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The division of polynomial functions is a fundamental concept in algebra that helps us understand how polynomials relate to each other and how to simplify complex expressions. In this article, we will explore the division of the polynomial $(F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1)$ by the binomial $(2x + 1)$. We will analyze the process step-by-step, including polynomial long division, synthetic division where applicable, and the concept of the Remainder Theorem. Additionally, we will interpret the results and discuss the implications of such division in algebraic contexts.

Understanding Polynomial Division

What Is Polynomial Division?

Polynomial division is the process of dividing one polynomial (the dividend) by another polynomial (the divisor), resulting in a quotient polynomial and possibly a remainder. The division can be expressed as:

$$\text{Dividend} = (\text{Divisor}) \times (\text{Quotient}) + \text{Remainder}$$

This process is analogous to numerical long division but involves algebraic expressions.

Why Is Polynomial Division Important?

Polynomial division helps to:

- Simplify complex rational expressions
- Find factors of polynomials
- Determine roots and zeros of polynomials
- Evaluate polynomial functions at specific points
- Derive partial fraction decompositions

Dividing $(F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1)$ by $(2x + 1)$

Setting Up the Division

Our goal is to divide the cubic polynomial $(F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1)$ by the binomial $(2x + 1)$.

The process involves polynomial long division:

1. Arrange the dividend and divisor in descending order of degree.
2. Divide the leading term of the dividend by the leading term of the divisor.
3. Multiply the entire divisor by this result.
4. Subtract the resulting polynomial from the dividend.
5. Repeat the process with the new polynomial until the degree of the remainder is less than the degree of the divisor.

Polynomial Long Division: Step-by-Step

Step 1: Write the division setup

$$\begin{array}{r} \\ \frac{2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1}{2x + 1} \end{array}$$

Step 2: Divide the leading term

Divide $(2x^3)$ by $(2x)$:

$$\frac{2x^3}{2x} = x^2$$

Step 3: Multiply the divisor by (x^2)

$$(2x + 1) \times x^2 = 2x^3 + x^2$$

Step 4: Subtract

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & (2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1) - (2x^3 + x^2) = 0 - 2x^2 + x + 1 = -2x^2 + x + 1 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Step 5: Divide the new leading term

Divide $(-2x^2)$ by $(2x)$:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & \frac{-2x^2}{2x} = -x \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Step 6: Multiply the divisor by $(-x)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & (2x + 1) \times -x = -2x^2 - x \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Step 7: Subtract

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & (-2x^2 + x + 1) - (-2x^2 - x) = 0 + 2x + 1 = 2x + 1 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Step 8: Divide the new leading term

Divide $(2x)$ by $(2x)$:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & \frac{2x}{2x} = 1 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Step 9: Multiply the divisor by 1

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & (2x + 1) \times 1 = 2x + 1 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Step 10: Subtract

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash [\\ (2x + 1) - (2x + 1) &= 0 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Since the remainder is zero, the division process concludes here.

Result of the Division

The quotient polynomial is:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash [\\ Q(x) &= x^2 - x + 1 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

and the remainder is:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash [\\ R(x) &= 0 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we can express the division as:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash [\\ & \boxed{ \\ \frac{2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1}{2x + 1} &= x^2 - x + 1 \\ & } \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

This means $(2x + 1)$ is a factor of $(F(x))$, and $(F(x))$ factors completely as:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash [\\ F(x) &= (2x + 1)(x^2 - x + 1) \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Verifying the Result: Polynomial Factorization

Check the Factorization

To ensure the division is correct, multiply the quotient by the divisor and verify if it equals the original polynomial:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash [\\ & (2x + 1)(x^2 - x + 1) \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Use distributive property (FOIL method):

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash [\\ & 2x \times x^2 = 2x^3 \\ & \backslash] \\ & \backslash [\\ & 2x \times (-x) = -2x^2 \\ & \backslash] \\ & \backslash [\\ & 2x \times 1 = 2x \\ & \backslash] \\ & \backslash [\\ & 1 \times x^2 = x^2 \\ & \backslash] \\ & \backslash [\\ & 1 \times (-x) = -x \\ & \backslash] \\ & \backslash [\\ & 1 \times 1 = 1 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Adding all these:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash [\\ & 2x^3 + (-2x^2) + 2x + x^2 - x + 1 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Combine like terms:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash [\\ & 2x^3 + (-2x^2 + x^2) + (2x - x) + 1 = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1 \end{aligned}$$

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which matches the original polynomial $(F(x))$. Therefore, the factorization confirms our division process.

The Remainder Theorem and Its Application

Understanding the Remainder Theorem

The Remainder Theorem states that when a polynomial $(F(x))$ is divided by a linear divisor $(x - a)$, the remainder equals $(F(a))$. Although our divisor is $(2x + 1)$, which is not in the form $(x - a)$, we can modify the process to apply the theorem.

Rearranged, $(2x + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow x = -\frac{1}{2})$

Evaluating $(F(-\frac{1}{2}))$:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\right. \\ & F\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = 2 \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 - \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ & + 1 \\ & \left. \right] \end{aligned}$$

Compute step-by-step:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\right. \\ & 2 \times -\frac{1}{8} = -\frac{1}{4} \\ & \left[\right. \\ & -\frac{1}{4} - \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) + \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) + 1 \\ & \left. \right] \end{aligned}$$

which simplifies to:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\right. \\ & -\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2} + 1 \\ & \left. \right] \end{aligned}$$

Adding:

\]

$$\begin{aligned} &(-\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4}) = -\frac{1}{2} \\ & \\ & \\ &-\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} = -1 \\ & \\ & \\ &-1 + 1 = 0 \\ & \end{aligned}$$

Since $(F(-\frac{1}{2})) = 0$, the Remainder Theorem confirms $(2x + 1)$ is a factor of $(F(x))$.

Implications and Applications of Polynomial Division

Factorization and Roots Finding

The division process reveals that $(2x + 1)$ is a factor of $(F(x))$. Consequently, finding roots involves solving:

$$\begin{aligned} & \\ &2x + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow x = -\frac{1}{2} \\ & \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, the quadratic factor:

$$\begin{aligned} & \\ &x^2 - x + 1 \\ & \end{aligned}$$

has roots given by the quadratic formula:

$$\begin{aligned} & \\ &x = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{(-1)^2 - 4 \times 1 \times 1}}{2} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 - 4}}{2} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{-3}}{2} \\ & \end{aligned}$$

which are complex conjugates:

$$\begin{aligned} & \\ &x = \frac{1 \pm i \sqrt{3}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

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This

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I determine if the polynomial $F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$ is divisible by the binomial $2x + 1$?

To check divisibility, perform polynomial division or use the Remainder Theorem by evaluating F at $x = -1/2$. If the remainder is zero, the polynomial is divisible by $2x + 1$.

What is the value of $F(-1/2)$ for the polynomial $F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$?

Substituting $x = -1/2$ into $F(x)$: $F(-1/2) = 2(-1/2)^3 - (-1/2)^2 + (-1/2) + 1 = 2(-1/8) - 1/4 - 1/2 + 1 = -1/4 - 1/4 - 1/2 + 1 = 0$. So, $F(-1/2) = 0$.

Does the fact that $F(-1/2)$ equals zero imply that $2x + 1$ divides $F(x)$?

Yes, according to the Remainder Theorem, if $F(-1/2) = 0$, then $2x + 1$ is a factor of $F(x)$, meaning it divides evenly.

What is the quotient when $F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$ is divided by $2x + 1$?

Using polynomial division or synthetic division, dividing $F(x)$ by $2x + 1$ yields a quotient of $x^2 - x + 1$.

Can synthetic division be used to divide $F(x)$ by $2x + 1$? If so, how?

Yes. Rewrite $2x + 1$ as zero at $x = -1/2$ and perform synthetic division with $x = -1/2$ to find the quotient and remainder.

What is the factorization of $F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$?

Since $2x + 1$ is a factor, $F(x)$ can be factored as $(2x + 1)(x^2 - x + 1)$.

Is the polynomial $F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$ irreducible over the real numbers?

No, it factors as $(2x + 1)(x^2 - x + 1)$, so it is reducible over the real numbers.

Additional Resources

$F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$ Is Divided By $2x + 1$

Investigating Polynomial Division: An In-Depth Analysis of $F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$ Divided by $2x + 1$

In the realm of algebra and polynomial functions, division plays a vital role in simplifying expressions, solving equations, and understanding the behavior of functions. A particularly interesting case arises when examining the division of a cubic polynomial by a linear factor, such as $F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$ divided by $2x + 1$. This investigation aims to dissect this division comprehensively, exploring the quotient, the remainder, and the implications of these results on polynomial analysis.

The Significance of Polynomial Division in Algebra

Before delving into the specifics of the division at hand, it is essential to understand the broader context and significance of polynomial division. Polynomial division allows mathematicians and students to:

- Simplify complex polynomial expressions.
- Find factors of polynomials.
- Determine polynomial roots via factorization.
- Analyze the behavior of functions through asymptotes and end-behavior.

In particular, dividing a polynomial by a linear factor such as $2x + 1$ can reveal key insights into the roots and factors of the original polynomial, as well as its behavior around specific points.

The Polynomial in Focus: $F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$

Structural Composition

The polynomial $F(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1$ is a cubic function characterized by:

- Leading coefficient: 2
- Degree: 3
- Coefficients: 2 (for x^3), -1 (for x^2), 1 (for x), 1 (constant term)

Understanding its structure helps anticipate the division process and the nature of the quotient and remainder.

Goals of the Division

The primary goal is to perform the division:

$$\left[\frac{2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1}{2x + 1} \right]$$

and analyze the quotient and remainder to understand the polynomial's behavior relative to the divisor.

Methodology for Polynomial Division

The division process employs either long division or synthetic division. Given the divisor is linear, synthetic division is often more efficient, provided the divisor is expressed in the form $(x - c)$.

Transforming the Divisor

The divisor:

$$\left[2x + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow x = -\frac{1}{2} \right]$$

To utilize synthetic division, we rewrite the divisor's root as $\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)$.

Synthetic Division Steps

1. Write the coefficients of the dividend polynomial: 2 (x^3), -1 (x^2), 1 (x), 1 (constant).
2. Use $\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)$ as the synthetic divisor.
3. Proceed with synthetic division to find the quotient coefficients and the remainder.

Step-by-Step Synthetic Division

Coefficients	2		-1		1		1	
-----	---		----		----		----	
$\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)$								
Calculation								

Performing the steps:

1. Bring down the 2.
2. Multiply 2 by $\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)$: $\left(-1\right)$. Add to -1: $\left(-1 + \left(-1\right) = -2\right)$.

3. Multiply (-2) by $(-\frac{1}{2})$: 1. Add to 1: $(1 + 1 = 2)$.
4. Multiply 2 by $(-\frac{1}{2})$: (-1) . Add to 1: $(1 + (-1) = 0)$.

The last value, 0, is the remainder.

Result:

- Quotient coefficients: 2, (-2) , 2
- Remainder: 0

Thus,

$$\left[\frac{2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1}{2x + 1} = \text{Quadratic quotient} + \frac{0}{2x + 1} \right]$$

which simplifies to:

$$\left[Q(x) = 2x^2 - 2x + 2 \right]$$

Polynomial Division Result and Interpretation

Quotient and Remainder

- Quotient: $(2x^2 - 2x + 2)$
- Remainder: 0

This indicates that $2x + 1$ is a factor of $F(x)$, and the polynomial factors as:

$$\left[F(x) = (2x + 1)(2x^2 - 2x + 2) \right]$$

Implications of the Factorization

The factorization reveals:

- The divisor is a factor of the polynomial.
- The roots of $F(x)$ include the root of the divisor, $(x = -\frac{1}{2})$.

- The quadratic factor $(2x^2 - 2x + 2)$ can be further analyzed for roots and behavior.

Roots of the Quadratic Factor

Analyzing $(2x^2 - 2x + 2)$:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Discriminant } D = (-2)^2 - 4(2)(2) = 4 - 16 = -12 \end{aligned}$$

Since $(D < 0)$, the quadratic has complex conjugate roots:

$$x = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{-12}}{2 \times 2} = \frac{2 \pm i\sqrt{12}}{4} = \frac{1 \pm i\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

This indicates $F(x)$ has one real root at $(x = -\frac{1}{2})$, and two complex roots.

Critical Analysis and Broader Implications

Polynomial Behavior and Graphical Insights

- The real root at $(x = -\frac{1}{2})$ corresponds to the zero of the polynomial.
- The quadratic factor's complex roots imply that the polynomial does not cross the x-axis at those points but exhibits specific curvature based on the quadratic's coefficients.

Stability and Factorization Significance

This division and factorization have implications in various mathematical and applied fields:

- Control systems: The roots determine system stability.
- Signal processing: Roots influence filter design.
- Algebraic insights: Understanding root distributions aids in polynomial approximation and interpolation.

Additional Considerations

Verifying the Division

To ensure the accuracy of results, one can perform polynomial multiplication:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & (2x + 1)(2x^2 - 2x + 2) \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Expanding:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & 2x \times 2x^2 = 4x^3 \\ & \backslash] \\ & \backslash[\\ & 2x \times (-2x) = -4x^2 \\ & \backslash] \\ & \backslash[\\ & 2x \times 2 = 4x \\ & \backslash] \\ & \backslash[\\ & 1 \times 2x^2 = 2x^2 \\ & \backslash] \\ & \backslash[\\ & 1 \times (-2x) = -2x \\ & \backslash] \\ & \backslash[\\ & 1 \times 2 = 2 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Adding all:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash[\\ & 4x^3 + (-4x^2 + 2x^2) + (4x - 2x) + 2 = 4x^3 - 2x^2 + 2x + 2 \\ & \backslash] \end{aligned}$$

Notice this is $4x^3 - 2x^2 + 2x + 2$, which does not match the original polynomial $\backslash(2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1 \backslash)$. This discrepancy suggests a miscalculation in the synthetic division or an error in the initial steps.

Correction:

Let's re-verify the synthetic division process properly.

Corrected Polynomial Division and Factorization

Step 1: Polynomial coefficients

$$\backslash[2x^3 - x^2 + x + 1 \backslash]$$

Coefficients: 2, -1, 1, 1

Step 2: Dividing by $\backslash(2x + 1 \backslash)$

Set $\backslash(2x + 1 = 0 \rightarrow x = -\frac{1}{2} \backslash)$.

Step 3: Synthetic division with root $\backslash(-\frac{1}{2} \backslash)$

Coefficients: 2 | -1 | 1 | 1

Bring down 2.

Multiply 2 by $\backslash(-\frac{1}{2} \backslash)$: $\backslash(-1 \backslash)$. Add to -1: $\backslash(-1 + (-1) = -2 \backslash)$.

Multiply -2 by $\backslash(-\frac{1}{2} \backslash)$: 1. Add to 1: $\backslash(1 + 1 = 2 \backslash)$.

Multiply 2 by $\backslash(-\frac{1}{2} \backslash)$: $\backslash(-1 \backslash)$. Add to 1: $\backslash(1 + (-1) = 0 \backslash)$.

Remainder: 0.

The quotient coefficients are: 2, -2,

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