

Problem 12: A polynomial of degree four with leading coefficient 1 and integer coefficients has two real zeros, both of which are integers. Which of the following can also be a zero of the polynomial? (Source: AMC 12)

$$\frac{1+i\sqrt{11}}{2}, \frac{1+i}{2}, \frac{1}{2}+i, 1+\frac{i}{2}, \frac{1+i\sqrt{13}}{2}.$$

Let  $f(x)$  be such a polynomial. Let  $r$  and  $s$  be the integer root of  $f(x)$ . Then

$$f(x) = (x-r)(x-s)(x^2+ax+b)$$

Expanding this gives

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= (x-r)(x-s)(x^2+ax+b) \\ &= (x^2-(r+s)x+rs)(x^2+ax+b) \\ &= x^4+ax^3+bx^2 \\ &\quad - (r+s)x^3 - a(r+s)x^2 - b(r+s)x \\ &\quad + rsx^2 + arsx + brs \\ &= x^4 + (a-r-s)x^3 + (b-ar-as+rs)x^2 + (ars-br-bs)x + brs \end{aligned}$$

Now since the coefficients of  $f(x)$  are integers,  $a-r-s$  has to be an integer, so  $a$  has to be an integer. Furthermore,  $b-ar-as+rs$  has to be an integer, so  $b$  has to be an integer.

Knowing that  $b$  has to be an integer, we can rule out many possibilities.

If  $f(x)$  has nonreal roots, then the nonreal roots must form a conjugate pair. Their product must be an integer.

The only possibility that meet this criteria is  $\frac{1+i\sqrt{11}}{2}$ , since  $\frac{1+i\sqrt{11}}{2} \cdot \frac{1-i\sqrt{11}}{2} = \frac{12}{4} = 3$  is an integer.

Thus  $\boxed{\frac{1+i\sqrt{11}}{2}}$  is the only complex number listed that can be a zero of the polynomial.