



## Why

Given a real valued function (e.g., a polynomial) how do we compute its root.

## Definition

Given  $f : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ , we call  $f(x) = 0$  a *nonlinear equation* (a *nonlinear homogenous equation*). If  $x \in \mathbf{R}$  with  $f(x) = 0$  we call  $x$  a *root* or *solution* of  $f$ .

## Examples

For a classic example, suppose  $s \in \mathbf{R}$  is given and consider the function  $f : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  defined by

$$f(t) = t - \sqrt{s}$$

Then the solutions  $r \in \mathbf{R}$  for which  $f(r) = 0$  are those points for which

$$0 = r - \sqrt{s} \Rightarrow r = \sqrt{s}$$

In other words, the *roots* of  $s$ .



