

2.3(a) Polynomial Division

Recall dividing $\frac{658}{3}$ using long division:

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \overline{) 658} \\ \underline{-6} \\ 58 \\ \underline{-3} \\ 28 \\ \underline{27} \\ 1 \end{array}$$

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Divide: $\frac{2x^3 + 6x^2 - 14x + 9}{x-1}$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x-1 \overline{) 2x^3 + 6x^2 - 14x + 9} \\
 \underline{-(2x^3 - 2x^2)} \quad \downarrow \\
 8x^2 - 14x \quad \downarrow \\
 \underline{-(8x^2 - 8x)} \quad \downarrow \\
 -6x + 9 \\
 \underline{-(-6x + 6)} \\
 3
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \frac{2x^3}{x} \\
 \frac{8x^2}{x} \\
 \frac{-6x}{x}
 \end{array}$$

Ans: $\frac{2x^2 + 8x - 6}{x-1} + \frac{3}{x-1}$

← quotient ← divisor ← remainder

Divide: $\frac{4x^5 - x^3 + 2x^2 - x}{2x+1}$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2x+1 \overline{) 4x^5 - x^3 + 2x^2 - x + 0} \\
 \underline{-(4x^5 + 2x^4)} \\
 -2x^4 - x^3 + 2x^2 - x + 0 \\
 \underline{-(-2x^4 - x^3)} \\
 0 + 2x^2 - x + 0 \\
 \underline{-(2x^2 + x)} \\
 -2x + 0 \\
 \underline{-(-2x - 1)} \\
 1
 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{4x^5}{2x}$$

$$\frac{-2x^4}{2x}$$

$$\frac{2x^2}{0x}$$

$$\frac{-2x}{2x}$$

Ans: $2x^4 - x^3 + x - 1 + \frac{1}{2x+1}$

Dividing Polynomials Using Synthetic Division

Divide:
$$\frac{2x^3 + 6x^2 - 14x + 9}{x - 1}$$

Shelf #
 Set $x - 1 = 0$
 $x = 1$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} & 2 & 6 & -14 & 9 \\ \text{(add)} & \downarrow 2^{(1)} & \swarrow 2 & \swarrow 8 & \swarrow 16^{(1)} \\ & 2 & 8 & -6 & \boxed{3} \end{array}$$
 ← coef. of the variables
 ← remainder

$$2x^2 + 8x - 6 + \frac{3}{x-1}$$

← put the variables back in, start with one degree less than orig. problem

Divide: $\frac{4x^5 - \overset{0x^4}{x^3} + 2x^2 - x + 0}{2x+1}$

Shelf #
 $2x+1=0$
 $x = -\frac{1}{2}$

$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{-1}{2} \overline{) 4 \quad 0 \quad -1 \quad 2 \quad -1 \quad 0} \\ \underline{\downarrow -2 \quad 1 \quad 0 \quad -1 \quad 1} \\ 4 \quad -2 \quad 0 \quad 2 \quad -2 \quad 1 \end{array}$$

$$4x^4 - 2x^3 + 2x - 2 + \frac{1}{2x+1}$$

We can use synthetic division to evaluate functions:

The remainder theorem: If $f(x)$ is divided by $x-k$, the $r=f(k)$

Ex: Use the R. theorem to evaluate

$$f(x) = 4x^2 - 10x - 21 \text{ when } x=5$$

$$f(5) = 4(5)^2 - 10(5) - 21 = 29$$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrr} 5 & 4 & -10 & -21 \\ & \downarrow & 20 & 50 \\ \hline & 4 & 10 & 29 \end{array}$$

equal!

remainder = $f(5)$!!

We can also use synthetic division to find zeros of a function.

$X = k$ is a zero if and only if $f(k)=0$ (i.e.: remainder=0)

Ex: Is $x = -4$ a zero of $f(x) = x^3 - 28x - 48$?

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr} -4 & 1 & 0 & -28 & -48 & \\ & \downarrow & -4 & 16 & 48 & \\ \hline & 1 & -4 & -12 & 0 & \end{array}$$

yes! $x = -4$
is a zero.

Find the remaining zeros:

$$x^2 - 4x - 12 = 0$$

$$(x - 6)(x + 2) = 0$$

$$x = 6, -2$$

(factor or use
quad. formula)

Zeros: $-4, 6, -2$