

**Algebra II**  
**Lesson 6.5/6.6 Theorems about Polynomial Functions**  
**Part I**

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The sections of 6.5 and 6.6 are being combined into a single topic with two parts. Part I will cover theorems that will help us to determine all possible roots when only some of the roots are known.

**Irrational Root Theorem:** Given a polynomial with rational coefficients and  $\sqrt{b}$  is irrational. If of  $a + \sqrt{b}$  is a root, then you will also have the root of  $a - \sqrt{b}$ . ; these are called **conjugates**

*opposite sign on 2nd term.*

**Imaginary Root Theorem:** If the imaginary number of  $a + bi$  is a root of a polynomial with real coefficients, then the conjugate,  $a - bi$  is also a root. Again note these are **conjugates**. These roots are called complex conjugates

*Same terms - 2nd term opposite sign*

To find these roots, you will reduce the polynomial down to linear factors and a quadratic factor by dividing the real factors into the original polynomial. When you get a quadratic factor, you will use the Quadratic Formula to solve.

A polynomial equation has the following roots, find two additional roots. *Conjugates*

$2 - \sqrt{7}$ and $3 + 2\sqrt{6}$ $\downarrow \quad \downarrow$ $2 + \sqrt{7}, 3 - 2\sqrt{6}$	$1 + \sqrt{3}$ , and $-\sqrt{11}$  $1 - \sqrt{3}, +\sqrt{11}$
$3 - i$ and $2i$  $3 + i, -2i$	$12 + 3i$ , and $4 - i$  $12 - 3i, 4 + i$

Note - in the Quadratic Formula the conjugates are "built in" with the  $\pm$ .

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

*conjugates*

*possible complex/irrational value*

Find a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree polynomial equation with rational coefficients that has the given roots

<p>1 and <math>3i \Rightarrow -3i</math></p> <p><math>x=1</math> <math>x=3i</math> <math>x=-3i</math></p> <p><math>x-1=0</math> <math>x-3i=0</math> <math>x+3i=0</math></p> <p><u>conjugates</u></p> <p><math>(x-1)(x-3i)(x+3i)=0</math></p> <p><math>(x-1)(x^2-9i^2)=0</math></p> <p><math>(x-1)(x^2+9)=0</math></p> <p><math>x^3+9x</math> <math>-x^2-9</math></p> <hr/> <p><math>x^3-x^2+9x-9=0</math></p>	<p><math>2+i</math> and <math>-3</math></p> <p><math>2-i</math></p> <p><math>x=-3</math> <math>x=2+i</math> <math>x=2-i</math></p> <p><math>x+3=0</math> <math>x-2-i=0</math> <math>x-2+i=0</math></p> <p><u>conjugates</u></p> <p><math>(x+3)(x-2-i)(x-2+i)=0</math></p> <p><math>(x+3)[(x-2)(x-2)-i^2]=0</math></p> <p><math>(x+3)[x^2-4x+4+1]=0</math></p> <p><math>x^3-4x^2+5x</math> <math>3x^2+15</math></p> <hr/> <p><math>x^3-x^2+5x+15=0</math></p>
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Find a 4<sup>th</sup> degree polynomial equation with rational coefficients that has the given roots:

$5-i$  and  $\sqrt{2} \Rightarrow$  conjugates  $5+i, -\sqrt{2}$

$x=5-i$   $x=5+i$   $x=\sqrt{2}$   $x=-\sqrt{2}$

$x-5+i=0$   $x-5-i=0$   $x-\sqrt{2}=0$   $x+\sqrt{2}=0$

$(x-5+i)(x-5-i)(x-\sqrt{2})(x+\sqrt{2})=0$

$((x-5)^2-i^2-1)(x^2-2)=0$

$(x^2-10x+25+1)(x^2-2)=0$

$(x^2-2)(x^2-10x+26)=0$

$x^4-10x^3+26x^2$   
 $-2x^2+20x-52=0$

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$x^4-10x^3+24x^2+20x-52=0$

## Fundamental theorem of Algebra

In 1797 Carl Gauss proved what is known as the **Fundamental Theorem of Algebra**. It states that a polynomial of degree  $n \geq 1$  has at least one complex zero. In essence, the fundamental theorem of algebra guarantees that every polynomial has a complete factorization, if we are allowed to use complex numbers ( $a + bi$ ). Remember that a real number may be written as a complex number.

**Fundamental Theorem of Algebra; translation!:** An  $n$ th degree polynomial equation has exactly  $n$  roots; at least one of them will be complex.

You can often find all the zeros of a polynomial function by using a combination of graphing, Factor Theorem, polynomial division, the Remainder Theorem and the Quadratic Formula.

Find the number of complex roots, and the possible number of real roots

$$x^5 + x^3 + 2x^2 - 6 = 0$$

degree 5 = 5 complex roots

imaginary roots will be paired  $\pm i$

$$(a + \_\_)(a - \_\_)(c + \_\_)(c - \_\_)(d)$$

at most 4 imaginary  $\rightarrow$  1 real

2 imaginary  $\rightarrow$  3 real

0 "  $\rightarrow$  5 real

$$x^{10} + x^8 + x^4 + 3x^2 - x + 1 = 0$$

10 complex roots (degree)

imaginary roots pair up  $\pm i$

$$(a + \_\_)(a - \_\_)(b + \_\_)(b - \_\_)(c + \_\_)(c - \_\_)(d + \_\_)(d - \_\_)(e + \_\_)(e - \_\_)$$

so: all imaginary (10) - 0 real roots

8 " 2 real

6 " 4 real

4 " 6 real

2 " 8 real

0 " all (10) real