

Complex and Rational Zeros of Polynomials — 5.5 and 5.6

Find all zeros.

1. $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 + 9x - 9$

Complex Conjugate Zeros

If a polynomial $f(x)$ of degree $n > 1$ has real number coefficients and if $z = a + bi$, $b \neq 0$ is a complex zero of $f(x)$, the conjugate $\bar{z} = a - bi$ is also a zero of $f(x)$.

A polynomial $f(x)$ with real coefficients and leading coefficient 1 has the given zeros and degree. Express $f(x)$ as a product of linear and quadratic polynomial factors with real coefficients that are irreducible over \mathbb{R} .

2. -3 , $1 - 7i$ degree 3

3. 0 , $3i$, $4 + i$ degree 5

Find all solutions of the equation.

4. $12x^3 + 8x^2 - 3x - 2 = 0$

5. $3x^5 - 10x^4 - 6x^3 + 24x^2 + 11x - 6 = 0$

Theorem on Rational Zeros of a Polynomial

If the polynomial $f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$ has integer coefficients and if $\frac{c}{d}$ is a rational zero of $f(x)$, such that conjugate c and d have no common prime factor, then

1. The numerator, c , of the zero is a factor of the constant term a_0 .
2. The denominator, d , of the zero is a factor of the leading coefficient a_n .

In other words:

$$\text{Possible rational zeros} = \frac{\text{factors of the constant term } a_0}{\text{factors of the leading coefficient } a_n}$$

List all possible rational zeros.

6. $3x^5 - 10x^4 - 6x^3 + 24x^2 + 11x - 6 = 0$

Factors of -6:

Factors of 3:

Possible Rational zeros:

Find all solutions of the equation.

7. $3x^5 - 10x^4 - 6x^3 + 24x^2 + 11x - 6 = 0$

Use synthetic division to test a possible rational zero. Try:

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Rewrite equation:

Note: The constant and leading coefficient are still the same as the original, so the possible rational zeros are still the same, and what didn't work previously won't work now.

Use synthetic division to test a possible rational zero for the quotient. Try:

Rewrite equation:

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Use synthetic division to test a possible rational zero for the quotient. Try:

Use synthetic division to test a possible rational zero for the quotient. Try:

Rewrite equation:

Note: The quotient is now a quadratic that can be factored.

Write the equation as a product of linear and quadratic factors irreducible over \mathbb{R} .

Solutions to $3x^5 - 10x^4 - 6x^3 + 24x^2 + 11x - 6 = 0$