

Factors and Polynomials

Remainder Theorem

If a polynomial $p(x)$ is divided by $x-a$, the remainder is $p(a)$.

Examples

a) $x^3 + 2x^2 - 3x + 5$ is divided by $x-2$. Find the remainder

Divisor

$$x-2=0$$

$$x=2$$

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

$$8 + 8 - 6 + 5$$

$$\text{Remainder} = 15$$

Factor Theorem

If $p(x)$ is divisible by $x-a$, then $p(a)=0$

$x-a$ is a factor

Solve/Factors a cubic Equations

Factorise $x^3 + 2x^2 - 3x - 10$

First Factor: Trial and error

Factors of 10: $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 5, \pm 10$

$$\begin{aligned} x=1 &= 1^3 + 2 - 3 - 10 \\ &= -10 \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x=2 &: 2^3 + 2(2)^2 - 3(2) - 10 \\ &= 8 + 8 - 6 - 10 \\ &= 16 - 16 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$x-2$ is a factor

To find the remaining two possible factors:

Long Division

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 + 4x + 5 \\ x-2 \overline{) x^3 + 2x^2 - 3x - 10} \\ \underline{-(x^3 - 2x^2)} \downarrow \\ 4x^2 - 3x \\ \underline{-(4x^2 - 8x)} \downarrow \\ 5x - 10 \\ \underline{-(5x - 10)} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

$$x^2 + 4x + 5 = 0$$

Solve quadratic

→ to check if you should be doing this

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

$$b^2 - 4ac$$

$$16 - 4(1)(5)$$

$$16 - 20$$

$$= -4 \Rightarrow \text{No Real Roots}$$

$$x^3 - 2x^2 - 3x - 10 = (x-2)(x^2 - 4x + 5)$$

Identities (comparing coeff)

Linear \times (Quadratic) = Cubic

$$(x-2) \times (ax^2 + bx + c) = x^3 + 2x^2 - 3x - 10$$

$$ax^3 + bx^2 + cx - 2ax^2 - 2bx - 2c$$

$$ax^3 + bx^2 - 2ax^2 + cx - 2bx - 2c = x^3 + 2x^2 - 3x - 10$$

$$ax^3 + (b-2a)x^2 + (c-2b)x - 2c = x^3 + 2x^2 - 3x - 10$$

$$a = 1$$

$$b = b - 2(1) = 2$$

$$b = 4$$

$$+2c = +10$$

$$c = 5$$

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

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$2n+1=0 \Rightarrow n=-\frac{1}{2}$

$n=-2 \quad -24$

$10\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 + a\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 - 10\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) + b = 0$

$10(-1) + a(-1)^2 - 10(-1) + b = -24$

$-\frac{5}{4} + \frac{a}{4} + 5 + b = 0$

$-10 + a + 10 + b = -24$

$\frac{a}{4} + b = -\frac{15}{4}$
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$a + b = -24$

$a = -24 - b$

$a = -24 - 3$

$a = -27$

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$\times 4 \left(-\frac{24-b}{4} + b = -\frac{15}{4} \right)$

$= -24 - b + 4b = -15$

$= 3b = 9$

$b = 3$

(b) $10n^3 + an^2 - 10n + b$
 $= 10n^3 - 27n^2 - 10n + 3$

$$\begin{array}{r} 5n^2 - 16n + 3 \\ 2n+1 \overline{) 10n^3 - 27n^2 - 10n + 3} \\ \underline{-(10n^3 + 5n^2)} \\ -32n^2 - 10n \\ \underline{+ 32n^2 + 16n} \\ 6n + 3 \\ \underline{-6n - 3} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

$(2n+1)(5n^2 - 16n + 3)$
 $(2n+1)(5n^2 - 15n - n + 3)$
 $(2n+1)(5n(n-3) - 1(n-3))$
 $(2n+1)(5n-1)(n-3)$