

Learning Target(s): I can completely factor a polynomial function using sum/difference of two cubes, difference of two squares, grouping, and/or trinomials methods.
 I can find all real number solutions to polynomials functions after factoring.

5.4 Factor and Solve Polynomial Equations

prime polynomial: a polynomial with two or more terms that cannot be written as a product of polynomials of lesser degree using only integer coefficients and constants and the only common factors of its terms are -1 and 1

- No GCF
- Not factorable with integers
- No grouping

Ex. 1 Are the following prime polynomials?

a. $x^3 + 2x^2 - 15x$
 GCF: x
 NO! $\rightarrow x(x^2 + 2x - 15)$

b. $5x^2(x^2 - 3)$
 Yes! b/c no more factoring

factored completely: a polynomial is factored completely if it is written as a monomial or the product of a monomial and one or more prime polynomials

SPECIAL FACTORING PATTERNS: *Must be memorized**

perfect square trinomial	difference of two squares	* sum of two cubes	* difference of two cubes
$a^2 + 2ab + b^2$	$a^2 - b^2$	$a^3 + b^3$	$a^3 - b^3$
$(a+b)^2$	$(a+b)(a-b)$	$(a+b)(a^2 - ab + b^2)$	$(a-b)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$

Ex. 2 Factor the polynomial completely.

a. $z^3 - 125$ $a: z$ $b: 5$
 $(z-5)(z^2 + 5z + 25)$

b. $81y^4 + 192y$ $a: 3y$ $b: 4$
 $3y(27y^3 + 64)$ $a^2: (3y)^2$ $b^2: 4^2$
 $3y(3y+4)(9y^2 - 12y + 16)$

Ex. 3 Factor the polynomial $x^3 - 2x^2 - 9x + 18$ completely.

	x	-2
x^2	x^3	$-2x^2$
-9	$-9x$	18

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

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

quadratic form: an expression of the form $av^2 + bv + c$ where u is any expression in x

Ex. 4 Factor completely. ***GCF First***

a. $16x^4 - 256$

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

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

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

b. ***GCF first*** $3y^3$

$3y^7 - 15y^5 + 18y^3$

$$3y^3(y^4 - 5y^2 + 6)$$

$$3y^3(y^2 - 2)(y^2 - 3)$$

Ex. 5 What are the real-number solutions of the equation $x^4 + 9 = 10x^2$? **Set equal to 0**

$$x^4 - 10x^2 + 9 = 0$$

$$(x^2 - 9)(x^2 - 1) = 0$$

$$(x + 3)(x - 3)(x + 1)(x - 1) = 0$$

$$-10x^2 - 10x^2$$

$$x = -3$$

$$x = 3$$

$$x = -1$$

$$x = 1$$

Try it!

Factor the following polynomials completely.

1. $8x^3 + 64$

2. $x^3 + 2x^2 - 25x - 50$

3. $x^4 - 14x^2 + 45$

Find the real-number solutions.

4. $2x^5 + 24x = 14x^3$