



The crazy thing is...

We are still factoring!

GCF

Long abc

Short abc

Sum of cubes

Diff of cubes

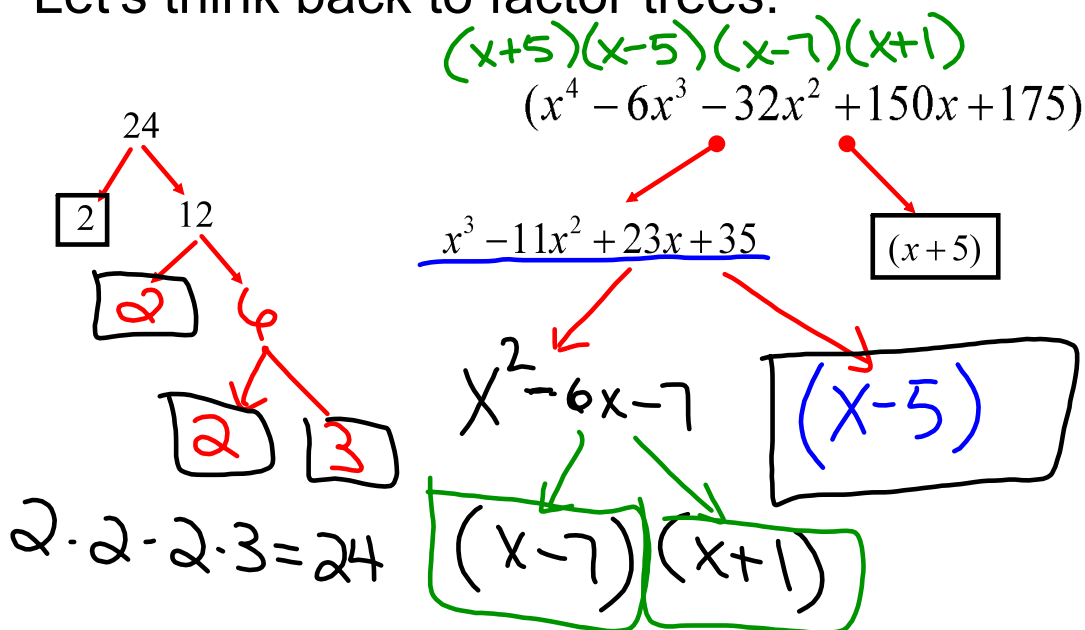
Diff of squares

Long Division

Synthetic Division

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Let's think back to factor trees:



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How do you know which number to "try" in synthetic division?

Conjecture *not proven*

## RATIONAL ROOT THEOREM

fraction

Zeros  
Solutions

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Factoring an nth degree polynomial is tough!

$$P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$$

But the factors of  $a_n$  and  $a_0$  can help us factor  $P(x)$  and ultimately solve the equation!

Rational Root Theorem

~~P(x)~~ <sup>Poly</sup> must be in standard form with integer coefficients!

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

highest degree

~~$$-2 + 3x + x^4$$~~

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Ex 1. Finding all possible rational roots

$$2x^3 - x^2 + 2x + 5 = 0$$

$2$  leading coefficient  
 $5$  constant  
 Factors:  $5, 1, -5, -1$

$1, 2, -1, -2$

Only possible rational roots are:  $1, -1, 5, -5, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}$

factors of constant  $\rightarrow$   $\begin{matrix} +1, +5 \\ +1, -5 \\ -1, -5 \end{matrix}$   
 factors of lead coefficient  $\rightarrow$   $\begin{matrix} +1, +2 \\ +1, -2 \\ -1, -2 \end{matrix}$

$\pm 1, \pm 5, \pm \frac{1}{2}, \pm \frac{5}{2}$

$-1$   $\circ$   $\circ$

Find the rational root (does it make the polynomial equal zero?)!

Graphing Calculator - Easy!

By hand - takes more time

repeat for each possible rational root.

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~~$\pm 3, \pm 5, \pm 15, \pm 1$~~   
 ~~$\pm 4, \pm 2, \pm 1$~~

$\pm \frac{3}{4}, \pm \frac{3}{2}, \pm 3, \pm \frac{5}{4}, \pm \frac{5}{2}, \pm 5$   
 $\pm \frac{15}{4}, \pm \frac{15}{2}, \pm 15, \pm \frac{1}{4}, \pm \frac{1}{2}, \pm 1$

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What are the rational roots?

$$P(x) = 3x^3 + 7x^2 + 6x - 8$$

Only possible rational roots are :

factors of constant

factors of lead coefficient

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Always make sure the polynomial is in standard form!!

$$4x^5 + 3x^7 - 2x + 5 = 0$$

$$3x^7 + \cancel{4x^5} + 5$$

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## Using the Rational Root Theorem

What are the rational roots of

$$P(x) = 15x^3 - 32x^2 + 3x + 2$$

factors of constant

factors of lead coefficient

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Exit Slip:

What are the possible rational roots of:

$$5x^2 + 6x^4 - 2x + 1 = 0$$

Homework: On the back of notes

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