

Unit 3: Polynomial, Radical, and Rational Functions

**3.3 The Factor Theorem**

The Factor Theorem states that if  $f(a) = 0$  for a polynomial, then  $(x-a)$  is a factor of the polynomial  $f(x)$ .

*Integral Zero Property*  
- try factors of the constant term

Ex.) Fully factor the following polynomials:

a)  $x^3 - x^2 - 5x + 2$

1:  $\begin{array}{r|rrrr} 1 & 1 & -1 & -5 & 2 \\ & \downarrow & & & \\ & 1 & 0 & -5 & \end{array}$  Remainder  $\Rightarrow (x-1)$  not a factor

2:  $\begin{array}{r|rrrr} 2 & 1 & -1 & -5 & 2 \\ & \downarrow & & & \\ & 1 & 1 & -3 & \end{array}$   $(x-2)$  not a factor

-2:  $\begin{array}{r|rrrr} -2 & 1 & -1 & -5 & 2 \\ & \downarrow & & & \\ & 1 & -3 & 6 & \end{array}$   $(x+2)$  is a factor

Fully Factored:  $(x+2)(x^2 - 3x + 1)$

What are the roots: (exact values)

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$x = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{(-3)^2 - 4(1)(1)}}{2(1)}$$

$$x = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= -2 \\ x &= \frac{3 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \\ x &= \frac{3 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

**b)  $x^3 - x^2 - 4x + 4$**


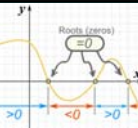
4:  $\begin{array}{r|rrrr} 4 & 1 & -1 & -4 & 4 \\ & \downarrow & & & \\ & 1 & 0 & -4 & \end{array}$

$x=1$   $\begin{array}{r|rrrr} 1 & 1 & -1 & -4 & 4 \\ & \downarrow & & & \\ & 1 & 0 & -4 & \end{array}$

Factored Form:  $(x-1)(x^2-4)$   
Diff. of Squares

$(x-1)(x+2)(x-2)$

Roots:  $(1,0)$   
 $(2,0)$   
 $(-2,0)$   $x=1, \pm 2$

c)  $2x^3 - 5x^2 - 4x + 3$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr}
 x=3 & 2 & -5 & -4 & 3 \\
 & \downarrow & 6 & 3 & -3 \\
 \hline
 & 2 & 1 & -1 & 0
 \end{array}$$

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

M:  $-2$   
 $2 \begin{array}{l} \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{array} -1 \quad \frac{2x^2+2x}{2x} = \frac{-1x-1}{2x} = -\frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{2}$

A:  $1 \quad \begin{array}{l} \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} 2x(x+1) \\ (-1)(x+1) \end{array}$

$(x-3)(x+1)(2x-1)$

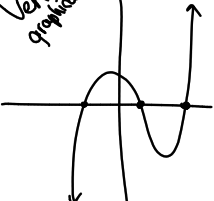
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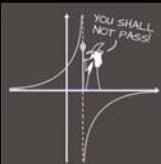
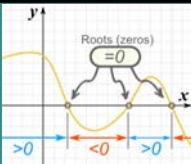

$$\begin{array}{r|rr}
 & 2 & 1 & -1 \\
 & \downarrow & -2 & 1 \\
 \hline
 & 2 & -1 & 0
 \end{array}$$

$(x-3)(x+1)(2x-1)$

$x = 3, -1, \frac{1}{2}$

-1: -1 · 1  
Verify graphically:



d)  $x^4 - 5x^3 + 2x^2 + 20x - 24$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr}
 -2 & 1 & -5 & 2 & 20 & -24 \\
 & \downarrow & -2 & 14 & -32 & 24 \\
 \hline
 & 1 & -7 & 16 & -12 & 0
 \end{array}$$

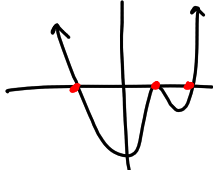
$(x+2)(x^3-7x^2+16x-12)$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr}
 2 & 1 & -7 & 16 & -12 \\
 & \downarrow & 2 & -10 & 12 \\
 \hline
 & 1 & -5 & 6 & 0
 \end{array}$$

$(x+2)(x-2)(x^2-5x+6)$

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

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



Pg. 133 # 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12.