

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

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr} 4 & 3 & -2 & 0 & 5 & 2 \\ & & 12 & 40 & 160 & 660 \\ \hline & 3 & 10 & 40 & 165 & 662 \end{array}$$

$$f(4) = 662$$

- b. Direct Substitution

$$\begin{aligned} f(4) &= 3(4)^4 - 2(4)^3 + 5(4) + 2 \\ &= 3(256) - 2(64) + 20 + 2 \\ &= 768 - 128 + 22 \\ &= 640 + 22 = 662 \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

2. Given that $x+2$ is a factor of $x^3 - 3x + 2$, find the remaining factors of the polynomial.

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} -2 & 1 & 0 & -3 & 2 \\ & & -2 & 4 & -2 \\ \hline & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

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

factors of $\frac{\text{constant}}{\text{leading coefficient}}$

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. $f(x) = 4x^5 + x^4 - 2x^3 + 5x^2 + 8x + 16$

$$\frac{\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4, \pm 8, \pm 16}{\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4} = \pm 1, \pm \frac{1}{2}, \pm \frac{1}{4}, \pm 2, \pm 4, \pm 8, \pm 16$$

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4. Find all the zeros of the following functions:

possible zeros

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

$\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4$

$\pm 1, \pm 3, \pm 9$

$\pm 1, \pm \frac{1}{3}, \pm \frac{1}{9}$

$\pm 2, \pm \frac{2}{3}, \pm \frac{2}{9}$

$\pm 4, \pm \frac{4}{3}, \pm \frac{4}{9}$

Try zeros until one works

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr} \frac{2}{3} & 9 & 0 & 5 & 0 & -4 \\ & & 6 & 4 & 6 & 4 \\ \hline & 9 & 6 & 9 & 6 & 0 \end{array}$$

zeros:

$x = \pm \frac{2}{3}, \pm i$

$h(x) = (3x-2)(9x^3 + 6x^2 + 9x + 6)$

$= (3x-2)[3x^2(3x+2) + 3(3x+2)]$

$= (3x-2)(3x^2 + 3)(3x+2)$

$= 3(3x-2)(x^2 + 1)(3x+2)$

possible zeros:

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

$\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 6, \pm 9, \pm 18$

$\pm 1, \pm 2$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr} 2 & 2 & -5 & 20 & -45 & 18 \\ & & 4 & -2 & 36 & -18 \\ \hline & 2 & -1 & 18 & -9 & 0 \end{array}$$

$k(x) = (x-2)(2x^3 - x^2 + 18x - 9)$

$= (x-2)[x^2(2x-1) + 9(2x-1)]$

$= (x-2)(x^2 + 9)(2x-1)$

zeros:

$x = 2, \frac{1}{2}, \pm 3i$

possible zeros:

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

$\pm 1, \pm 5$

$\pm 1, \pm 3$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} \frac{5}{3} & 3 & -2 & -8 & 5 \\ & & 5 & 5 & -5 \\ \hline & 3 & 3 & -3 & 0 \end{array}$$

zeros:

$x = \frac{5}{3}, \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{3}$

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

$= 3(3x-5)(x^2 + x - 1)$

*quadratic formula

$x = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1-4(1)(-1)}}{2} = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$

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Key Concept Descartes' Rule of Signs

Let $P(x) = a_n x^n + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$ 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.

6 zeros

5. State the possible number of positive, real zeros, negative real zeros, and imaginary zeros of $f(x) = x^6 + 3x^5 - 4x^4 - 6x^3 + x^2 - 8x + 5$.

$$f(x) = x^6 + 3x^5 - 4x^4 - 6x^3 + x^2 - 8x + 5$$

4 changes

$$f(-x) = x^6 - 3x^5 - 4x^4 + 6x^3 + x^2 + 8x + 5$$

2 changes

4 pos 2 neg
2 pos 2 neg 2 imaginary
0 pos 2 neg 4 imaginary

4 pos 0 neg 2 imaginary
2 pos 0 neg 4 imaginary
0 pos 0 neg 6 imaginary

6. State the possible number of positive, real zeros, negative real zeros, and imaginary zeros of $f(x) = 2x^5 + x^4 + 3x^3 - 4x^2 - x + 9$.

$$f(x) = 2x^5 + x^4 + 3x^3 - 4x^2 - x + 9$$

2 changes

$$f(-x) = -2x^5 + x^4 - 3x^3 - 4x^2 + x + 9$$

3 changes

2 pos 3 neg
0 pos 3 neg 2 imaginary
2 pos 1 neg 2 imaginary

0 pos 1 neg 4 imaginary

7. Write a polynomial function of least degree with integral coefficients, the zeros of which include -1 and $1+2i$.

*also $1-2i$

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= (x+1)(x-(1-2i))(x-(1+2i)) \\ &= (x+1)(x-1+2i)(x-1-2i) \\ &= (x+1)[(x-1)^2 - 4i^2] \\ &= (x+1)(x^2 - 2x + 1 + 4) \\ &= (x+1)(x^2 - 2x + 5) \\ &= x^3 - 2x^2 + 5x + x^2 - 2x + 5 \\ &= x^3 - x^2 + 3x + 5 \end{aligned}$$

	x	-1	2i
x	x ²	-x	2ix
-1	-x	1	-2i
-2i	-2ix	2i	-4i ²
			x ² - 2x + 1 - 4i ²
			x ² - 2x + 5

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

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= (x+3)(x-1)(x-3i)(x+3i) \\&= (x^2+2x-3)(x^2-9i^2) \\&= (x^2+2x-3)(x^2+9) \\&= x^4 + 2x^3 - 3x^2 + 9x^2 + 18x - 27 \\&= x^4 + 2x^3 + 6x^2 + 18x - 27\end{aligned}$$