

5) Suppose P is a polynomial whose coefficients are all integers less than 100 in magnitude. Show that all the real roots of P are also less than 100 in magnitude.

Pf:

(Note: integer coef. implies magnitude ≥ 1)

Take x s.t. $|x| \geq 100$. Then $|P(x)| =$

$$\begin{aligned} & |a_0x^n + a_1x^{n-1} + \dots| = \\ & |\pm(a_0x^n + a_1x^{n-1} + \dots)| \\ & \text{(Because we can make } a_0 \text{ positive,)} \geq \\ & |x^n| + |a_1x^{n-1} + \dots| \geq \\ & |x^n| - |a_1x^{n-1} + \dots| \end{aligned}$$

(Proof by extremes, the biggest magnitude on the second term is achieved only if all coefficients have the same sign, so assume this,) \geq

$$\begin{aligned} & |x^n| - |99x^{n-1} + 99x^{n-2} + \dots| = \\ & |x|^n - 99 \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} |x|^i = \end{aligned}$$

(By the finite geometric sum formula)

$$\begin{aligned} & |x|^n - 99 \frac{1 - |x|^{(n-1)+1}}{1 - |x|} \geq \\ & \text{(Because } 1 - |x| < -99) \\ & |x|^n - 99 \frac{1 - |x|^{(n-1)+1}}{-99} = \\ & |x|^n + 1 - |x|^n = 1 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $P(x)$ has no roots having magnitude ≥ 100 .