

If the tree were 74 ft tall and Tamalie jumped with an initial downward velocity of 5 ft per second, How long was he in the air before he hit the ground?

This problem can be modeled by the following equation:

$$h = -16t^2 - 5t + 74$$

where h is his distance above the ground, and t is the time after he jumped.

When Tamalie hit the ground, the height was $h = 0$.

$$0 = -16t^2 - 5t + 74$$

The problem reduces to solving this quadratic equation:

$$-16t^2 - 5t + 74 = 0$$

$$16t^2 + 5t - 74 = 0 \qquad \text{Multiply by } -1$$

We have factored quadratic trinomials that had leading coefficients of 1, but this quadratic expression has a leading coefficient of 16. Can we find a way to use our previous techniques to factor this quadratic trinomial?

<p>General Quadratic Polynomials:</p>	<p>Polynomials of the form,</p> $ax^2 + bx + c \quad a \neq 1,$ <p>are general quadratic polynomials.</p> <p>We have learned how to use grouping to factor quadratic trinomials when the leading coefficient is 1. Now, we will extend that technique to factoring general quadratic trinomials.</p>
<p>Positive a:</p>	<p>We will always assume that the quadratic coefficient, a, is positive. From a practical standpoint, we can always change the signs of all the coefficients in order to make a positive.</p>
<p>FOIL:</p>	<p>Let's use the FOIL technique to multiply the following binomials:</p> $(a_1x + c_1)(a_2x + c_2)$
<p>First:</p>	$a_1a_2x^2$
<p>Outer:</p>	a_1c_2x
<p>Inner:</p>	a_2c_1x
<p>Last:</p>	c_1c_2
	<p>Notice that</p> $a = a_1a_2$ $b = a_1c_2 + a_2c_1$ $c = c_1c_2$
	<p>Furthermore,</p> $ac = a_1a_2c_1c_2$ $= (a_1c_2)(a_2c_1)$ <p>The linear coefficient, b, is the sum of the factors of ac. This is the requirement to factor the quadratic trinomial by grouping. We shall illustrate this approach in the following examples and exercises:</p>

Define the following terms.

*Quadratic
Polynomials*

*Standard Form of
Quadratic
Polynomials*

FOIL

*Factor Quadratic
Polynomial*

Factor by Grouping

Now go back and paraphrase page 4.

Example 1:

Factor the following quadratic trinomial by grouping.

$$3x^2 + 7x + 2$$

The product of the quadratic and constant coefficients is

$$ac = 3 \cdot 2 = 6$$

Let's make a table of all the integral factors of 6 and their sums.

b_1	b_2	$b_1 + b_2$
1	6	7
2	3	5

$$1 \cdot 6 = 6$$

$$1 + 6 = 7$$

Therefore, we can factor this quadratic trinomial by grouping.
First, we write,

$$3x^2 + 7x + 2 = 3x^2 + 1 \cdot x + 6x + 2$$

Then we group the terms and factor them.

$$\begin{aligned} 3x^2 + 7x + 2 &= (3x^2 + 1 \cdot x) + (6x + 2) \\ &= x(3x + 1) + 2(3x + 1) \\ &= (x + 2)(3x + 1) \end{aligned}$$

This can easily be checked by using FOIL.

Exercise 1:

Factor the following quadratic trinomial by grouping.

$$4x^2 + 8x + 3$$

Example 2:

If the linear coefficient is negative, and the constant is positive, then we must look for all the negative factors of ac .

Factor the following quadratic trinomial by grouping.

$$8x^2 - 22x + 5$$

The product of the quadratic and constant coefficients is

$$ac = 8 \cdot 5 = 40$$

Let's make a table of all the negative, integral factors of 40 and their sums.

b_1	b_2	$b_1 + b_2$
-1	-40	-41
-2	-20	-22
-4	-10	-14
-5	-8	-13

$$-2 \cdot (-20) = 40 \qquad -2 + (-20) = -22$$

Therefore, we can factor this quadratic trinomial by grouping. First, we write,

$$8x^2 - 22x + 5 = 8x^2 - 2x - 20x + 5$$

Then we group the terms and factor them.

$$\begin{aligned} 8x^2 - 22x + 5 &= (8x^2 - 2x) + (-20x + 5) \\ &= 2x(4x - 1) - 5(4x - 1) \\ &= (2x - 5)(4x - 1) \end{aligned}$$

As before, we can easily check this by using FOIL.

Exercise 2:

Factor the following quadratic trinomial by grouping.

$$4x^2 - 17x + 15$$

If the constant coefficient is negative, then we must look for all the factors of ac that result in a negative product. That is, one factor must be negative, and the other must be positive.

Example 3:

Factor the following quadratic trinomial by grouping.

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

The product of the quadratic and constant coefficients is

$$ac = 2 \cdot (-5) = -10$$

On the next page, let's make a table of all the integral factors of -10 and their sums.

b_1	b_2	$b_1 + b_2$
-1	10	9
-2	5	3
-5	2	-3
-10	1	-9

$$-5 \cdot 2 = -10$$

$$-5 + 2 = -3$$

Therefore, we can factor this quadratic trinomial by grouping. First, we write,

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

Then we group the terms and factor them.

$$\begin{aligned} 2x^2 - 3x - 5 &= (2x^2 - 5x) + (2x - 10) \\ &= x(2x - 5) + 1 \cdot (2x - 5) \\ &= (x + 1)(2x - 5) \end{aligned}$$

We can easily check this by using FOIL.

Exercise 3:

Factor the following quadratic trinomial by grouping.

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

Real-Life Example:

Let's revisit the story of Tamalie.

As we saw, this problem reduces to solving this quadratic equation:

$$16t^2 + 5t - 74 = 0$$

In order to factor this quadratic expression, we must find the factors of $16 \cdot (-74) = -1184$.

Moreover, the product is negative. Therefore, one factor must be negative, and the other must be positive.

The sum of the two factors must be 5; the absolute values of the two factors must be close to $\sqrt{1184} \cong 34.4$. Let's check the negative integers between -30 and -34 and the positive integers that would give a sum of 5.

n	$5 - n$	$n(5 - n)$
-30	35	-1050
-31	36	-1116
-32	37	-1184
-33	38	-1254
-34	39	-1326

We see that,

$$-32 + 37 = 5 \quad \text{and} \quad (-32) \cdot 37 = -1184$$

We can rewrite the quadratic equation as,

$$16t^2 - 32t + 37t - 74 = 0$$

$$(16t^2 - 32t) + (37t - 74) = 0$$

$$16t(t - 2) + 37(t - 2) = 0$$

$$(16t + 37)(t - 2) = 0$$

Therefore, the solutions are,

$$(16t + 37) = 0 \quad \therefore \quad t = -37/16 \text{ s.}$$

and

$$(t - 2) = 0 \quad \therefore \quad t = 2 \text{ s.}$$

The first solution is negative, which means it is before Tamalie jumped. It is a solution of the equation, but it is not consistent with the physical problem. It is an *extraneous* solution. When you model a physical problem with an equation, you must always check for extraneous solutions. You must reject any extraneous solution.

The other solution is, $t = 2$ s. Tamalie was in the air for two seconds before he fatally crashed into the ground.

Class work: p 242: 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16

Homework: p 242: 17-25 odd, 29-37 odd, 44, 49-65 odd, 66-68, 71-79 odd