5y - 6x + 2$$

$$= -2x + 5y + 2$$

c.  $5x^2 + 6x - 3x^2 + 11x$

$$= 5x^2 + 6x - 3x^2 + 11x$$

$$= 2x^2 + 17x$$

## Evaluating Polynomials

Substituting known values into an expression, and then calculate the value.

Ex. For  $x = 2$  and  $y = 3$ , evaluate  $3x^2 + 5xy$ .

$$= 3(2)^2 + 5(2)(3)$$

$$= 12 + 30$$

$$= 42$$

Ex. For  $x = -3$  and  $y = 1$ , evaluate  $7x^2y + 8xy$ .

$$= 7(-3)^2(1) + 8(-3)(1)$$

$$= 63 - 24$$

$$= 39$$

## Multiplying Monomials

When multiplying monomials together, first multiply coefficients together, then the variables.

Ex. Simplify  $5x(6x^2)$

$$= 30x^3$$

Ex. Simplify  $(2x^2y^3z)(-8x^4z^3)$

$$= -16x^6y^3z^4$$

Ex. Simplify  $-(-2abc)(-3bc)(-4c)$

$$= 24ab^2c^3$$

**Distributive Property  $a(x + y + z)$** 

When a monomial is multiplied to a polynomial, each term of the polynomial is multiplied by the monomial.

Ex. Simplify  $a(x + y + z)$

$$= ax + ay + az$$

Ex. Simplify  $4(5x + 6y)$

$$= 4 \cdot 5x + 4 \cdot 6y$$

$$= 20x + 24y$$

Ex. Simplify  $2x^3(5x^2y + 8xy - 4)$

$$= 2x^3 \cdot 5x^2y + 2x^3 \cdot 8xy - 2x^3 \cdot 4$$

$$= 10x^5y + 16x^4y - 8x^3$$

Ex. Simplify  $-3x^2(2x^2 + 4x - 8)$

$$= (-3x^2) \cdot 2x^2 + (-3x^2) \cdot 4x - (-3x^2) \cdot 8$$

$$= -6x^4 - 12x^3 + 24x^2$$

**2.1 Homework:**

# 3 – 8 bcf..., 9, 10

## 2.2 Multiplying Polynomials

### Distributive Property

This is applied when a polynomial is multiplied to another polynomial

**Binomial x Binomial** → 2 terms x 2 terms = 4 terms

Ex. Simplify  $(x + 2)(3x - 1)$

First multiply each term in the first set of parentheses  $x$  and  $2$ , to each term in the second set of parentheses.

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

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

Then collect like terms

$$= 3x^2 + 5x - 2$$

**Binomial x Trinomial** → 2 terms x 3 terms = 6 terms

Ex. Simplify  $(2x + 1)(x^2 - x + 3)$

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

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

$$= 2x^3 - x^2 + 5x + 3$$

**Trinomial x Trinomial** → 3 terms x 3 terms = 9 terms

Ex. Simplify  $(2x + 3y + 1)(4x - y + 2)$

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

$$= 8x^2 - 2xy + 4x + 12xy - 3y^2 + 6y + 4x - y + 2$$

$$= 8x^2 + 10xy + 8x - 3y^2 + 5y + 2$$

## Binomial Square Formula

$$(a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{both are considered}$$

$$(a - b)^2 = a^2 - 2ab + b^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{perfect square trinomials}$$

Ex. Simplify  $(2x + 3)^2$

Using Distributive Property

$$= (2x + 3)(2x + 3)$$

$$= 2x(2x + 3) + 3(2x + 3)$$

$$= 4x^2 + 6x + 6x + 9$$

$$= 4x^2 + 12x + 9$$

Using formula

$$\text{Let } a = 2x \text{ and } b = 3$$

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

$$= 4x^2 + 12x + 9$$

## Common Mistakes

$$(2x + 3)^2 = 4x^2 + 9 \quad \text{this is incorrect!!}$$

$$(1 + 2)^2 = 1 + 4 = 5 \quad \text{this is incorrect!!}$$

## Product of Conjugates

$a + b$  and  $a - b$  are called conjugate pairs.

The product of conjugate pairs becomes a difference of squares.

Ex. Simplify  $(a + b)(a - b)$

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

$$= a^2 - ab + ab - b^2$$

$$= a^2 - b^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{difference of squares}$$

$$\therefore (a + b)(a - b) = a^2 - b^2$$

Ex. Simplify  $(5x - 3)(5x + 3)$

Using distributive property

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

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

$$= 25x^2 - 9$$

Using product of conjugate pairs

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

$$= 25x^2 - 9$$

Ex. Simplify  $(3a + 2)(3a - 2)$

$$= (3a)^2 - (2)^2$$

$$= 9a^2 - 4$$

### Homework

2.2 # 1 – 4 bcf..., 5, 6-7 bcf



## 2.3 Removing Common Factors

In any factoring question, always look for GCF first!  
Factor the following.

a.  $8x - 64$

> re-write as a product of two or more terms

What is the GCF of  $8x$  and  $64$ ?

|      |      |  |     |
|------|------|--|-----|
| $8x$ | $64$ |  | $2$ |
| $4x$ | $32$ |  | $2$ |
| $2x$ | $16$ |  | $2$ |
| $x$  | $8$  |  |     |

$\therefore \text{GCF} = 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$

$$= 8(\text{something})$$

$$\text{something} = \frac{8x}{8} - \frac{64}{8} \div 8 = x - 8$$

$$= 8(x - 8)$$

b.  $3x^2 - 12x$

$$\text{GCF} = 3x$$

$$\frac{3x^2}{3x} - \frac{12x}{3x} = x - 4$$

$$= 3x(x - 4)$$

c.  $12x^3y^2 - 16x^2y^2 + 20xy^2$

$$\text{GCF} = 4xy^2$$

$$= 4xy^2(3x^2 - 4x + 5)$$

d.  $3x(x + 1) + 2(x + 1)$

## Without substitution

$$\begin{aligned} \text{GCF} &= x + 1 & \frac{3x(x+1)}{x+1} + \frac{2(x+1)}{x+1} &= 3x + 2 \\ & & & \\ &= (x + 1)(3x + 2) \end{aligned}$$

## With substitution

$$3x(x + 1) + 2(x + 1)$$

$$\text{let } u = x + 1$$

$$= 3xu + 2u$$

$$\text{GCF} = u$$

$$= u(3x + 2)$$

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

e.  $4x(x + 2) - 3(2x + 4)$

$$= 4x(x + 2) - 3(2)(x + 2)$$

$$= 4x(x + 2) - 6(x + 2)$$

$$= (x + 2)(4x - 6)$$

this is not completely factored,  $4x - 6$  has a common factor of 2

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

## Factor by Grouping

a.  $x^3 + 4x^2 + 4x + 16$

If there are an even number of terms, you can try to factor by grouping

Break up the polynomial into:  $x^3 + 4x^2$  and  $4x + 16$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{GCF of } x^3 + 4x^2 &= x^2 & \text{GCF of } 4x + 16 &= +4 \\ &= x^2(x + 4) + 4(x + 4)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{GCF} &= x + 4 \\ &= (x + 4)(x^2 + 4)\end{aligned}$$

b.  $a^2 - 5a + ab - 5b$

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

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

c.  $x(x - 1) + 3(1 - x)$

$$= x(x - 1) + 3(-x + 1)$$

If the first term is a negative, factor out  $-1$

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

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

d.  $2x^3 - 6x^2 - 9x + 27$

$$= 2x^2(x - 3) - 9(x - 3)$$

$$= (x - 3)(2x^2 - 9)$$

e.  $x^2 + 2x - 2y - xy$

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

Note:  $x + 2$  is the same as  $2 + x$ , but  $x - 2$  is not the same as  $2 - x$

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

Or the polynomial could be re-arranged into the correct order

$$x^2 + 2x - 2y - xy$$

$$= x^2 - xy + 2x - 2y$$

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

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

f.  $4x^3 + 8x^2 + 16x + 32$

$$= 4(x^3 + 2x^2 + 4x + 8)$$

$$= 4[x^2(x + 2) + 4(x + 2)]$$

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

## Homework

2.3 # 1-6 bcf..., 7, 9, 10, 12

## 2.4 Factoring $x^2 + bx + c$

### Factoring Trinomials Where the Leading Coefficient is Equal to 1

1) Look to factor out the GCF

2) Factor the trinomial: (2 methods)

- **Decomposition Method** (and Factor by Grouping)

- **Cross method**

### Decomposition Method

To factor  $x^2 + bx + c$ , need to find:

- Two numbers that add up to coefficient of middle term,  $b$
- Same two numbers must multiply to equal to the product of the coefficients of first and last term,  $ac$

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

The goal is to re-write the trinomial as a product of binomials.

$$x^2 + 5x + 6 \rightarrow ( \quad )( \quad )$$

Find two numbers that add up to 5, and multiply to equal to 6

$$\begin{array}{l} \underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = 5 \\ \underline{\quad} \times \underline{\quad} = 6 \end{array}$$

The two numbers are 2 and 3.

Re-write  $x^2 + 5x + 6$  where the middle term  $5x$  becomes  $2x + 3x$   
 $= x^2 + 2x + 3x + 6$

Next, factor by grouping

$$= x(x + 2) + 3(x + 2)$$

$$= (x + 2)(x + 3)$$

Check: To verify answer, simplify  $(x + 2)(x + 3)$  and it should equal to original trinomial  $x^2 + 5x + 6$ .

$$(x + 2)(x + 3)$$

$$= x^2 + 3x + 2x + 6$$

$$= x^2 + 5x + 6 \quad \text{This matches the original trinomial}$$

Ex. Factor  $x^2 + 5x - 24$

$$\begin{array}{l} \underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = 5 \\ \underline{\quad} \times \underline{\quad} = -24 \end{array}$$

The two numbers are 8 and -3.

$$= x^2 + 8x - 3x - 24$$

$$= x(x + 8) - 3(x + 8)$$

$$= (x + 8)(x - 3)$$

### Factoring Trinomials with a GCF

First, factor out the GCF and proceed with decomposition method.

Ex. Factor  $-2x^2 + 4x + 48$

$$= -2(x^2 - 2x - 24)$$

$$-6 + 4 = -2$$

$$-6 \times 4 = -24$$

$$= -2(x^2 - 6x + 4x - 24)$$

$$= -2[x(x - 6) + 4(x - 6)]$$

$$= -2(x - 6)(x + 4)$$

In addition to factoring out the GCF, also re-arrange polynomial so that the polynomial is in the correct order.

Ex. Factor  $3x^2 + 24 - 18x$

Before factoring the trinomial, put in descending order.

$$= 3x^2 - 18x + 24$$

Then factor out the GCF.

$$= 3(x^2 - 6x + 8)$$

$$-2 + -4 = -6$$

$$-2 \times -4 = 8$$

$$= 3[x^2 - 2x - 4x + 8]$$

$$= 3[x(x - 2) - 4(x - 2)]$$

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

Make sure to factor out the negative if the leading term is negative

Ex. Factor  $-2x^3 + 18x^2y - 40xy^2$

$$= -2x(x^2 - 9xy + 20y^2)$$

$$-4 + -5 = 5$$

$$-4 \times -5 = 20$$

$$= -2x[x^2 - 4xy - 5xy + 20y^2]$$

$$= -2x[x(x - 4y) - 5y(x - 4y)]$$

$$= -2x(x - 4y)(x - 5y)$$

## Using Substitution to Aid Factoring

Ex. Factor  $(3a - 2b)^2 - (6ac - 4bc) - 24c^2$

First, factor out the GCF from the middle term  $6ac - 4bc$ .

$$= (3a - 2b)^2 - 2c(3a - 2b) - 24c^2$$

Notice  $3a - 2b$  occurs multiple times; use substitution to make the polynomial appear less complex. Write a “Let” statement.

$$\text{Let } u = 3a - 2b$$

$$= u^2 - 2cu - 24c^2$$

$$-6 + 4 = -2$$

$$-6 \times 4 = -24$$

$$= u^2 - 6uc + 4uc - 24c^2$$

$$= u(u - 6c) + 4c(u - 6c)$$

$$= (u - 6c)(u + 4c)$$

Replace  $u$  with  $3a - 2b$

$$= (3a - 2b - 6c)(3a - 2b + 4c)$$

## Cross Method

Similar to the decomposition method, cross method factors trinomials in a slightly different way.

The beginning is similar to decomposition where you need to find the two numbers that satisfy the previous criteria.

Then, we make a cross where the diagonal products need to equal to the two numbers found previously.



Ex. Factor  $x^2 + 6x - 16$

$$-2 + 8 = 6$$

$$-2 \times 8 = -16$$



The left blanks must multiply to equal first term,  $x^2$ .

The right blanks must multiply to equal last term, -16.



The sum of diagonal products must equal to middle term,  $-2x$

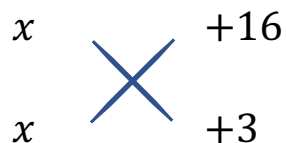
The top two represent one set of parentheses, while the bottom two represents the second set.

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

Ex. Factor  $x^2 + 19x + 48$

$$16 + 3 = 19$$

$$16 \times 3 = 48$$



$$= (x + 16)(x + 3)$$

Short Cut?

For each factoring question, have you noticed link between the “two numbers” and the final answer?

This only applies to  $x^2 + bx + c$  trinomials!

## Cross Method and Substitution

Ex. Factor  $(x + y + 1)^2 + 8(x + y + 1) + 12$

$$\text{Let } u = x + y + 1$$

$$= u^2 + 8u + 12$$

$$6 + 2 = 8$$

$$6 \times 2 = 12$$

$$\begin{array}{cc} x & +6 \\ & \times \\ x & +2 \end{array}$$

$$= (u + 6)(u + 2)$$

Replace  $u$  with  $x + y + 1$

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

$$= (x + y + 7)(x + y + 3)$$

## 2.4 Homework

# 3-4 ad, 5, 6–11 bcf..., 13, 15, 17, 18

## 2.5 Factoring $ax^2 + bx + c$

Recall from last lesson:

### Decomposition Method

To factor  $ax^2 + bx + c$ , need to find:

- Two numbers that add up to coefficient of middle term,  $b$
- Same two numbers must multiply to equal to the product of the coefficients of **first** and **last** term,  $ac$

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

$$\begin{array}{ll} \_ + \_ = 5 & \rightarrow 4 + 1 = 5 \\ \_ \times \_ = 4 & \rightarrow 4 \times 1 = 4 \end{array}$$

Decomposition

$$\begin{aligned} &= 2x^2 + 4x + 1x + 2 \\ &= 2x(x + 2) + 1(x + 2) \\ &= (x + 2)(2x + 1) \end{aligned}$$

Cross

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 2x & \times & +1 \\ x & \times & +2 \\ & & = (2x + 1)(x + 2) \end{array}$$

Slide & Divide

The method starts by converting the trinomial into one with a leading coefficient of 1. And then factor as usual using decomposition/cross and then “undoes” the original conversion.

$$ax^2 + bx + c \rightarrow x^2 + bx + D$$

$$2x^2 + 5x + 2 \rightarrow ?$$

You multiply (slide) the leading coefficient (2) to the last term.

$$\begin{aligned} 2x^2 + 5x + 2 &\rightarrow x^2 + 5x + 4 \\ x^2 + 5x + 4 & \\ &= (x + 1)(x + 4) \end{aligned}$$

Now, **divide** the second coefficient in each set of parentheses by the original leading coefficient (2)

$$\left(x + \frac{1}{2}\right)\left(x + \frac{4}{2}\right) \quad \text{reduce the fraction if possible}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{1}{2}\right)\left(x + \frac{2}{1}\right) \quad \text{move denominator up front to the first term}$$

$$(2x + 1)(x + 2)$$

Ex. Factor  $6x^2 - 13x + 6$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \_ + \_ = -13 & \rightarrow \quad -4 + -9 = -13 \\ \_ \times \_ = 36 & \rightarrow \quad -4 \times -9 = 36 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cc} 2x & -3 \\ & \times \\ 3x & -2 \end{array}$$

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

Ex. Factor  $-100x^2 + 120xy - 32y^2$

$$= -4(25x^2 - 30xy + 8y^2)$$

$$\_ + \_ = -30 \quad \rightarrow \quad -10 + -20 = -30$$

$$\_ \times \_ = 200 \quad \rightarrow \quad -10 \times -20 = 200$$

$$\begin{array}{cc} 5x & -2y \\ & \times \\ 5x & -4y \end{array}$$

$$= -4(5x - 2y)(5x - 4y)$$

Ex. Factor  $25x^2(a-1)^3 - 5x(a-1)^3 - 2(a-1)^3$

$$= (a-1)^3(25x^2 - 5x - 2)$$

$$\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = -5 \quad \rightarrow \quad 5 + -10 = -5$$

$$\underline{\quad} \times \underline{\quad} = -50 \quad \rightarrow \quad 5 \times -10 = -50$$

$$= (a-1)^3(25x^2 + 5x - 10x - 2)$$

$$= (a-1)^3(5x(5x+1) - 2(5x+1))$$

$$= (a-1)^3(5x+1)(5x-2)$$

Ex. Factor  $4x^{2m} - 20x^m y^n + 25y^{2n}$

$\rightarrow$  Same as factoring  $4x^2 - 20x^1 y^1 + 25y^2$

$$-10 + -10 = -20$$

$$-10 \times -10 = 100$$

$$= 4x^{2m} - 10x^m y^n - 10x^m y^n + 25y^{2n}$$

$$= 2x^m(2x^m - 5y^n) - 5y^n(2x^m - 5y^n)$$

$$= (2x^m - 5y^n)(2x^m - 5y^n)$$

$$= (2x^m - 5y^n)^2$$

Ex. Factor  $3x^{n+2} + 4x^{n+1} - 4x^n$

Recall:  $b^{m+n} = b^m \cdot b^n$

So,  $x^{n+2} = x^n \cdot x^2$  and  $x^{n+1} = x^n \cdot x^1$

$$= 3x^n \cdot x^2 + 4x^n \cdot x^1 - 4x^n$$

$$= x^n(3x^2 + 4x - 4)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \_ + \_ = 4 \\ \_ \times \_ = -12 \end{array}$$

The numbers are -2 and 6

$$\begin{array}{cc} 3x & -2 \\ 1x & +2 \end{array}$$

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

## 2.5 homework

# 2 – 6 bcf..., 7, 8

## 2.6 Special Factors

### Differences of Squares $a^2 - b^2$

→ can be factored as a product of conjugate pairs

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

### Factoring a Difference of Squares

Ex. Factor  $x^2 - 9$

Since  $x^2$  and 9 are perfect squares,  $x^2 - 9$  can be factored as a product of conjugate pairs

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

$$= (x + 3)(x - 3)$$

Ex. Factor  $4x^2 - 81$

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

Ex. Factor  $18x^2 - 8y^2$

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

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

Ex. Factor  $-50ab^2 + 72ac^2$

$$= -2a(25b^2 - 36c^2)$$

$$= -2a(5b + 6c)(5b - 6c)$$

## Factoring a Sum of Squares

Ex. Factor  $-3x^2 - 27$

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

This expression cannot be factored any further;  $x^2 + 9$  is a **sum of squares**.

## Force Factoring as a Difference of Squares

Ex. Factor  $x^2 - 8$  as a difference of squares

$$= (x + \sqrt{8})(x - \sqrt{8})$$

$$= (x + 2\sqrt{2})(x - 2\sqrt{2})$$

Ex. Factor  $x - 4$  as a difference of squares

$$= (\sqrt{x} + 2)(\sqrt{x} - 2)$$

Ex. Factor  $x - 2$  as a difference of squares

$$= (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{2})(\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{2})$$

$$= (\sqrt{x} + 2)(\sqrt[4]{x} + \sqrt[4]{2})(\sqrt[4]{x} - \sqrt[4]{2})$$

This can go on indefinitely...

Ex. Factor  $x^8 - 256$

$$= (x^4 + 16)(x^4 - 16)$$

$$= (x^4 + 16)(x^2 + 4)(x^2 - 4)$$

$$= (x^4 + 16)(x^2 + 4)(x + 2)(x - 2)$$



**Perfect Square Trinomial**  $a^2 + 2ab + b^2$ 

→ can be factored as a square of a binomial

$$a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = (a + b)^2$$

To check if the trinomial  $ax^2 + bx + c$  is a perfect square trinomial, see if  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 = ac$

**Factoring a Perfect Square Trinomial**

Ex. Factor  $x^2 + 4x + 4$

Check if  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 = ac$

$$\left(\frac{4}{2}\right)^2 = (1)(4)$$

$$4 = 4$$

∴ this is a perfect square trinomial

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

Ex. Factor  $x^2 - 6x + 9$

Check if  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 = ac$

$$\left(\frac{-6}{2}\right)^2 = (1)(9)$$

$$9 = 9$$

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

Ex. Factor  $x^2 + 6x + 8$

Check if  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 = ac$

$$\left(\frac{6}{2}\right)^2 = (1)(8)$$

$$9 \neq 8$$

Cannot factor as a perfect square trinomial, so use decomposition, cross method or slide and divide

Ex. Factor  $4x^2 - 12x + 9$

Check if  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 = ac$

$$\left(\frac{-12}{2}\right)^2 = (4)(9)$$

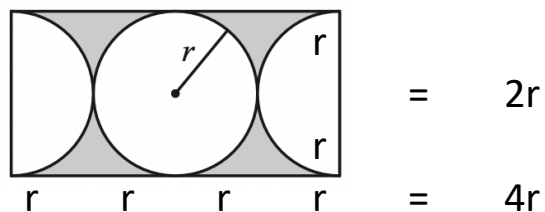
$$36 = 36$$

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

## 2.6 Homework

# 2, 3-7bcf..., 8, 9 bcf...

8c



$$A = \text{rectangle} - 2\text{circles}$$

$$A = (4r)(2r) - 2\pi r^2$$

$$A = 8r^2 - 2\pi r^2$$

$$A = 2r^2(4 - \pi)$$

$$\text{Ex. Factor } (x^6 - 4x^3y^3 + 4y^6) - (a^4 + 6a^2b^2 + 9b^4)$$

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

$$(a^2)^2 + 2(a^2)(3b^2) + (3b^2)^2 = (a^2 + 3b^2)^2$$

$$= (x^3 - 2y^3)^2 - (a^2 + 3b^2)^2$$

$$= (x^3 - 2y^3 + a^2 + 3b^2)(x^3 - 2y^3 - (a^2 + 3b^2))$$

$$= (x^3 - 2y^3 + a^2 + 3b^2)(x^3 - 2y^3 - a^2 - 3b^2)$$

$$= (a^2 + 3b^2 + x^3 - 2y^3)(-a^2 - 3b^2 + x^3 - 2y^3)$$

$$= -(a^2 + 3b^2 + x^3 - 2y^3)(a^2 - 3b^2 - x^3 + 2y^3)$$

## Special Products Extension:

### Sum and Difference of Cubes $x^3 + a^3$ and $x^3 - a^3$

$(x^3 + a^3) \div (x + a) = ?$     Guessing a factor for  $x^3 + a^3$

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 \quad -ax \quad +a^2 \\ x+a \mid x^3 + 0x^2 + 0x + a^3 \\ - (x^3 + ax^2) \\ \hline -ax^2 + 0x \\ -(-ax^2 - a^2x) \\ \hline a^2x + a^3 \\ - (a^2x + a^3) \\ \hline 0 \end{array}$$

$$\therefore (x^3 + a^3) = (x + a)(x^2 - ax + a^2)$$

$$\text{Similarly, } (x^3 - a^3) = (x - a)(x^2 + ax + a^2)$$

Ex. Factor  $x^3 + 1$   
 $= (x + 1)(x^2 - 1x + 1^2)$   
 $= (x + 1)(x^2 - x + 1)$

Ex. Factor  $x^3 - 1$   
 $= (x - 1)(x^2 + 1x + 1^2)$   
 $= (x - 1)(x^2 + x + 1)$

Ex. Factor  $x^3 + 8$   
 $= (x + 2)(x^2 - 2x + 4)$

Ex. Factor  $8x^3 - 1$   
 $= (2x - 1)(4x^2 + 2x + 1)$

## 2.7 Chapter Review

#2a

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Simplify } (2x^2y)(3x^4y^3) \\ &= 6x^6y^4 \end{aligned}$$

#5q

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Factor } (x+1)^2 - 4(x+1) + 3 \\ &\text{Let } a = x+1 \\ &= a^2 - 4a + 3 \\ &= (a-1)(a-3) \\ &= (x+1-1)(x+1-3) \\ &= x(x-2) \end{aligned}$$

#7h

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Factor } (x+1)^2 - (y-3)^2 \\ &\text{Let } a = x+1 \quad b = y-3 \\ &= a^2 - b^2 \\ &= (a+b)(a-b) \\ &= (x+1+y-3)(x+1-(y-3)) \\ &= (x+1+y-3)(x+1-y+3) \\ &= (x+y-2)(x-y+4) \end{aligned}$$

#9o

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Factor } a^{2n+2} - a^2 \\ &= a^{2n}a^2 - a^2 \\ &= a^2(a^{2n} - 1) \\ &= a^2(a^n + 1)(a^n - 1) \end{aligned}$$

#9g

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Factor } x^2(x+10) - 2x(x-8) \\ &= x[x(x+10) - 2(x-8)] \\ &= x(x^2 + 10x - 2x + 16) \\ &= x(x^2 + 8x + 16) \\ &= x(x+4)(x+4) \end{aligned}$$

#9i

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Factor } & 2^{2x} - 2^{x+1} + 1 \\ &= 2^{2x} - 2^x 2^1 + 1 \\ &= 2^{2x} - 2 \cdot 2^x + 1\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Let } a &= 2^x \\ &= a^2 - 2a + 1 \\ &= (a - 1)(a - 1) \\ &= (a - 1)^2 \\ &= (2^x - 1)^2\end{aligned}$$

2.7 #1-9 bcf...