

Synthetic Division

Ex. 1 $(3x^3 + 5x^2 - 17x - 15) \div (x + 3)$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr} -3 & 3 & 5 & -17 & -15 & \\ & \downarrow & -9 & 12 & 15 & \\ \hline & 3 & -4 & -5 & 0 & \end{array}$$

$x+3=0$
 $x=-3$

$$3x^2 - 4x - 5$$

Ex. 2 $(2x + x^2 + 2x^3 - 3) \div (x - 1)$

put in standard form $x=0$
 $x=1$

Careful!

$$(2x^3 + x^2 + 2x - 3) \div (x - 1)$$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ & \downarrow & 2 & 3 & 5 \\ \hline & 2 & 3 & 5 & 2 \end{array}$$

$$2x^2 + 3x + 5 + \frac{2}{x-1}$$

Synthetic Division

Ex. 3 $(x^4 - 2x^2 - 22x + 36) \div (x - 2)$

$6x^3$
 $x-2=0$
 $x=2$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr} 2 & 1 & 0 & -2 & -22 & 36 \\ & \downarrow & 2 & 4 & 4 & -36 \\ \hline & 1 & 2 & 2 & -18 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$x^3 + 2x^2 + 2x - 18$$

Ex. 4 $(x^2 - 6) \div (x + 4)$

$x=-4$

$$x^2 + 0x - 6$$

$$\begin{array}{r|rr} -4 & 1 & 0 & -6 \\ & \downarrow & -4 & 16 \\ \hline & 1 & -4 & 10 \end{array}$$

$$x - 4 + \frac{10}{x+4}$$

Use synthetic division to determine whether the given linear expression is a factor of the polynomial.

$x^4 - 2x^3 + 2x - 4; x - 3$
 $x - 3 = 0$
 $x = 3$

If 0 is remainder then it is a factor.

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr}
 3 & 1 & -2 & 0 & 2 & -4 \\
 & \downarrow & 3 & 3 & 9 & 33 \\
 \hline
 & 1 & 1 & 3 & 11 & 29
 \end{array}$$

NO it is not a factor. since remainder is 29.

The **Remainder Theorem** provides a quick way to find the remainder of a polynomial long-division problem.

Take note

Theorem The Remainder Theorem

If you divide a polynomial $P(x)$ of degree $n \geq 1$ by $x - a$, then the remainder is $P(a)$.

Use synthetic division and the Remainder Theorem to find $P(a)$.

Ex. 6 $P(x) = 2x^3 + 7x^2 + 2x + 1; a = -2$ $P(-2)$

$P(-2) = 2(-2)^3 + 7(-2)^2 + 2(-2) + 1$
 $= -16 + 28 - 4 + 1$
 $= 9$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr}
 -2 & 2 & 7 & 2 & 1 \\
 & \downarrow & -4 & -6 & 8 \\
 \hline
 & 2 & 3 & -4 & 9
 \end{array}$$

Remainder Theorem
 $P(-2) = 9$

Ex. 7 $P(x) = 3x^4 + x - 2; a = -1$

$P(-1) = 3(-1)^4 + (-1) - 2$
 $= 3 - 1 - 2$
 $= 0$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr}
 -1 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \\
 & \downarrow & -3 & 3 & -3 & 2 \\
 \hline
 & 3 & -3 & 3 & -2 & 0
 \end{array}$$

Remainder Theorem
 $P(-1) = 0$