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Recall: a term is a product of numbers and variables. Terms are separated by addition or subtraction signs.

Example: State the number of terms in the following polynomials.

$5x^2 - 6x - 3$ 3



$54x - 7x^2$ 2



$\frac{-124x^8y^5z^3}{23}$ 1



$(x - 2)$ 2



$3x(x - 2)$

$\frac{3x(x - 2)}{7x}$

$6x - \frac{3x(x - 2)}{7x}$

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Recall: Simplify or Expand means to multiply and remove the brackets.

For example:

Expand $3x(x-2)$
 $3x^2 - 6x$

Simplify $(x+2)(x-5)$
 $x^2 - 5x + 2x - 10$ $x^2 - 3x - 10$

Reversing this process is called dividing or factoring.

For example:

Factor $3x^2 - 6x = 3x(x-2)$

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

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The process of factoring with polynomials is similar to factoring with numbers.

Example

Determine the GCF of $16x^2y$ and $24x^2y^3$.

$16 \ 4 \ 2 \ 4$ $x^2 \neq x^2$ $y \neq y^3$
 GCF 8 x^2 y
 $16 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2$
 $24 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3$
 $\begin{matrix} \boxed{2} & \cdot & \boxed{2} \\ \boxed{2} & \cdot & \boxed{2} \\ \boxed{2} & \cdot & \boxed{2} \\ \boxed{2} & \cdot & \boxed{2} \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \boxed{x} & \cdot & \boxed{x} \\ \boxed{x} & \cdot & \boxed{x} \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \boxed{y} \\ \boxed{y} & \cdot & \boxed{y} \\ \boxed{y} & \cdot & \boxed{y} \end{matrix}$
 GCF: $8x^2y$

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The process of factoring with polynomials is similar to factoring with numbers.

Example

Determine the GCF of $16x^2y$ and $24x^2y^3$.

Solution

Method 1: Use Prime Factorization

List the prime factorization of the numerical coefficients.

$16 = (2)(2)(2)(2)$

$24 = (2)(2)(2)(3)$

Numerical GCF = $(2)(2)(2) = 8$

List the prime factorization of the variables.

$x^2y = (x)(x)(y)$

$x^2y^3 = (x)(x)(y)(y)(y)$

Variable GCF = $(x)(x)(y) = x^2y$

Therefore, the GCF of $16x^2y$ and $24x^2y^3$ is $8x^2y$.

Method 2: List the Factors

Write the factors of each term.

$16x^2y$: 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, x , x^2 , y

$24x^2y^3$: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24, x , x^2 , y , y^2 , y^3

The greatest common factors are 8, x^2 , and y .

Therefore, the GCF of $16x^2y$ and $24x^2y^3$ is $8x^2y$.

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Your Turn

Determine the GCF of each pair of terms.

- a) $5m^2n$ and $15mn^2$ b) $48ab^3c$ and $36a^2b^2c^2$

Handwritten work for problem a):

$5m^2n$ and $15mn^2$

$5 = 5$ $m^2 = m \cdot m$ $n = n$

$15 = 5 \cdot 3$ $m = m$ $n^2 = n \cdot n$

GCF = $5mn$

Handwritten work for problem b):

$48ab^3c$ and $36a^2b^2c^2$

Prime factorization of 48: $2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3$

Prime factorization of 36: $2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 3$

Prime factorization of $48ab^3c$: $2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot a \cdot b \cdot b \cdot b \cdot c$

Prime factorization of $36a^2b^2c^2$: $2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot a \cdot a \cdot b \cdot b \cdot c \cdot c$

GCF = $12ab^2c$

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Example 2

Write $7a^2b - 28ab + 14ab^2$ in factored form.

$$7a^2b - 28ab + 14ab^2$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 7 = \textcircled{7} \\
 28 = \textcircled{7} \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \\
 14 = \textcircled{7} \cdot 2
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 a^2 = \textcircled{a} \cdot a \\
 a = \textcircled{a} \\
 a = \textcircled{a}
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 b = \textcircled{b} \\
 b = \textcircled{b} \\
 b^2 = \textcircled{b} \cdot b
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &7ab \left(\frac{7a^2b}{7ab} - \frac{28ab}{7ab} + \frac{14ab^2}{7ab} \right) \\
 &7ab (1a - 4 + 2b)
 \end{aligned}$$

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Example 2

Write $7a^2b - 28ab + 14ab^2$ in factored form.

Solution

Ask the questions: How many terms are there? What is common in each term?

There are 3 terms.

Identify the GCF of the numerical coefficients by listing the prime factorization for each coefficient.

$$\begin{aligned}
 7 &= 7 \\
 28 &= (2)(2)(7) \\
 14 &= (2)(7) \\
 \text{The GCF is } 7.
 \end{aligned}$$

Identify the GCF of the variables.

$$\begin{aligned}
 a^2b &= (a)(a)(b) \\
 ab &= (a)(b) \\
 ab^2 &= (a)(b)(b) \\
 \text{The GCF is } ab.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the GCF of $7a^2b - 28ab + 14ab^2$ is $7ab$.

Divide each term by the GCF.

$$7a^2b - 28ab + 14ab^2 = 7ab(a - 4 + 2b)$$

Check:

Multiply.

$$\begin{aligned}
 7ab(a - 4 + 2b) &= (7ab)(a) + (7ab)(-4) + (7ab)(2b) \\
 &= 7a^2b - 28ab + 14ab^2
 \end{aligned}$$

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Your Turn

Write each polynomial in factored form.

a) $27r^2s^2 - 18r^3s^2 - 36rs^3$

$$9rs^2(3r - 2r^2 - 4s)$$

$$9rs^2(3r - 2r^2 - 4s)$$

b) $4np^2 + 10n^3p - 12n^3p$

$$2np(2p + 5n^3 - 6n^2)$$

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Recall terms are separated by plus or minus signs.

State the number of terms in each polynomial:

$3x + 2y$



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



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



$\frac{3x^2(y-1)}{2w} + 2(y-1)$



$\frac{3x^2(y-1)}{2w} + \frac{2(y-1)}{5t}$



$3x(x+5) - 4y(x+5) + 5xy(x+5)$



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Example 3

Write the expression in factored form.

$$\underline{3x(x-4)} + \underline{5(x-4)}$$

$$(x-4)(3x+5)$$

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Example 3

Write the expression in factored form.

$$3x(x-4) + 5(x-4)$$

Solution

How many terms are there? What is common in each term?

The GCF in $3x(x-4)$ and $5(x-4)$ is $(x-4)$.

$$3x(x-4) + 5(x-4)$$

$$= (x-4)(3x+5)$$

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Your Turn

Write each expression in factored form.

a) $4(x+5) - 3x(x+5)$

$$(x+5)(4-3x)$$

b) $12b(a-7) + (a-7)$

$$(a-7)(12b+1)$$

c) $(x-6)(5x+2) + (x+3)(5x+2)$

$$(5x+2) \left[(x-6) + (x+3) \right]$$

d) $3x(x+5) - 4y(x+5) + 5xy(x+5)$

$$(x+5)(3x-4y+5xy)$$

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Your Turn

a) $a^2 + 8ab + 2a + 16b$

b) $ax + a + bx + b$

c) $x^2 + y - xy - x$

d) $x^3 + x + 2x^2 + 2$

e) $yz - xy + y^2 - xz$

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Common Factoring With Fractions

When the polynomial being factored contains a fraction, it is advantageous to factor out the fraction so the remaining factor has integral coefficients.

Example 5

Factor the following:

a) $\frac{1}{2}a^2 - 5a$

b) $x^2 - \frac{5}{2}x^2 + \frac{7}{4}x$

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Example 5

Factor the following:

a) $\frac{1}{2}a^2 - 5a$

Solution

$$\frac{1}{2}a(a - 10)$$

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Your Turn

a) $9x^2 + \frac{1}{6}x$

b) $\frac{3}{4}x^2 - 10$

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Assignment: Page 220 #2 odd letters, #4-6 odd letters, 8, 9, 11-12 odd letters, 16
Challenge: Page 220#19

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