

There are a variety of techniques to write an expression in a product form (factorized)

**A. Taking a common factor:**

It works when **all terms** of an expression have a common:

**1. Coefficient:** that is if the GCD of the coefficients of the expression is different than 1.

Expanded form	Factorized form
$3x^2 - 9$	Since, $GCD(3;9) = 3$ so $3(x^2 - 3)$
$21z^5 + 28z - 7$	Since, $GCD(21;28;7) = 7$ so $7(3z^5 + 4z - 1)$
$-\pi y^2 - 2x\pi$	Since, $GCD(\pi;2\pi) = \pi$ so $-\pi(y^2 + 2x)$

**2. Common Term:** that is if terms of expression have a common *variable or factor*.

Expanded form	Factorized form
$x^2 - 12x$	$x(x - 12)$
$3x^2z^3 + 5xz^2 - 11x^2z^2$	$xz^2(3xz + 5 - 11x)$
$(x - 2)(x^2 + 2) - (x - 2)(3x^2 - 5)$	$(x - 2)[(x^2 + 2) - (3x^2 - 5)]$

**B. By grouping:**

If a polynomial has **FOUR** terms, the expression may be factorable by grouping, This technique works if there is no common factor to all terms. However, a common factor can be found between the two terms and another common factor between the second two terms, then we **GROUP** the terms and factor out the common factor.

Expanded form	Factorized form
$ac + ad + bc + bd$	1 <sup>st</sup> -step: Put in groups $\underbrace{ac + ad}_{1^{st}\text{-Group}} + \underbrace{bc + bd}_{2^{nd}\text{-Group}}$ 2 <sup>nd</sup> -Step: Take common $a(c + d) + b(c + d)$ 3 <sup>rd</sup> -step: Factor out again $(c + d)(a + b)$

**C. Using remarkable identities:**

Frequently used identities

Description	Expanded form	Factorized form
Difference of two squares:	$a^2 - b^2$	$(a - b)(a + b)$
Square of sum:	$a^2 + 2ab + b^2$	$(a + b)^2$
Square of difference:	$a^2 - 2ab + b^2$	$(a - b)^2$
Difference of two cubes:	$a^3 - b^3$	$(a - b)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$
Sum of two cubes:	$a^3 + b^3$	$(a + b)(a^2 - ab + b^2)$
Cube of sum:	$a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3$	$(a + b)^3$
Cube of difference:	$a^3 - 3a^2b + 3ab^2 - b^3$	$(a - b)^3$

**D. Using trial and error technique:**

It is used only in case if the expression is of the form:  $1x^2 + bx + c$ .

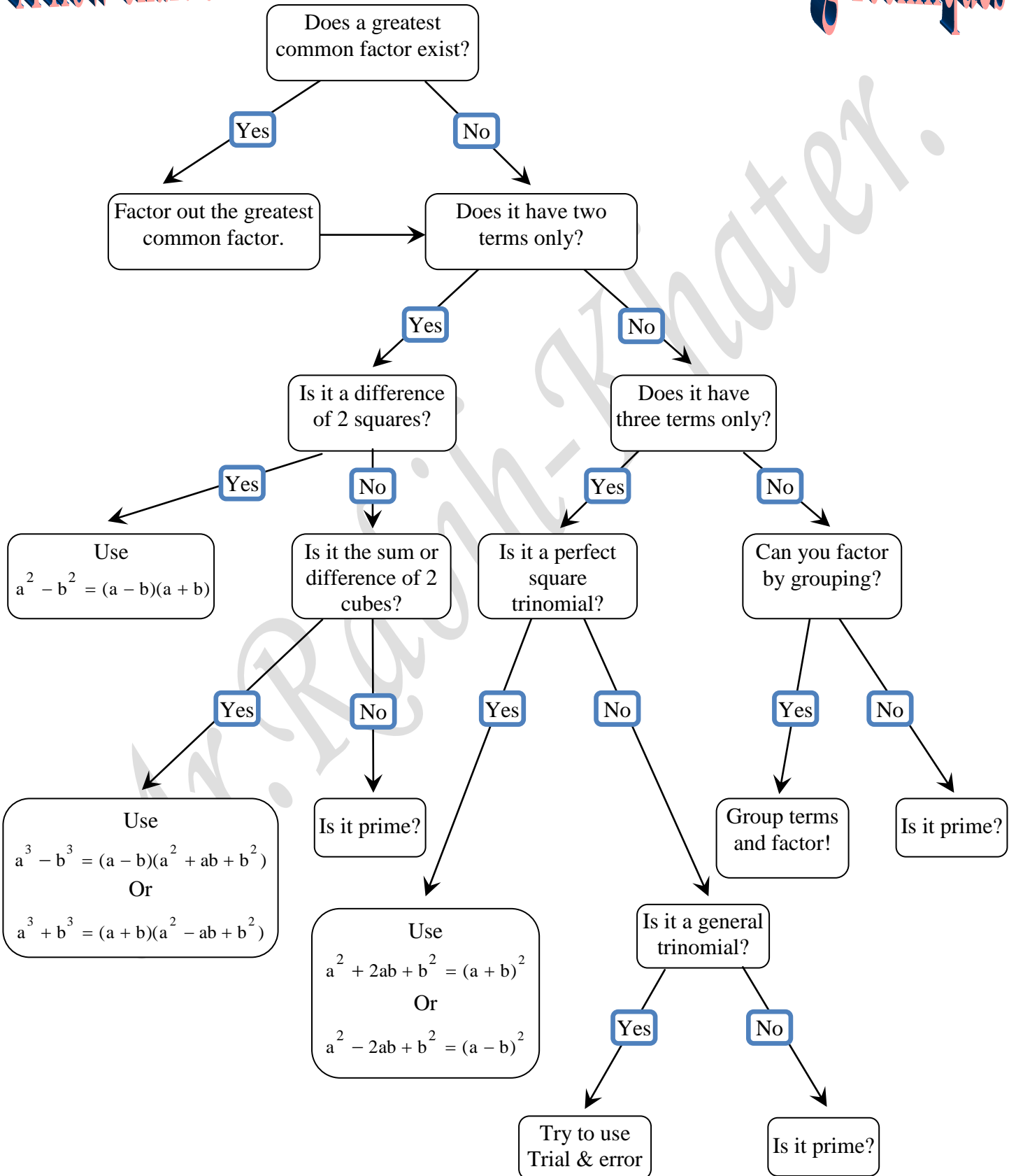
Expanded form	Factorized form	Application
$1x^2 + bx + c$	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup>-step:</b> Put in product form: <math>\underbrace{(x \quad)}_{1^{st}\text{-factor}} \underbrace{(x \quad)}_{2^{nd}\text{-factor}}</math></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup>-Step:</b> Check the sign of <math>c</math>:</p> <p>☞ If the sign of <math>c</math> is <math>\oplus</math> ve, then:</p> <p>☞ Find a pair of numbers in which their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Product is equal to <math>c</math>. That is, <math>c = r \times n</math>.</li> <li>- And sum is equal to <math>b</math>. That is, <math>b = r + n</math>.</li> </ul> <p>☛* If the sign of <math>b</math> is <math>\oplus</math> ve, then write <math>(x + r)(x + n)</math>.</p> <p>☛* If sign of <math>b</math> is -ve, then write <math>(x - r)(x - n)</math>.</p> <p>☞ If the sign of <math>c</math> is -ve, then:</p> <p>☞ Find a pair of numbers in which their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Product is equal to <math>c</math>. That is, <math>c = r \times n</math>.</li> <li>- And difference is equal to <math>b</math>. That is, <math>b = r - n</math>.</li> </ul> <p>☛* If the sign of <math>b</math> is -ve, then greater is -ve.</p> <p>☛* If the sign of <math>b</math> is <math>\oplus</math> ve, then greater is <math>\oplus</math> ve.</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup>-step:</b> Insert numbers and signs in factors. <math>(x \quad r)(x \quad n)</math></p>	<p><math>x^2 - 5x + 6</math></p> <p>1) <math>(x \quad)(x \quad)</math></p> <p>2) <math>c = +6</math> is <math>\oplus</math> ve</p> <p><math>\Rightarrow 6 = \begin{cases} 6 \times 1 \\ 3 \times 2 \end{cases}</math></p> <p>so, use <math>3 + 2 = 5</math></p> <p>3) <math>(x \quad 3)(x \quad 2)</math></p> <p>but, we need <math>-5</math></p> <p>so, <math>-3 + (-2) = -5</math></p> <p><math>\therefore (x - 3)(x - 2)</math></p>

**E. Perfect squaring technique:**

It is used only in case if the expression is of the form:  $ax^2 + bx + c$ .

Expanded form	Factorized form	Application
$ax^2 + bx + c$	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup>-step:</b> If <math>a &gt; 1</math> then take it as a common factor if not, do the other steps: <math>a \left( x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a} \right)</math>.</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup>-Step:</b> Write expression: <math>a \left[ \left( x \quad \right)^2 + \frac{c}{a} \right]</math>.</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup>-step:</b> Always insert sign of <math>b</math> next to <math>x</math>.</p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup>-step:</b> Divide the term <math>\frac{b}{a}</math> by 2 to get <math>\frac{b}{2a}</math></p> <p><b>5<sup>th</sup>-step:</b> Put this term next to <math>x</math>: <math>a \left[ \left( x + \frac{b}{2a} \right)^2 + \frac{c}{a} \right]</math>.</p> <p><b>6<sup>th</sup>-step:</b> Always subtract the square of, <math>\frac{b}{2a}</math> from <math>\frac{c}{a}</math>: <math>a \left[ \left( x + \frac{b}{2a} \right)^2 + \frac{c}{a} - \left( \frac{b}{2a} \right)^2 \right]</math>.</p>	<p><math>3x^2 - 12x - 4</math></p> <p><math>= 3 \left[ x^2 - 4x - \frac{4}{3} \right]</math></p> <p><math>= 3 \left[ x^2 - 4x \dots \dots \dots - \frac{4}{3} \right]</math></p> <p><math>= 3 \left[ x^2 - 4x + \dots - \dots - \frac{4}{3} \right]</math></p> <p><math>= 3 \left[ x^2 - 4x + \left( \frac{4}{2} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{4}{2} \right)^2 - \frac{4}{3} \right]</math></p> <p><math>= 3 \left[ \left( x - \frac{4}{2} \right)^2 - 4 - \frac{4}{3} \right]</math></p>

# A flow chart on when and how to use different Factorizing Techniques

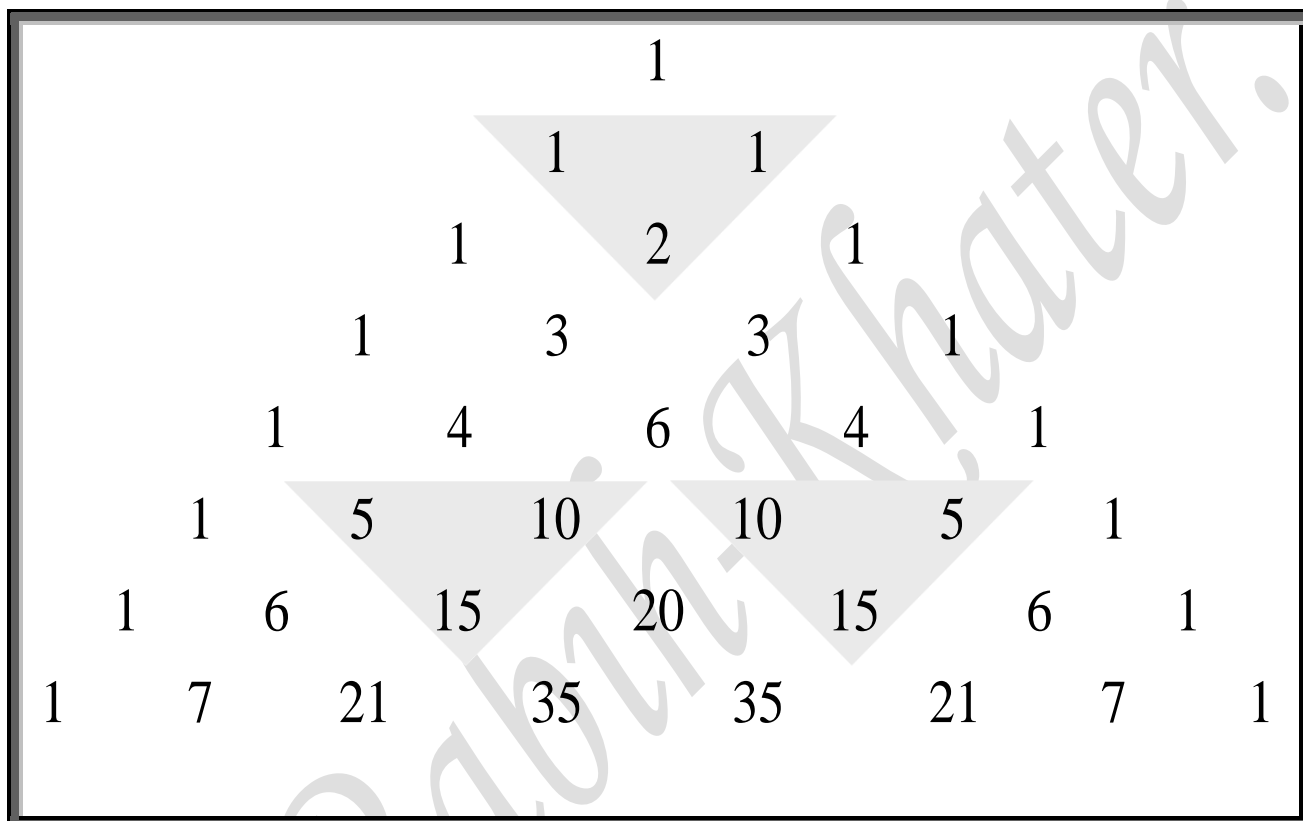


## Expanding binomials of the form $(x + y)^n$

Pascal's Triangle is a technique that serves best in determining the coefficients of the expanded form of a binomial.

1<sup>st</sup> 8 rows of *Pascal's Triangle* (which was known to *Omar Khayyam* before 500 years)

A usage of *Pascal's Triangle* (Out of many other important usages)



### Application

$$\begin{aligned}
 (x + y)^0 &= 1 \\
 (x + y)^1 &= 1x + 1y \\
 (x + y)^2 &= 1x^2 + 2xy + 1y^2 \\
 (x + y)^3 &= 1x^3 + 3x^2y + 3xy^2 + 1y^3 \\
 (x + y)^4 &= 1x^4 + 4x^3y + 6x^2y^2 + 4xy^3 + 1y^4 \\
 (x + y)^5 &= 1x^5 + 5x^4y + 10x^3y^2 + 10x^2y^3 + 5xy^4 + 1y^5
 \end{aligned}$$