

Notes 3.4 – Multiplying Polynomials

Warmup – Flashback to multiplying in elementary school... no calculators

1. $2571 \cdot 34 =$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2571 \\ \times 34 \\ \hline 10284 \\ 77130 \\ \hline 87414 \end{array}$$

2. $8329 \cdot 371 =$

$$\begin{array}{r} 8329 \\ \times 371 \\ \hline 8329 \\ 583030 \\ 2498700 \\ \hline 3090059 \end{array}$$

Investigation

When adding polynomials we applied basic addition rules, will the same be true for multiplication?

Try multiplying $(x - 2)(x + 5)$, what do you get?

$x^2 + 3x - 10$

$$\begin{array}{r} x - 2 \\ \cdot x + 5 \\ \hline 5x - 10 \\ x^2 - 2x \\ \hline x^2 + 3x - 10 \end{array}$$

There are two common methods used to multiply polynomials, you can use either to successfully multiply two polynomials.

Method 1: The Box

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

	x^2	$-3x$	$+5$
x	x^3	$-3x^2$	$+5x$
$+2$	$+2x^2$	$-6x$	$+10$

$x^3 - x^2 - x + 10$

orientation does not matter



Combine Like terms by adding

	x	$+2$
x^2	x^3	$+2x^2$
$-3x$	$-3x^2$	$-6x$
$+5$	$+5x$	$+10$

Method 2: FOIL or SuperFOIL

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

uses the distributive property multiple times

$$(x-3)(x^2+4x-2)$$
$$\underline{x^3 + 4x^2 - 2x - 3x^2 - 12x + 6}$$

then combine like terms

$$\boxed{x^3 + x^2 - 14x + 6}$$

How can you check if your answer is correct?

Graph your answer & the original factored form

Practice the method of your choice.

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

	x^2	$-x$	-3
x	x^3	$-x^2$	$-3x$
$+5$	$+5x^2$	$-5x$	-15

$$\boxed{x^3 + 4x^2 - 8x - 15}$$

b. $(x-2)(2x^2+6x+1)$

$$2x^3 + 6x^2 + x - 4x^2 - 12x - 2$$

$$\boxed{2x^3 + 2x^2 - 11x - 2}$$

How can we find the product when there are more than two factors?

Multiply twice or more

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

$$(x+2)(x-2) \rightarrow x^2 - 2x + 2x - 4 \rightarrow \boxed{x^2 - 4}$$

$$\boxed{(x^2 - 4)}(x+3) \rightarrow \boxed{x^3 + 3x^2 - 4x - 12}$$

How can we multiply polynomials in the form $(a - b)^3$?

expand it out to get rid of exponent

$$(a-b)(a-b)(a-b)$$

$$(a-b)(a-b) \rightarrow a^2 - ab - ab + b^2 \rightarrow a^2 - 2ab + b^2$$

$$(a^2 - 2ab + b^2)(a-b) \rightarrow a^3 - a^2b - 2a^2b + 2ab^2 + ab^2 - b^3$$

$$a^3 - 3a^2b + 3ab^2 - b^3$$

Practice on these problems.

c. $(x+3)^3$

$$(x+3)(x+3)(x+3)$$

$$(x^2 + 6x + 9)(x+3)$$

$$x^3 + 3x^2 + 6x^2 + 18x + 9x + 27$$

$$x^3 + 9x^2 + 27x + 27$$

d. $(x-1)^4$

$$(x-1)(x-1)(x-1)(x-1)$$

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

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

$$x^4 - 4x^3 + 6x^2 - 4x + 1$$

Putting it all together.

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

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

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

$$2x^4 - 11x^3 + 21x^2 - 16x + 4$$

	$2x^2$	$-3x$	$+1$
x^2	$2x^4$	$-3x^3$	$+x^2$
$-4x$	$-8x^3$	$+12x^2$	$-4x$
4	$8x^2$	$-12x$	$+4$