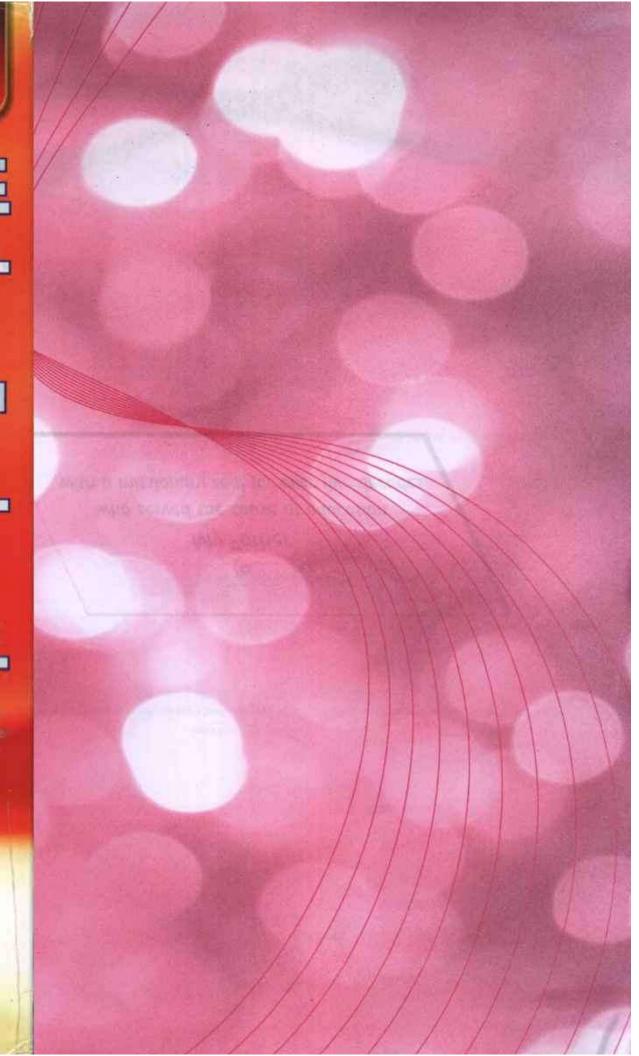
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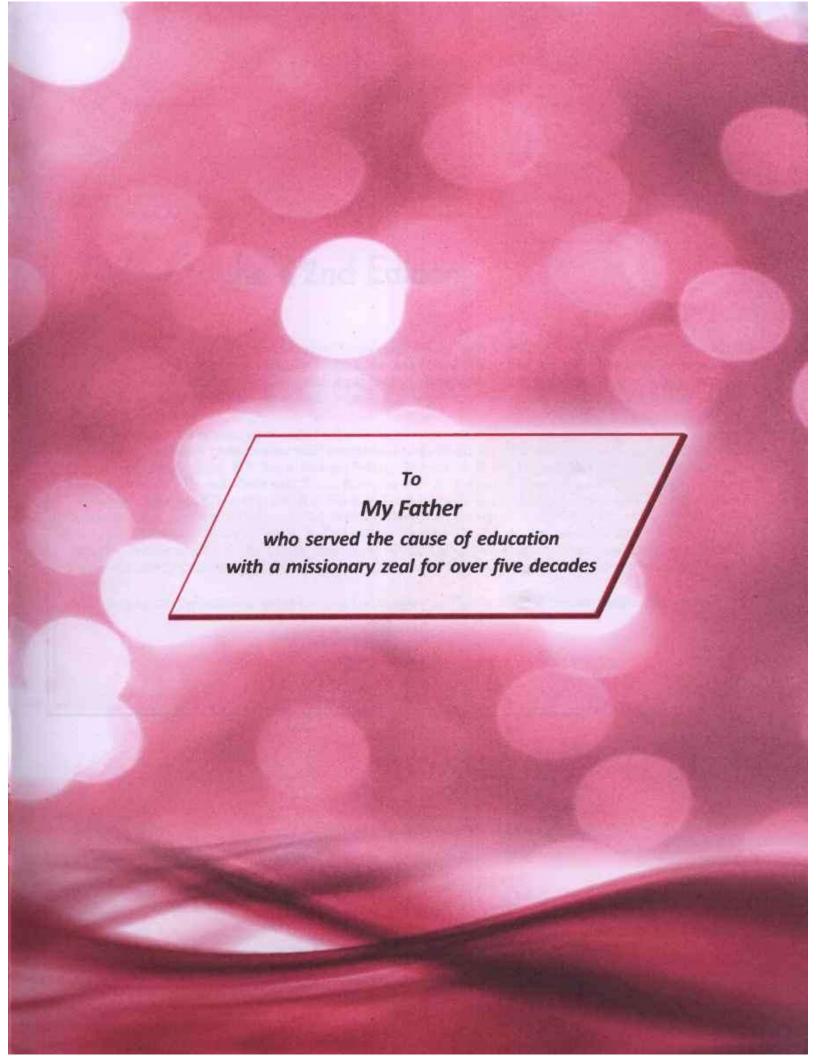
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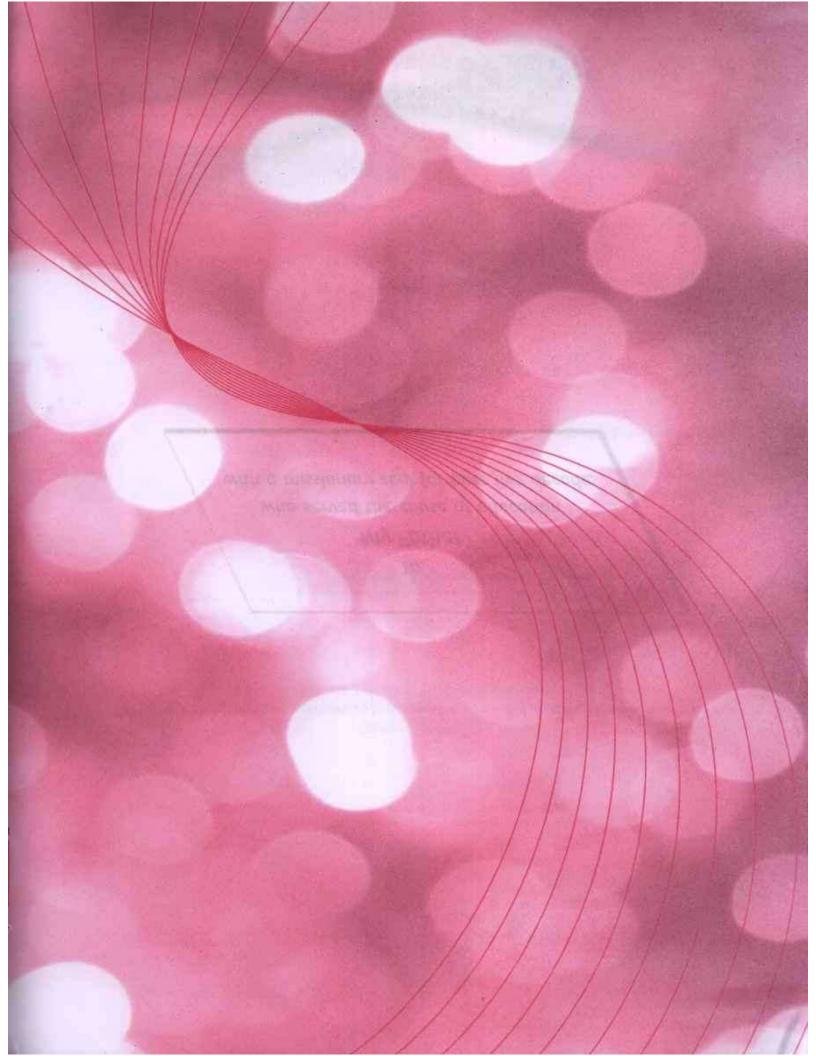
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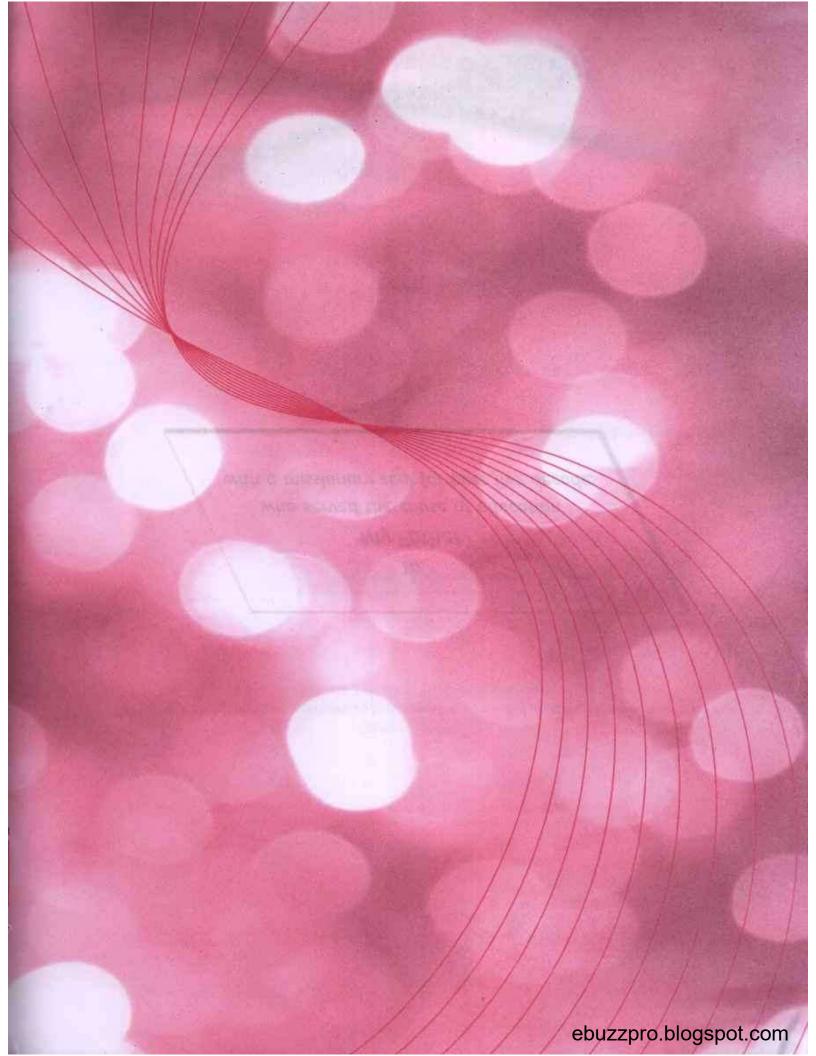
Preface to the 42nd Edition

The book has now been recast in an attractive new format, retaining its main features which have made it so popular. The text has been carefully revised, the number of illustrative examples has been increased and problems from the latest university question papers have been added. The 'Objective Type of Questions' have been updated and given at the end of each chapter. It is hoped that the book in its new form will enjoy its ever increasing popularity.

The author takes this opportunity to thank the numerous readers in India and abroad for their letters of appreciation and fellow professors for their suggestions and patronage of the book. In particular, he is grateful to Prof. Jeevargi Phakirappa, V.N. Engg. College, Bellary (Kar.); Prof. P. Annapurna, N.B.K.R. Inst. of Technology, Vidyanagar (A.P.); Dr. A.P. Burnwal, R.I.T., Koderma (Jh. Kh.); Prof. M. Vasudeva Reddy, Vaishnavi Inst. of Technology, Tarapalli (Tirupati); Dr. K.P. Ghadle, B.A.M. University, Aurangabad (Mah.); Prof. B.K. Yadav, Chauksey Engg. College, Bilaspur (C.G.); Prof. D. Ravi Kumar, Vignan University, Guntur (A.P.); Dr. J.C. Prajapati, Charotara University of Sc. & Technology, Changa (Guj.); Prof. Ramesh Chandra, S.R. Technology Institute, Nalgonda (A.P.); Dr. Latika Bhandari, R.V.S. College of Engg. & Technology, Bhillai; Prof. R. Saraswathi, Sri Padmavati Engg. College, Kavalli (A.P.) and Prof. Vikas Goyal, J.M. Inst. of Technology, Radur (Haryana).

Suggestions for improvement of the text and intimation of misprints will be thankfully acknowledged.

New Delhi B.S. GREWAL



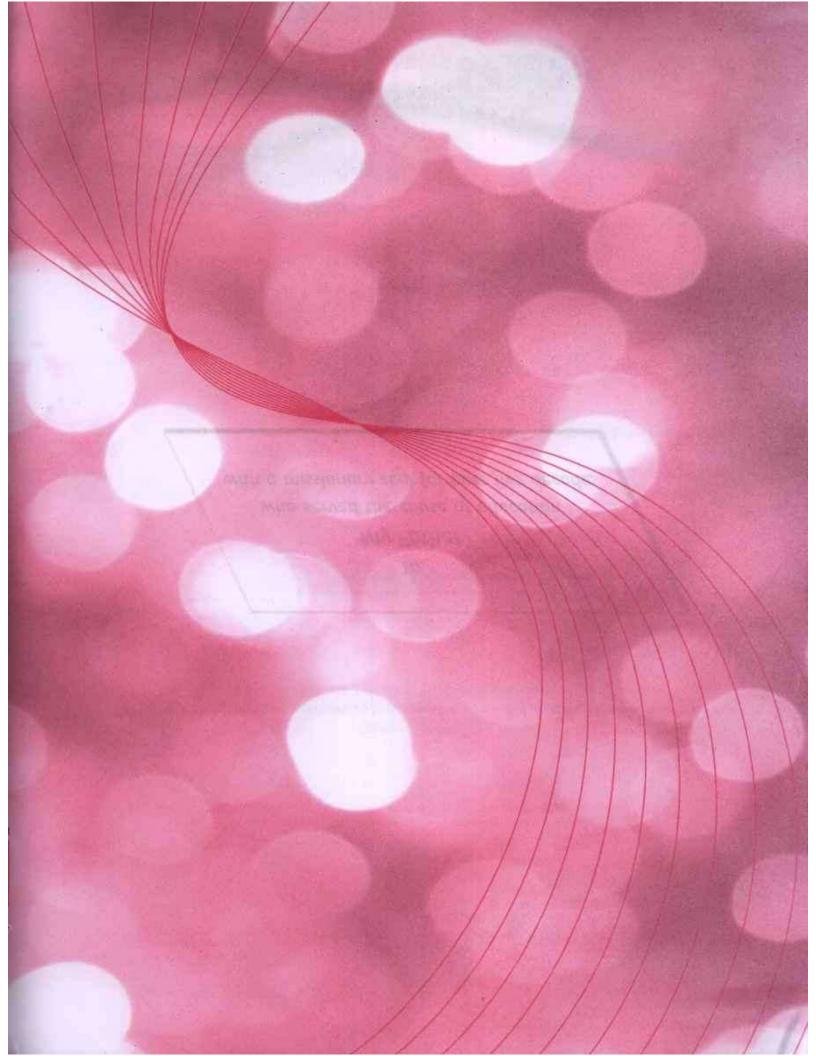
Contents

	Unit I : ALGEBRA, VECTORS AND GEOMETRY								
1	Solution of Equations	and the same of th	1						
2.	Linear Algebra : Determinants, Matrices	The state of the state of	17						
3.	Vector Algebra and Solid Geometry	The state of the s	76						
Unit II : CALCULUS									
4.	Differential Calculus & Its Applications	18 CA	134						
5.	Partial Differentiation & Its Applications	N HARMAN	197						
6.	Integral Calculus & Its Applications	Sand Street of	239						
7.	Multiple Integrals & Beta, Gamma Functions	***	274						
8.	Vector Calculus & Its Applications	200	315						
	Unit III : SERIES								
9.	Infinite Series	- Section of the last	365						
10.	Fourier Series & Harmonic Analysis		395						
Unit IV : DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS									
11.	Differential Equations of First Order	Tell Have	426						
12.	Applications of Differential Equations of First Order	at the same of	452						
13.	Linear Differential Equations		471						
14.	Applications of Linear Differential Equations		502						
15.	Differential Equations of Other Types		531						
16.	Series Solution of Differential Equations and Special Functions	This see it	542						
17.	Partial Differential Equations		577						
18.	Applications of Partial Differential Equations		600						

Chap.		Page
	Unit V : COMPLEX ANALYSIS	
19.	Complex Numbers and Functions	639
20.	Calculus of Complex Functions	672
	Unit VI : TRANSFORMS	
21.	Laplace Transforms	726
22.	Fourier Transforms	766
23.	Z-Transforms	793
	Unit VIII - NUMERICAL TECHNIQUES	
	Unit VII: NUMERICAL TECHNIQUES	
24.	Empirical Laws and Curve-fitting	812
25.	Statistical Methods	830
26.	Probability and Distributions	857
27.	Sampling and Inference	897
28,	Numerical Solution of Equations	918
29.	Finite Differences and Interpolation	946
30.	Numerical Differentiation and Integration	980
31.	Difference Equations	99.0
32.	Numerical Solution of Ordinary Differential Equations	1008
33.	Numerical Solution of Partial Differential Equations	1040
34.	Linear Programming	1061
-	Unit VIII : SPECIAL TOPICS	-
35.	Calculus of Variations	1111
36.	Integral Equations	1131
37.	Discrete Mathematics	1149
38.	Tensor Analysis	1181
I F	STATE OF THE PARTY	2000
-	endix 1: Useful Information	1201
App	endix 2: Tables	1296
E. 3	Table I: Gamma Functions	1226
	Table II: Bessel Functions	1227
THE S	Table III: Area under the Normal curve	1228
1 3	Table IV: Values of t	1229
1 23	Table V: Values of χ^2	1230
	Table VI: Values of F	1231
App	endix 3: Answers to Problems	1232
Inde		1307
1 3 4		
(EI	(x)	

Note: The references given alongside the problems pertain to the Degree Engineering Examinations of the various universities and professional bodies. The abbreviations used for some of these are given below:

Agro	stands for	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra
Andhra	W 200	Andhra University, Waltair
Anna		Anna University, Chennai
Bhopal		Rajiv Gandhi Technical University, Bhopal
B.P.T.U.		Biju Patnaik Technical University, Rourkela
Coimbatore	# 14 m	Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore
CUSAT		Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi
Calicut	M	Calicut University, Cochin
Hazaribag	10 C 10 C	Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag
Hissor	# T	Guru Jambeshwar University, Hissar
LE.T.E.	55.000	Graduateship Examination of the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (India)
LLT	1	Degree Engineering Examination of Indian Institute of Technology
LS.M.		Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad
Kottayam		Mahatama Gandhi Memorial University, Kottayam
Kurukshetra	(C) (C)	National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra
Madurai		Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai
Marathwada	100000	B.A.M. University, Aurangabad
Nagarjuna		Acharya Nagarjuna University
etu.		Punjab Technical University, Jalandhar
Rolpur		Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur
RTU.		Rajasthan Technical University, Kota
Rohtak		Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak
S. Patel		Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar
S.V.T.U.		Swami Vivekanand Technical University, Chhatisgarh
Tirupoti		Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati
Tiruchiropolli	1000000	Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli
U.P.T.U.		UP Technical University, Lucknow
U.K.T.U.		Uttarakhand Technical University, Dehradun
V.T.U.		Visveswaralah Technological University, Belgaum
Warangal	E-DONE -	Warangal University of Technology
W.B.T.U.	- CARLES	West Bengal University of Technology, Kolkata





Solution of Equations

Introduction. 2. General properties. 3. Transformation of equations. 4. Reciprocal equations. 5. Solution of cubic equations—Cardan's method.
 Solution of biquadratic equations—Ferrari's method; Descarte's method.
 Graphical solution of equations. 8. Objective Type Questions.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The expression $f(x) = a_0 x^n + a_1 x^{n-1} + ... + a_{n-1} x + a_n$

where a's are constants $(a_0 \neq 0)$ and n is a positive integer, is called a polynomial in x of degree n. The polynomial f(x) = 0 is called an algebraic equation of degree n. If f(x) contains some other functions such as trigonometric, logarithmic, exponential etc.; then f(x) = 0 is called a transcendental equation.

The value of x which satisfies f(x) = 0,

...(1)

is called its root. Geometrically, a root of (1) is that value of x where the graph of y = f(x) crosses the x-axis. The process of finding the roots of an equation is known as solution of that equation. This is a problem of basic importance in applied mathematics. We often come across problems in deflection of beams, electrical circuits and mechanical vibrations which depend upon the solution of equations. As such, a brief account of solution of equations is given in this chapter.

1.2 GENERAL PROPERTIES

I. If α is a root of the equation f(x) = 0, then the polynomial f(x) is exactly divisible by $x - \alpha$ and conversely. For instance, 3 is a root of the equation $x^4 - 6x^2 - 8x - 3 = 0$, because x = 3 satisfies this equation.

 \therefore x-3 divides x^4-6x^2-8x-3 completely, i.e., x-3 is its factor.

II. Every equation of the nth degree has n roots (real or imaginary).

Conversely if $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, ..., \alpha_n$ be the roots of the *n*th degree equation f(x) = 0, then

$$f(x) = A(x - \alpha_1)(x - \alpha_2) \dots (x - \alpha_n)$$
 where A is a constant.

Obs. If a polynomial of degree n vanishes for more than n value of x, it must be identically zero.

Example 1.1. Solve the equation $2x^3 + x^2 - 13x + 6 = 0$.

Solution. By inspection, we find x = 2 satisfies the given equation.

 \therefore 2 is its root, i.e. x-2 is a factor of $2x^3+x^2-13x+6$. Dividing this polynomial by x-2, we get the quotient $2x^2+5x-3$ and remainder 0.

Equating the quotient to zero, we get $2x^2 + 5x - 3 = 0$.

Solving this quadratic, we get $x = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{[5^2 - 4.(2).(-3)]}}{2 \times 2} = \frac{-5 \pm 7}{4} = -3, \frac{1}{2}$.

Hence, the roots of the given equation are 2, -3, 1/2.

Note. The labour of dividing the polynomial by x-2 can be saved considerably by the following simple device called synthetic division.

2	1	-13	6	2
	4	10	-6	
2	5	-3	0	

[Explanation: (i) Write down the coefficient of the powers of x in order (supplying the missing powers of x by zero coefficients and write 2 on extreme right.

- (ii) Put 2 as the first term of 3rd row and multiply it by 2, write 4 under 1 and add, giving 5.
- (iii) Multiply 5 by 2, write 10 under 13 and add, giving 3.
- (iv) Multiply 3 by 2, write 6 under 6 and add given zero].

Thus the quotient is $2x^2 + 5x - 3$ and remainder is zero.

Obs. To divide a polynomial by x + h, we write -h on the extreme right.

III. Intermediate value property. If f(a) and f(b) have different signs, then the equation f(x) = 0 has atleast one root between x = aand x = b.

The polynomial f(x) is a continuous function of x (Fig. 1.1). So while x changes from a to b, f(x) must pass through all the values from f(a) to f(b). But since one of these quantities f(a) or f(b) is positive and the other negative, it follows that at least for one value of $x(say \alpha)$ lying between a and b, f(x) must be zero. Then α is the required root.

IV. In an equation with real coefficients, imaginary roots occur in conjugate pairs, i.e., if $\alpha + i\beta$ is a root of the equation f(x) = 0, then $\alpha - i\beta$ must also be its root. (See p. 534)

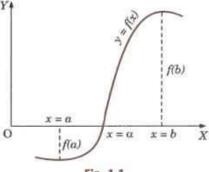


Fig. 1.1

...(1)

Similarly if $a + \sqrt{b}$ is an irrational root of an equation, then $a - \sqrt{b}$ must also be its root.

Obs. Every equation of the odd degree has at least one real root.

This follows from the fact that imaginary roots occur in conjugate pairs.

Example 1.2. Solve the equation $3x^3 - 4x^2 + x + 88 = 0$, one root being $2 + \sqrt{7}i$.

Solution. Since one root is $2 + \sqrt{7}i$, the other root must be $2 - \sqrt{7}i$.

.. The factors corresponding to these roots are

$$(x-2-\sqrt{7}i)$$
 and $(x-2+\sqrt{7}i)$

$$(x-2-11)(x-2+11) = (x-2)$$

 $(x-2-\sqrt{7}i)(x-2+\sqrt{7}i)=(x-2)^2+7=x^2-4x+11$.

which is a divisor of $3x^3 - 4x^2 + x + 88$...(i)

 \therefore Division of (i) by $x^2 - 4x + 11$ gives 3x + 8 as the quotient.

Thus the depressed equation is 3x + 8 = 0. Its root is -8/3. Hence the roots of the given equation are $2 \pm \sqrt{7}i$, -8/3.

V. Descarte's rule of signs. *The equation f(x) = 0 cannot have more positive roots than the changes of signs in f(x); and more negative roots than the changes of signs in f(-x).

For instance, consider the equation
$$f(x) = 2x^7 - x^5 + 4x^3 - 5 = 0$$

Sign of f(x) are

Clearly, f(x) has 3 changes of signs (from + to – or – to +).

Thus (i) cannot have more than 3 positive roots.

^{*}After the French mathematician and philosopher Rene Descartes (1596-1650), who invented Analytic geometry in 1637.

Also

$$f(-x) = 2(-x)^7 - (-x)^5 + 4(-x)^3 - 5$$
$$= -2x^7 + x^5 - 4x^3 - 5$$

This shows that f(x) has 2 changes of signs. Thus (i) cannot have more than 2 negative roots.

Obs. Existence of imaginary roots. If an equation of the nth degree has at the most p positive roots and at the most p negative roots, then it follows that the equation has at least p = (p + q) imaginary roots.

Evidently (1) above is an equation of the 7th degree and has at the most 3 positive roots and 2 negative roots. Thus (1) has at least 2 imaginary roots.

VI. Relations between roots and coefficients, If $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, ..., \alpha_n$ be the roots of the equation

then

$$\Sigma \alpha_1 = -\frac{a_1}{a_0}$$
, $\Sigma \alpha_1 \alpha_2 = \frac{a_2}{a_0}$, $\Sigma \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \alpha_3 = -\frac{a_3}{a_0}$

$$\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3\;.....\;\alpha_n=(-\;1)^n\;\frac{\alpha_n}{\alpha_0}\;.$$

Example 1.3. Solve the equation $x^3 - 7x^2 + 36 = 0$, given that one root is double of another.

Solution. Let the roots be α , β , γ such that $\beta = 2\alpha$.

Also $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 7$, $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = 0$, $\alpha\beta\gamma = -36$

$$\therefore \qquad 3\alpha + \gamma = 7 \qquad \dots (i)$$

$$2\alpha^2 + 3\alpha\gamma = 0 \qquad \dots(ii)$$

$$2\alpha^2\gamma = -36$$
 ...(iii)

Solving (i) and (ii), we get $\alpha = 3$, $\gamma = -2$.

[The values $\alpha = 0$, $\gamma = 7$ are inadmissible, as they do not satisfy (iii)].

Hence the required roots are 3, 6 and -2.

Example 1.4. Solve the equation $x^4 - 2x^3 + 4x^2 + 6x - 21 = 0$, given that the sum of two of its roots is zero. (Cochin, 2005; Madras, 2003)

Solution. Let the roots be α , β , γ , δ such that $\alpha + \beta = 0$.

Also

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = 2$$
 : $\gamma + \delta = 2$

Thus the quadratic factor corresponding to α , β is of the form $x^2 - 0x + p$, and that corresponding to γ , δ is of the form of $x^2 - 2x + q$.

$$\therefore x^4 - 2x^3 + 4x^2 + 6x - 21 = (x^2 + p)(x^2 - 2x + q) \qquad \dots (i)$$

Equating the coefficients of x^2 and x from both sides of (i), we get

$$4 = p + q$$
, $6 = -2p$.

 $p = -3, \quad q = 7.$

Hence the given equation is equivalent to $(x^2 - 3)(x^2 - 2x + 7) = 0$

 \therefore The roots are $x = \pm \sqrt{3}$, $1 \pm i\sqrt{6}$.

Example 1.5. Find the condition that the cubic $x^3 - lx^2 + mx - n = 0$ should have its roots in

(a) arithmetical progression.

(Madras, 2000 S)

(b) geometrical progression.

Solution. (a) Let the roots be a-d, a, a+d so that the sum of the roots = 3a=l i.e., a=l/3.

Since a is the root of the given equation

$$\therefore \qquad \qquad a^3 - la^2 + ma - n = 0 \qquad \qquad \dots (i)$$

Substituting a = l/3, we get $(l/3)^3 - l(l/3)^2 + m(l/3) - n = 0$.

or $2l^3 - 9lm + 27n = 0$,

which is the required condition.

...(iv)

(b) Let the roots be a/r, a, ar, so that the product of the roots = $a^3 = n$.

Putting $a = (n)^{1/3}$, in (i), we get $n - ln^{2/3} + mn^{1/3} - n = 0$ or $m = ln^{1/3}$

Cubing both sides, we get $m^3 = l^3 n$, which is the required condition.

Example 1.6. Solve the equation $x^4 - 2x^3 - 21x^2 + 22x + 40 = 0$ whose roots are in A.P.

Solution. Let the roots be a-3d, a-d, a+d, a+3d, so that the sum of the roots = 4a=2.

$$a = 1/2$$

Also product of the roots = $(a^2 - 9d^2)(a^2 - d^2) = 40$

or

$$\left(\frac{1}{4} - 9d^2\right)\left(\frac{1}{4} - d^2\right) = 40$$
 or $144d^4 - 40d^2 - 639 = 0$

$$d^2 = 9/4$$
 or $-7/36$

Thus, $d = \pm 3/2$, the other value is not admissible.

Hence the required roots are -4, -1, 2, 5.

Example 1.7. Solve the equation $2x^4 - 15x^3 + 35x^2 - 30x + 8 = 0$, whose roots are in G.P.

Solution. Let the roots be a/r^3 , a/r, ar, ar^3 , so that product of the roots = $a^4 = 4$.

Also the product of a/r^3 , ar^3 and a/r, ar are each = $a^2 = 2$.

 \therefore The factors corresponding to a/r^3 , ar^3 and a/r, ar are $x^2 + px + 2$, $x^2 + qx + 2$.

Thus,
$$2x^4 - 15x^3 + 35x^2 - 30x + 8 = 2(x^2 + px + 2)(x^2 + qx + 2)$$

Equating the coefficients of x^3 and x^2

$$-15 = 2p + 2q$$
 and $35 = 8 + 2pq$

∴
$$p = -9/2, q = -3.$$

Thus the given equation is $2\left(x^2 - \frac{9}{9}x + 2\right)(x^2 - 3x + 2) = 0$

Hence the required roots are 1/2, 4 and 1, 2 i.e., $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 4.

Example 1.8. If α , β , γ be the roots of the equation $x^3 + px + q = 0$, find the value of

(a) $\Sigma \alpha^2 \beta$,

Solution. We have

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 0$$

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 0 \qquad ...(i)$$

$$\beta + \beta \gamma + \gamma \alpha = p \qquad ...(ii)$$

$$\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = p$$

$$\alpha\beta\gamma = -q$$
 ...(iii)

(a) Multiplying (i) and (ii), we get

$$\alpha^2\beta + \alpha^2\gamma + \beta^2\gamma + \beta^2\alpha + \gamma^2\alpha + \gamma^2\beta + 3\alpha\beta\gamma = 0$$

or

or

$$\Sigma \alpha^2 \beta = -3\alpha \beta \gamma = 3q$$

 $\Sigma \alpha^2 \beta = -3\alpha \beta \gamma = 3q$ [By(iii)]

(b) Multiplying the given equation by x, we get $x^4 + px^2 + qx = 0$

Putting $x = \alpha$, β , γ successively and adding, we get $\Sigma \alpha^4 + p \Sigma \alpha^2 + q \Sigma \alpha = 0$

 $\Sigma \alpha^4 = -p \Sigma \alpha^2 - q(0)$ or

Now squaring (i), we get $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 + 2(\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha) = 0$

 $\Sigma \alpha^2 = -2p$ [By(ii)]

Hence, substituting the value of $\Sigma \alpha^2$ in (iv), we obtain

$$\Sigma \alpha^4 = -p(-2p) = 2p^2.$$

(c)
$$\Sigma \alpha^3 \beta = \Sigma \alpha^2 \Sigma \alpha \beta - \alpha \beta \gamma \Sigma \alpha = -2p(p) - (-q)(0) = -2p^2$$
.

PROBLEMS 1.1

1. Form the equation of the fourth degree whose roots are 3+i and $\sqrt{7}$.

(Madras, 2000 S)

2. Solve the equation (i) $x^3 + 6x + 20 = 0$, one root being 1 + 3i.

(ii)
$$x^4 - 2x^3 - 22x^2 + 62x - 15 = 0$$
, given that $2 + \sqrt{3}$ is a root.

3. Show that $x^7 - 3x^4 + 2x^3 - 1 = 0$ has at least four imaginary roots.

(Cochin, 2005)

- 4. Show that the equation $x^4 + 15x^2 + 7x 11 = 0$ has one positive, one negative and two imaginary roots.
- 5. Find the number and position of real roots of $x^4 + 4x^3 4x 13 = 0$.
- 6. Solve the equation $3x^3 11x^2 + 8x + 4 = 0$, given that two of its roots are equal.
- 7. If r_1, r_2, r_3 are the roots of the equation $2x^3 3x^2 + kx 1 = 0$, find constant k if sum of two roots is 1.

(S.V.T.U., 2009)

- 8. The equation $x^4 4x^3 + ax^2 + 4x + b = 0$ has two pairs of equal roots. Find the values of a and b. Solve the following equations 9-14:
- 9. $x^3 9x^2 + 14x + 24 = 0$, given that two of its roots are in the ratio 3: 2.
- 10. $x^3 4x^2 20x + 48 = 0$ given that the roots α and β are connected by the relation $\alpha + 2\beta = 0$. (S.V.T.U., 2007)
- 11. $x^4 6x^3 + 13x^2 12x + 4 = 0$, given that it has two parts of equal roots.

(Madras, 2003)

- 12. $x^4 8x^3 + 21x^2 20x + 5 = 0$ given that the sum of two of the roots is equal to the sum of the other two.
- 13. $x^3 12x^2 + 39x 28 = 0$, roots being in arithmetical progression.

(Madras, 2001 S)

14. $8x^3 - 14x^2 + 7x - 1 = 0$, roots being in geometrical progression.

- (Osmania, 1999)
- 15. O. A. B. C are the four points on a straight line such that the distances of A, B, C from O are the roots of equation $ax^3 + 3bx^2 + 3cx + d = 0$. If B is the middle point of AC, show that $a^2d - 3abc + 2b^3 = 0$. (S.V.T.U., 2006)
- 16. Solve the equations (i) $x^4 + 2x^3 21x^2 22x + 40 = 0$ whose roots are in A.P.

(ii)
$$x^4 + 5x^3 - 30x^2 + 40x + 64 = 0$$
 whose roots are in G.P.

- 17. If α , β , γ be the roots of the equation $x^3 lx^2 + mx n = 0$, find the value of
 - (i) $\Sigma \alpha^2 \beta^2$. $(ii)(\beta + \gamma)(\gamma + \alpha)(\alpha + \beta)$
- 18. Find the sum of the cubes of the roots of the equation $x^3 6x^2 + 11x 6 = 0$. 19. If α , β , γ are the roots of $x^3 + 4x - 3 = 0$, find the value of (i) $\alpha^{-1} + \beta^{-1} + \gamma^{-1}$ (ii) $\alpha^{-2} + \beta^{-2} + \gamma^{-2}$.
- 20. If α , β , γ be the roots of $x^3 + px + q = 0$, show that
- (i) $\alpha^5 + \beta^5 + \gamma^5 = 5\alpha\beta\gamma(\beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha + \alpha\beta)$, (ii) $3\Sigma\alpha^2\Sigma\alpha^5 = 5\Sigma\alpha^3\Sigma\alpha^4$.

TRANSFORMATION OF EQUATIONS

(1) To find an equation whose roots are m times the roots of the given equation, multiply the second term by m, third term by m² and so on (all missing terms supplied with zero coefficients).

For instance, let the given equation be

To multiply its roots by m, put y = mx (or x = y/m) in (i).

Then
$$3(y/m)^4 + 6(y/m)^3 + 4(y/m)^2 + 8(y/m) + 11 = 0$$

Multiplying by
$$m^4$$
, we get $3y^4 + m(6y^3) + m^2(4y^2) - m^3(8y) + m^4(11) = 0$

This is same as multiplying the second term by m, third term by m^2 and so on in (i).

Cor. To find an equation whose roots are with opposite signs to those of the given equation, change the signs of the every alternative term of the given equation beginning with the second.

Changing the signs of the roots of (i) is same as multiplying its roots by -1.

.. The required equation will be

$$3x^4 + (-1)6x^3 + (-1)^2 4x^2 - (-1)^3 8x + (-1)^4 11 = 0$$

 $3x^4 - 6x^3 + 4x^3 + 8x + 11 = 0$

which is (i) with signs of every alternate term changed beginning with the second.

(2) To find an equation whose roots are reciprocal of the root of the given equation, change xto 1/x.

Example 1.9. Solve $6x^3 - 11x^2 - 3x + 2 = 0$, given that its roots are in harmonic progression.

Solution. Since the roots of the given equation are in H.P., the roots of the equation having reciprocal roots will be in A.P.

The equation with reciprocal roots is $6(1/x)^3 - 11(1/x)^2 - 3(1/x) + 2 = 0$

or $2x^3 - 3x^2 - 11x + 6 = 0$...(i)

Since the roots of the given equation are in H.P., therefore, the roots of (i) are in A.P. Let the root be a-d, a, a+d. Then

$$3a = 3/2$$
 and $a(a^2 - d^2) = -3$.

Solving these equations, we get a = 1/2, d = 5/2.

Thus the roots of (i) are -2, 1/2, 3.

Hence the required roots of the given equation are -1/2, 2, 1/3.

Example 1.10. If α , β , γ be the roots of the cubic equation $x^3 - px^2 + qx - r = 0$, form the equation whose roots are $\beta\gamma + 1/\alpha$, $\gamma\alpha + 1/\beta$, $\alpha\beta + 1/\gamma$.

Hence evaluate $\Sigma(\alpha\beta + 1/\gamma)(\beta\gamma + 1/\alpha)$.

(S.V.T.U., 2008)

Solution. If x is a root of the given equation and y a root of the required equation, then

$$y = \beta \gamma + 1/\alpha = \frac{\alpha \beta \gamma + 1}{\alpha} = \frac{r+1}{\alpha}$$

$$y = \frac{r+1}{r} \implies x = \frac{r+1}{r}$$
[: $\alpha \beta \gamma = r$]

or

Thus substituting x = (r + 1)/y in the given equation, we get

$$\left(\frac{r+1}{y}\right)^3 - p\left(\frac{r+1}{y}\right)^2 + q\left(\frac{r+1}{y}\right) - r = 0$$

or

 $ry^3 - q(r+1)y^2 + p(r+1)^2y - (r+1)^3 = 0$, which is the required equation.

Hence $\Sigma (\alpha \beta + 1/\gamma) (\beta \gamma + 1/\alpha) = p(r+1)^2/r$.

Example 1.11. Form an equation whose roots are cubes of the roots of $x^3 - 3x^2 + 1 = 0$(i)

Solution. If y be a root of the required equation, then $y = x^3$

...(ii)

Now we have to eliminate x from (i) and (ii)

:. Rewriting (i) as

$$x^3 + 1 = 3x^2$$

Cubing both sides,

$$x^9 + 3x^6 + 3x^3 + 1 = 27x^6$$

Substituting $x^3 = y$, we get $y^3 - 24y^2 + 3y + 1 = 0$, which is the required equation.

(3) To diminish the roots of an equation f(x) = 0 by h, divide f(x) by x - h successively. Then the successive remainders determine the coefficients of the required equation.

Let the given equation be

$$a_0 x^n + a_1 x^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} x + a_n = 0$$
 ...(i)

To diminish its roots by h, put y = x - h (or x = y + h) in (i) so that

$$a_0(y+h)^n + a_1(y+h)^{n-1} + \dots + a_n = 0$$
 ...(ii)

On simplification, it takes the form

$$A_0 y^n + A_1 y^{n-1} + \dots + A_n = 0$$
 ...(iii)

Its coefficient $A_0, A_1, \dots A_n$ can easily be found with the help of synthetic division (p. 2). For this, we put y = x - h in (iii) so that

$$A_0 (x-h)^n + A_1 (x-h)^{n-1} + \dots + A_n = 0$$
 ...(iv)

Clearly, (i) and (iv) are identical. If we divide L.H.S. of (iv) by x-h, the remainder is A_n and the quotient $Q=A_0(x-h)^{n-1}+A_1(x-h)^{n-2}+\ldots+A_{n-1}$. Similarly, if we divide Q by x-h, the remainder is A_{n-1} and the quotient is $Q_1(\operatorname{say})$. Again dividing Q_1 by x-h, A_{n-2} will be obtained as remainder and so on.