

- Plan
1. Polynomial division and factorisation
  2. Rational and radical equations
  3. Inequalities

1. Polynomial division and factorisation

want to divide the polynomial  $f(x)$   
with a polynomial  $g(x)$   
and get a polynomial  $q(x)$   
with a remainder  $r(x)$

$g(x) \cdot \left| \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = q(x) + \frac{r(x)}{g(x)} \right.$  with  $\deg(r(x)) < \deg(g(x))$

gives  $f(x) = q(x) \cdot g(x) + r(x)$

Ex  $f(x) = 3x^2 + 2x + 1$  and  $g(x) = x - 2$

$$\begin{array}{r} \boxed{3x^2} + 2x + 1 : (\boxed{x} - 2) = \overset{3x^2 : x}{\boxed{3x}} + \overset{8x : x}{\boxed{8}} + \frac{17}{x-2} \\ - (3x^2 - 6x) \quad \leftarrow \cdot (x-2) \\ \hline \boxed{8x} + 1 \\ - (8x - 16) \quad \leftarrow \cdot (x-2) \\ \hline \boxed{17} \end{array}$$

$\frac{17}{x-2} \leftarrow : (x-2)$

$\boxed{17}$  is called the remainder

So  $q(x) = 3x + 8$   
and  $r(x) = 17$ .

$$\underline{\text{check:}} \quad \left( \overbrace{3x+8} + \overbrace{\frac{17}{x-2}} \right) \cdot \overbrace{(x-2)}$$

$$= (3x+8)(x-2) + \frac{17}{x-2} \cdot \cancel{(x-2)}$$

$$= 3x^2 + 8x - 6x - 16 + 17$$

$$= 3x^2 + 2x + 1 = f(x) \quad \text{-so ok!}$$

## Two applications of polynomial division

A) To find asymptotes of rational functions

$$\underline{\text{EX}} \quad \frac{3x^2 + 2x + 1}{x - 2} = 3x + 8 + \frac{17}{(x-2)}$$

has a vertical asymptote: the line  $x = 2$

and a non-vertical asymptote: the line  $y = 3x + 8$

B) To factorise a polynomial as a product of degree 1 (linear) polynomials.

EX Factorise  $x^3 - 4x^2 - 11x + 30$  into linear factors.

Solution Three steps.

step I Guess an integer root (zero)

[Note: has to divide 30]

$$1 \text{ try } x = -3 : (-3)^3 - 4 \cdot (-3)^2 - 11 \cdot (-3) + 30$$

$$= -27 - 36 + 33 + 30 = 0$$

Then  $(x - (-3)) = (x + 3)$  is a factor!

Step 2 Use polynomial division to find a polynomial of lower degree:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \boxed{x^3} - 4x^2 - 11x + 30 : \boxed{(x+3)} = x^2 - 7x + 10 \\
 \underline{-(x^3 + 3x^2)} \quad \leftarrow \cdot (x+3) \\
 \boxed{-7x^2} - 11x + 30 \\
 \underline{-(-7x^2 - 21x)} \quad \leftarrow \cdot (x+3) \\
 \boxed{10x} + 30 \\
 \underline{-(10x + 30)} \quad \leftarrow \cdot (x+3) \\
 0 \text{ remainder}
 \end{array}$$

This means  $x^3 - 4x^2 - 11x + 30 = (x^2 - 7x + 10)(x + 3)$

Step 3 We find the roots (zeros) of  $x^2 - 7x + 10$ .

They are  $x = 2$ ,  $x = 5$ .

$$\text{So } x^2 - 7x + 10 = (x - 2)(x - 5)$$

$$\text{Then: } x^3 - 4x^2 - 11x + 30 = \underline{\underline{(x - 2)(x - 5)(x + 3)}}$$

Note 1 Not always possible to factorise

Ex  $x^2 + 5$  has no roots!

$$\begin{aligned}
 x^2 + 2x + 3 \text{ has no roots! since } b^2 - 4ac \\
 = 2^2 - 4 \cdot 1 \cdot 3 = 4 - 12 < 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Note 2 It can be difficult to guess a root  
- it doesn't have to be an integer

## 2. Rational- and radical equations

A rational equation:  $\frac{p(x)}{q(x)} = 0$

where  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  are polynomials

Ex  $\frac{x+1}{(x-1)(x+3)} = 0$  then  $x+1 = 0$   
and  $(x-1)(x+3) \neq 0$   
i.e.  $x \neq 1, x \neq -3$

Ex  $\frac{x+1}{(x-1)(x+3)} = 2$

subtract 2 from b.s.

$$\frac{x+1}{(x-1)(x+3)} - 2 = 0$$

multiply -2 with  $\frac{(x-1)(x+3)}{(x-1)(x+3)}$   
(which is 1)

$$\frac{x+1}{(x-1)(x+3)} - 2 \cdot \frac{(x-1)(x+3)}{(x-1)(x+3)} = 0$$

$$\frac{x+1 - 2(x-1)(x+3)}{(x-1)(x+3)} = 0$$

$$\frac{x+1 - 2(x^2+2x-3)}{(x-1)(x+3)} = 0$$

$$\frac{x+1 - 2x^2 - 4x + 6}{(x-1)(x+3)} = 0$$

$$\frac{-2x^2 - 3x + 7}{(x-1)(x+3)} = 0$$

that is  $-2x^2 - 3x + 7 = 0$

with  $x \neq 1$ ,  $x \neq -3$

which you can solve.

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### Radical equations

- the unknown is under a root!

Ex  $2\sqrt{x+1} = x-2$

square both sides

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

$$4x + 4 = x^2 - 4x + 4$$

$$x^2 - 8x = 0$$

$$x(x-8) = 0$$

so  $x = 0$  or  $x = 8$

Note Not all of these need to be solutions of the original eq.

We have to test the candidates :

$$\begin{array}{l} \underline{x=0} \quad \text{l.h.s.} \quad 2 \cdot \sqrt{0+1} = 2 \cdot \sqrt{1} = 2 \cdot 1 = 2 \\ \quad \quad \quad \text{r.h.s.} \quad 0 - 2 = -2 \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} \underline{x=0} \\ \text{l.h.s.} \\ \text{r.h.s.} \end{array}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{not equal!} \\ \text{so } x=0 \\ \text{is not} \\ \text{a solution} \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{l} \underline{x=8} \quad \text{l.h.s.} \quad 2 \cdot \sqrt{8+1} = 2 \sqrt{9} = 2 \cdot 3 = 6 \\ \quad \quad \quad \text{r.h.s.} \quad 8 - 2 = 6 \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} \underline{x=8} \\ \text{l.h.s.} \\ \text{r.h.s.} \end{array}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{equal!} \\ \text{so } \underline{x=8} \\ \text{is the only} \\ \text{solution.} \end{array}$$

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### 3. Inequalities

$-2 < -1$  read: 'minus two is less than minus one'

$\frac{1}{9} > \frac{1}{12}$  read: 'one ninth is bigger than one twelfth'

Also:  $\leq$  and  $\geq$

An inequality is claim that one expression (number) is less than, bigger than... another expression (number)

The solutions of an inequality are those values of  $x$  which make the claim true.

Ex.  $x - 1 \geq 2$  is a claim

- is true for  $x = 5$  since  $5 - 1 \geq 2$

- is not true for  $x = 2$  since  $2 - 1 \geq 2$

is not true!

The solutions of the inequality are all the values of  $x$  such that  $x \geq 3$ .

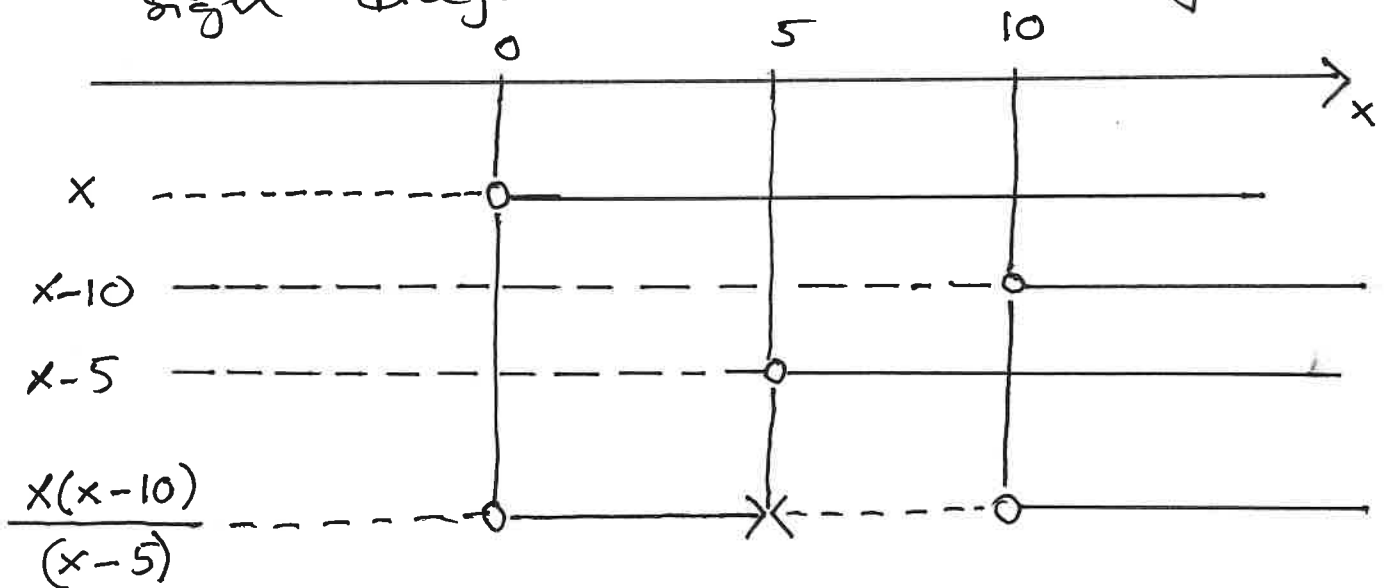
- an infinite set of numbers!

We can also write  $x \in [3, \infty)$

$x \in [3, \rightarrow)$

Ex Solve the inequality  $\frac{x(x-10)}{(x-5)} \geq 0$

Solution: Since we have 0 on the r.h.s. and a factorised fraction we can apply the sign diagram immediately



that is  $0 \leq x < 5$  or  $x \geq 10$

another way of writing:  $x \in [0, 5)$  or  $x \in [10, \infty)$