

3.3 Zeros of a Polynomial  
Honors Algebra 2 with Trig

1. If  $f(x) = 3x^4 - 2x^3 + 5x + 2$ , find  $f(4)$ 
  - a. Synthetic Substitution
  - b. Direct Substitution
  
2. Given that  $x + 2$  is a factor of  $x^3 - 3x + 2$ , find the remaining factors of the polynomial.

 **Key Concept** Rational Zero Theorem

**Words** If  $P(x)$  is a polynomial function with integral coefficients, then every rational zero of  $P(x) = 0$  is of the form  $\frac{p}{q}$ , a rational number in simplest form, where  $p$  is a factor of the constant term and  $q$  is a factor of the leading coefficient.

**Example** Let  $f(x) = 6x^4 + 22x^3 + 11x^2 - 80x - 40$ . If  $\frac{4}{3}$  is a zero of  $f(x)$ , then 4 is a factor of  $-40$ , and 3 is a factor of 6.

3. List all possible rational zeros of the following:
  - a.  $f(x) = 4x^5 + x^4 - 2x^3 + 5x^2 + 8x + 16$

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4. Find all the zeros of the following functions:

a.  $h(x) = 9x^4 + 5x^2 - 4$

b.  $k(x) = 2x^4 - 5x^3 + 20x^2 - 45x + 18$

c.  $f(x) = 3x^3 - 2x^2 - 8x + 5$

**KeyConcept** Descartes' Rule of Signs



Let  $P(x) = a_nx^n + \cdots + a_1x + a_0$  be a polynomial function with real coefficients. Then

- the number of positive real zeros of  $P(x)$  is the same as the number of changes in sign of the coefficients of the terms, or is less than this by an even number, and
- the number of negative real zeros of  $P(x)$  is the same as the number of changes in sign of the coefficients of the terms of  $P(-x)$ , or is less than this by an even number.

5. State the possible number of positive, real zeros, negative real zeros, and imaginary zeros of  $f(x) = x^6 + 3x^5 - 4x^4 - 6x^3 + x^2 - 8x + 5$ .
  
6. State the possible number of positive, real zeros, negative real zeros, and imaginary zeros of  $f(x) = 2x^5 + x^4 + 3x^3 - 4x^2 - x + 9$ .
  
7. Write a polynomial function of least degree with integral coefficients, the zeros of which include  $-1$  and  $1 + 2i$ .

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8. Write a polynomial function of least degree with integral coefficients, the zeros of which include  $-3$ ,  $1$ , and  $-3i$