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§1 Solution

Solution.

$$Q(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P(x)P(x+1) - P(x^2+x+1)$$

Q is a polynomial and is $= 0$ for all reals, this means $Q(x) \equiv 0$. So,

$$P(x)P(x+1) = P(x^2+x+1) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{C}$$

Let α be a root of P , then clearly $\alpha^2 + \alpha + 1, \alpha^2 - \alpha + 1$ are also roots.

Claim — Only possible root is $\pm i$.

Proof. Assume FTSOC, there exists a root which is not $= \pm i$. We know

$|x^2 - x + 1| = |-x^2 + x - 1|$, so using triangle inequality,

$$|x^2 + x + 1| + |-x^2 + x - 1| \geq 2|x|$$

Unless $|x^2 + x + 1| = |x^2 - x + 1| = |x|$, we run into problems. It is easy to see that this happens only for $x = \pm i$. So, the only possible roots are $\pm i$. \square

Let $P = (x - i)^a(x + i)^b$ which always works. So,

$P = \{(x - i)^a(x + i)^b : a, b \geq 0\}, 0, 1\}$ are the only solutions. \square