

I.C.S.E 10, 2018

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Question: : 3(a) : If $(x+2)$ and $(x+3)$ are factors of $x^3 + ax + b$, find the values of 'a' and 'b'.

Since

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{A}|} \text{adj}(\mathbf{A})$$

Solution: According to the question :

$x+2$ and $x+3$ are factors of $x^3 + ax + b$.
Then, -2 and -3 are solutions of the equation

$$x^3 + ax + b = 0 \quad (1)$$

On substituting $x = -2$ into the equation (1)

$$\Rightarrow (-2)^3 + a(-2) + b = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2a - b = -8 \quad (2)$$

On substituting $x = -3$ in the equation (1)

$$\Rightarrow (-3)^3 + a(-3) + b = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 3a - b = -27 \quad (3)$$

The system of equations ,

$$2a - b = -8$$

$$3a - b = -27$$

can be re-written in matrix form as :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 3 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -8 \\ -27 \end{pmatrix}$$

Let,

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -8 \\ -27 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{AX} = \mathbf{B}$$

Pre-multiplying both sides with \mathbf{A}^{-1} :

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{AX} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{B}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{B}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\mathbf{A}| = (2 \times -1) - (3 \times -1)$$

$$\Rightarrow |\mathbf{A}| = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{A}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -8 \\ -27 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} -19 \\ -30 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -19 \\ -30 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow a = -19 \text{ \& } b = -30$$

\therefore The value of $a = -19$ and value of $b = -30$.

Using values of a and b , equation (1) can be re-written as :

$$x^3 - 19x - 30 = 0 \quad (4)$$

This can be verified by plotting the graph of the equation

$$y = x^3 - 19x - 30 \quad (5)$$

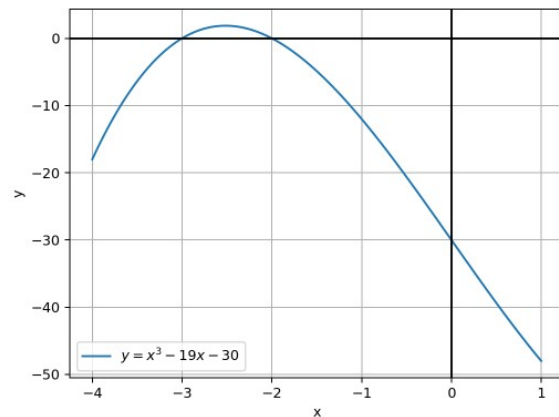


Fig. 1. Graph of equation. 5 intersects X-axis at $x = -3$ & $x = -2$