

Precalculus

**Use polynomial division with remainder 0 to
factor a polynomial**

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Example

Demonstrate that $6x^3 - 19x^2 + 17x - 3$ is divisible by $2x - 3$ using polynomial long division. Use your work to factor the cubic. Solve the equation $6x^3 - 19x^2 + 17x - 3 = 0$.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{Quotient:} \quad 3x^2 - 5x + 1 \\
 2x - 3 \overline{) 6x^3 - 19x^2 + 17x - 3} \\
 \underline{6x^3 - 9x^2} \\
 -10x^2 + 17x - 3 \\
 \underline{-10x^2 + 15x} \\
 2x - 3 \\
 \underline{2x - 3} \\
 0
 \end{array}$$

Remainder: 0

$$(\text{Dividend}) = (\text{Quotient}) \cdot (\text{Divisor}) + (\text{Remainder})$$

$$(6x^3 - 19x^2 + 17x - 3) = (3x^2 - 5x + 1) \cdot (2x - 3)$$

Example

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$$\begin{aligned}(6x^3 - 19x^2 + 17x - 3) &= (3x^2 - 5x + 1) \cdot (2x - 3) \\ &= 3 \left(x - \left(\frac{5+\sqrt{13}}{6} \right) \right) \left(x - \left(\frac{5-\sqrt{13}}{6} \right) \right) (2x - 3)\end{aligned}$$

No easy factorization of quadratic, so use formula:

$$x_1, x_2 = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = \frac{-(-5) \pm \sqrt{(-5)^2 - 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 1}}{2 \cdot 3} = \frac{5 \pm \sqrt{13}}{6}$$

We are ready to solve the equation.

$$\begin{aligned}6x^3 - 19x^2 + 17x - 3 &= 0 \\ 3 \left(x - \left(\frac{5+\sqrt{13}}{6} \right) \right) \left(x - \left(\frac{5-\sqrt{13}}{6} \right) \right) (2x - 3) &= 0 \\ 2x - 3 = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x = \left(\frac{5+\sqrt{13}}{6} \right) \quad \text{or} \quad x = \left(\frac{5-\sqrt{13}}{6} \right) \\ x &= \frac{3}{2}\end{aligned}$$