

THE FUNDAMENTAL THEOREM OF ALGEBRA

- OBJECTIVES:** 1) Express a polynomial in the factored form $a_n(x - r_1)(x - r_2)$.
2) Write the equation of a quadratic given specific roots.

THE FUNDAMENTAL THEOREM OF ALGEBRA:

Every polynomial equation of the form

$$a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0 = 0 \quad (n \geq 1, a_n \neq 0)$$

has at least one root within the complex number system. (This root may be a real number.)

THE LINEAR FACTORS THEOREM:

A **polynomial $f(x)$** with degree n can be expressed as the product of n linear factors.

$$\text{Let } f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0 = a_n (x - r_n)(x - r_{n-1}) \dots (x - r_1)$$

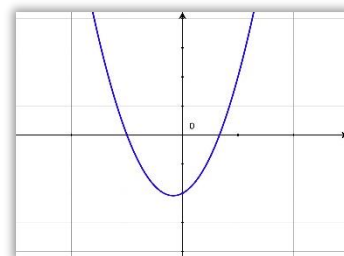
(The complex numbers r_k that appear in these factors are not necessarily all distinct, and some or all of the r_k may be real numbers.)

- 1) Express $3x^2 + x - 2$ as $a_n(x - r_1)(x - r_2)$.

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

$$3\left(x - \frac{2}{3}\right)(x + 1)$$

$$r_1 = \frac{2}{3} \quad r_2 = -1$$

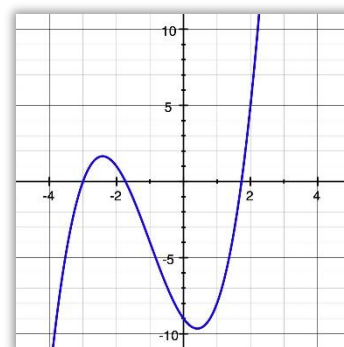


- 2) Express $x^3 + 3x^2 - 3x - 9$ as $a_n(x - r_1)(x - r_2) \dots$.

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

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

$$(x + \sqrt{3})(x - \sqrt{3})(x + 3)$$



3) Create a polynomial using the table below.

| Root | Multiplicity |
|------|--------------|
| -1 | 2 |
| 3 | 1 |
| 0 | 2 |

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

4) Find the EXACT quadratic polynomial with roots -1 and 2 and through (6,2).

$$f(x) = a(x+1)(x-2)$$

$$y = a(x+1)(x-2)$$

$$2 = a(7)(4)$$

$$2 = 28a$$

$$a = \frac{1}{14}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{14}(x+1)(x-2)$$

APPLYING THE LINEAR FACTORS

$$x^2 + bx + c = 0$$

$$r_1 \cdot r_2 = c \quad r_1 + r_2 = -b$$

Proof:

$$x^2 + bx + c = (x-r_1)(x-r_2)$$

$$x^2 + bx + c = x^2 - r_1x - r_2x + r_1r_2$$

$$(-r_1 - r_2) = b$$

$$c = r_1r_2$$

$$-(r_1 + r_2) = b$$

$$r_1 + r_2 = -b$$

5) Find a quadratic equation with roots $r_1 = 2 - 3i$ and $r_2 = 2 + 3i$.

$$c = r_1 \cdot r_2$$

$$c = (2-3i)(2+3i)$$

$$4 - 9i^2$$

$$4 + 9$$

$$c = 13$$

$$-b = r_1 + r_2$$

$$-b = (2-3i) + (2+3i)$$

$$-b = 4$$

$$b = -4$$

$$x^2 - 4x + 13 = 0$$