

3.8a Factoring special polynomials

I. Trinomials with 2 variables

If a trinomial is of the form $ax^2 + bxy + cy^2$, factor as usual (3.5) but add the extra variable of the factored binomials.

$$\underline{x^2 + bx + c}$$

ex. $a^2 + 4a - 77$

ex. $2x^2 + x - 3$

ex. $12m^2 + 5m - 3$

$$\underline{ax^2 + bxy + cy^2}$$

ex. $a^2 + 4ab - 77b^2$

ex. $2x^2 + xy - 3y^2$

ex. $12m^2 + 5mn - 3n^2$

II. A perfect Square Trinomial is a trinomial that breaks down into two factors. Thus, its area model is a

ex. $p^2 + 10pq + 25q^2$

III. A Difference of Squares ... are of the form

$$a^2 - b^2 =$$

ex. a) $y^2 - 25$

b) $x^2 - 169$

c) $9x^2 - 49$

d) $16x^4 - z^6$

e) $121x^4y^2 - 64y^8$

f) $5x^4 - 80y^4$

e) $162a^4 - 2w^8$