

10.5 Factoring Polynomials

Use the Factor Theorem to verify that each linear binomial is a factor of the given polynomial. Then use synthetic division to write the polynomial as a product (factor).

1. $(x + 5); P(x) = 2x^2 + 6x - 20$

$2(x+5)(x-2)$

2. $(x - 1); P(x) = x^4 - 6x^3 + 4x^2 + 1$

$(x-1)(x^3-5x^2-x-1)$

3. $(x + 2); P(x) = 3x^3 + 12x^2 + 17x + 10$

$(x+2)(3x^2+6x+5)$

4. $(x - 8); P(x) = x^4 - 8x^3 - 4x^2 + 33x - 8$

$(x-8)(x^3-4x+1)$

Factor each expression.

5. $16x^3 - 12x^2 + 20x - 15$

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

6. $3x^6 + 54x^4 + 243x^2$

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

7. $x^6 - 10x^5 + 25x^4$

$x^4(x-5)^2$

8. $6x^3 + 12x^2 + 4x + 8$

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

9. $250x^4 + 54x$

$2x(5x+3)(25x^2-15x+9)$

10. $-3x^5 + 24x^2$

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

Solve.

11. The voltage generated by an electrical circuit changes over time according to the polynomial $V(t) = t^3 - 4t^2 - 25t + 100$, where V is in volts and t is in seconds. Factor the polynomial to find the times when the voltage is equal to zero.

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} 4 & 1 & -4 & -25 & 100 \\ & \downarrow & 4 & 0 & -100 \\ \hline & 1 & 0 & -25 & 0 \end{array} \rightarrow x^2 - 25 = 0 \rightarrow x^2 - 25 = (x-5)(x+5)$$

$$x^2 = 25$$

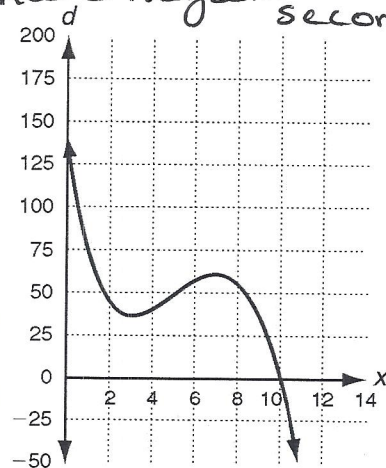
$$x = \pm 5$$

Voltage equals zero @ 4s + 5s (can't have negative seconds)

12. Since 2006, the water level in a certain pond has been modeled by the polynomial $d(x) = -x^3 + 16x^2 - 74x + 140$, where the depth d , is measured in feet over x years. Identify the year that the pond will dry up. Use the graph to factor $d(x)$.

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} 10 & -1 & 16 & -74 & 140 \\ & \downarrow & -10 & 60 & -140 \\ \hline & -1 & 6 & -14 & 0 \end{array} \rightarrow (x-10)(-x^2+6x-14)$$

$$-(x-10)(x^2-6x+14)$$



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