Lesson 2: Factoring Trinomials of the Form x2 + bx + c - Part One

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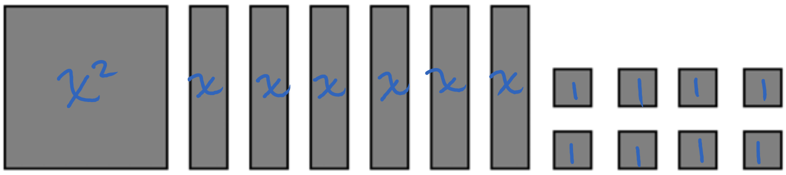
Factoring Polynomial Expressions Lesson #2:
Factoring Trinomials of the Form $x^2 + bx + c$ - Part One

Factoring Trinomials using Algebra Tiles

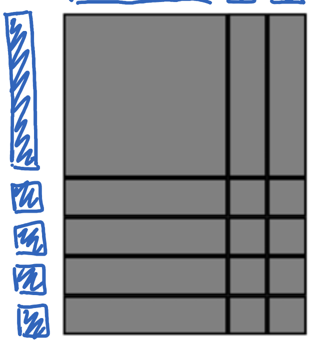
Consider the algebra tile diagram shown.



- Write the polynomial expression which is represented by the algebra tiles.

$x^2 + 6x + 8$

- The algebra tiles can be rearranged into a rectangular form as shown below.



i) Write an expression for the length of the rectangle. $x+4$

ii) Write an expression for the width of the rectangle. $x+2$

iii) Write the area of the rectangle as a product of two binomials.

$A = (x+4)(x+2)$

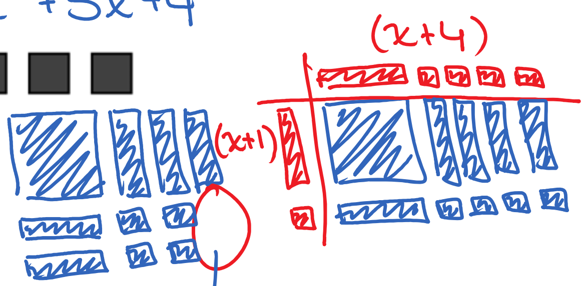
iv) Write the area of the rectangle in expanded form.

$x^2 + 6x + 8$

- The work above provides a method for factoring the trinomial $x^2 + 6x + 8$ into the product of two binomials $(x + 2)(x + 4)$: i.e. $x^2 + 6x + 8 = (x + 2)(x + 4)$.

a) Write the polynomial expression which is represented by the algebra tiles.

$x^2 + 5x + 4$

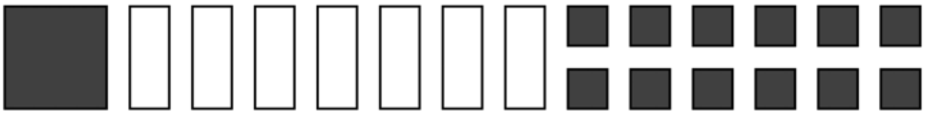


b) Arrange the algebra tiles into a rectangle and write an expression for the length and width of the rectangle.

c) Use the results above to express the polynomial in factored form.

$x^2 + 5x + 4 = (x+4)(x+1)$

a) Write the polynomial expression which is represented by the algebra tiles.



b) Arrange the algebra tiles into a rectangle and express the polynomial in factored form.

Complete Assignment Questions #1 - #3

Investigation: Factoring Trinomials by Inspection

- Expand the following binomials as shown.

$(x+2)(x+4) = x^2 + 4x + 2x + 8 = x^2 + 6x + 8$

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

$(x+1)(x+7) = x^2 + 7x + x + 7 = x^2 + 8x + 7$

$(x+5)(x+2) = x^2 + 2x + 5x + 10 = x^2 + 7x + 10$

$(x-5)(x-2) = x^2 - 2x - 5x + 10 = x^2 - 7x + 10$

$(x+8)(x-6) = x^2 - 6x + 8x - 48 = x^2 + 2x - 48$

- Consider the expansion $(x+p)(x+q) = x^2 + bx + c$. $\rightarrow x^2 + qx + px + pq$

  In each of the examples above what is the connection between

  i) the value of b and the values of p and q? $b = p + q$

  ii) the value of c and the values of p and q? $c = pq$

Class Ex. #3

Use FOIL to show that $(x+p)(x+q)$ can be written in the form $x^2 + (p+q)x + pq$.

Factoring $x^2 + bx + c$ by Inspection

In order to factor $x^2 + bx + c$ by inspection we need to find two integers which have a product equal to c and a sum equal to b. If no two such integers exist, then the polynomial cannot be factored.

In order to factor $x^2 + 8x + 12$ we need to find two numbers which multiply to 12 and add to 8 .

In order to factor $x^2 - 13x + 12$ we need to find two numbers which multiply to 12 and add to -13.

The next example practices this skill.

-1 -14
~~-2 -7~~
~~1 -6~~
2 -3
~~1 15~~
3 5

Class Ex. #4

Complete the tables to find two numbers with the given sum and the given product.

Sum (+)	Product (x)	Integers
12	20	2, 10
9	20	4, 5
4	4	2, 2
–9	18	–6, –3

Sum	Product	Integers
–15	14	–1, –14
–1	–6	2, –3
2	–15	–3, 5
–26	48	–2, –24

1 48
2 24
3 16
4 12
6 8

Note

Notice that:

- if the product is **positive**, then the two integers must be either **both positive** or **both negative.**
- if the product is **negative**, then one integer is **positive** and the other is **negative**.

Note

For the remainder of this lesson, we will only deal with examples where the product is positive. In the next lesson we will include examples where the product is negative.

Class Ex. #5

Factor the following trinomials where possible.

a) $x^2 + 8x + 12$ mult. 12 add 8

$(x+2)(x+6)$

b) $x^2 + 13x + 12$ mult. 12 add. 13

$(x+1)(x+12)$

c) $x^2 - 13x + 12$ mult. 12 add -13

$(x-1)(x-12)$

d) $a^2 - 11a + 10$ mult. 10 add -11

$(a-10)(a-1)$

e) $y^2 + 3y + 4$ mult. 4 add 3

can't factor

1 4

2 2

f) $x^2 + 27x + 50$ mult. 50 add 27

$(x+25)(x+2)$

Class Ex. #6

Factor the polynomial expressions by first removing a common factor.

a) $4x^2 - 32x + 48$

$4(x^2-8x+12)$ mult. 12 add -8

$4(x-2)(x-6)$

b) $3x^3 + 21x^2 + 30x$ mult. 10 add 7

$3x(x^2+7x+10)$

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

Note In this example there were two steps in the factoring process - a common factor followed by a trinomial. If we are asked to factor a polynomial expression, it is understood this means to continue factoring until no further factoring is possible. This is sometimes written as "factor completely ...". The operation "factor" means "factor completely".

Complete Assignment Questions #4 - #15

Assignment

1. a) Write the polynomial expression which is represented by the algebra tiles.

b) Arrange the algebra tiles into a rectangle and write an expression for the length and width of the rectangle.

c) Use the results above to express the polynomial in factored form.