

# Factoring



# Factoring



- Reverses the multiplication process
- Think of “unfoiling”

$$\begin{array}{l} (x+2)(x-3) \\ x^2 - 3x + 2x - 6 \\ x^2 - x - 6 \end{array} \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{Factored} \\ \text{Form} \end{array}$$

**GCF** *Always the 1<sup>st</sup> Step!!!*

- Check to see if there is a common factor in each term
- Factor it out

$$\begin{array}{l} \underbrace{2x+4} \\ 2(x+2) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} x^3+x^2 \\ x^2(x+1) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x^5-4x^3 \\ 2x^3(x^2-2) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} -3x+9 \\ -3(x-3) \end{array}$$

$$27b^5c^2 - 18b^8c$$
$$9b^5c(3c - 2b^3)$$



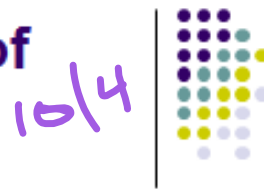
check:

$$9b^5c(3c - 2b^3)$$
$$27b^5c^2 - 18b^8c \quad \checkmark$$

Multiply

Subst.

Factoring the Difference of  
Perfect Squares  
(Both terms)



$$36x^4 - 4x^2$$

$$4x^2(9x^2 - 1)$$

$$4x^2(3x + 1)(3x - 1)$$

① GCF

② 2 sets of parentheses

③ Square root of 1<sup>st</sup> term

④ Square root of 2<sup>nd</sup> term

⑤ one +  
one -

$$256x^2 - 1$$

$$(16x + 1)(16x - 1)$$

$$32x^2 - 2$$

$$2(16x^2 - 1)$$

$$2(4x + 1)(4x - 1)$$

$$16x^4 - 1$$

$$(4x^2 + 1)(4x^2 - 1)$$

$$(4x^2 + 1)(2x + 1)(2x - 1)$$

Factored  
Form

## Factoring **Difference** of Squares

Degree must be even #
# of terms must be 2 (Binomial)
Must be able to take the $\sqrt{\quad}$ of a & c

$$ax^2 - c$$

Must be a minus sign

Steps for Factoring Success
1. GCF?
2. Sq. root of 1 <sup>st</sup> & Last
3. Make one addition & one subtr.

Example:  $162x^2 - 72$

$$18(9x^2 - 4)$$

$$18(3x+2)(3x-2)$$