

Problem 10: Find all roots of  $g(x) = 2x^3 + 5x^2 + 15x + 18$ .

Let  $g(x) = 2x^3 + 5x^2 + 15x + 18$ .

We have

$$\begin{aligned}g(-1) &= 2(-1)^3 + 5(-1)^2 + 15(-1) + 18 \\&= -2 + 5 + -15 + 18 \\&= 3 + 3 \\&= 6\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}g(-2) &= 2(-2)^3 + 5(-2)^2 + 15(-2) + 18 \\&= -16 + 20 + -30 + 18 \\&= 4 - 12 \\&= -8\end{aligned}$$

So there exists a root of the polynomial  $g(x)$  between  $x = -2$  and  $x = -1$ .

Suppose this root is rational. Let  $-2 < \frac{p}{q} < -1$  be the rational root. By the Rational Root Theorem,  $p$  is a divisor of 18 and  $q$  is a divisor of 2. The divisors of 18 are  $\pm 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 18$ . The divisors of 2 are  $\pm 1, 2$ . Now the only possible  $(p, q)$  pairs are  $(-3, 2)$  and  $(3, -2)$ . So we'll try  $g(-3/2)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}g\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right) &= 2\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)^3 + 5\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 + 15\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right) + 18 \\&= 2\left(-\frac{27}{8}\right) + 5\left(\frac{9}{4}\right) + 15\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right) + 18 \\&= -\frac{27}{4} + \frac{45}{4} + -\frac{90}{4} + \frac{72}{4} \\&= 0\end{aligned}$$

Thus  $2x + 3$  is a divisor of  $g(x)$ .

Dividing  $g(x)$  by  $2x + 3$  gives us

$$g(x) = (2x + 3)(x^2 + x + 6)$$

Applying the quadratic formula to  $x^2 + x + 6 = 0$  gives us the other roots.

The three roots of  $g(x)$  are

$x = -\frac{3}{2}, \quad -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{23}}{2}i, \quad \text{and} \quad -\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{23}}{2}i$
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