

1. Let $P(x) = x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$; find all values of a for which $a^2P(1) + 5aP(i) = 10P(0)$.

Solution:

$$P(1) = 1^4 + 1^3 + 1^2 + 1 + 1 = 5, \quad P(0) = 0^4 + 0^3 + 0^2 + 0 + 1 = 1, \quad P(i) = i^4 + i^3 + i^2 + i + 1 = 1 - i - 1 + i + 1 = 1$$

Substituting in $a^2P(1) + 5aP(i) = 10P(0)$ we get :

$$5a^2 + 5a = 10 \Rightarrow a^2 + a - 2 = 0 \Rightarrow (a-1)(a+2) = 0 \Rightarrow a = 1, \quad a = -2.$$

2. Find the remainder when the polynomial $P(x) = -2x^5 - 2ix^4 - ix^3 + x^2 + 5$ is divided by $(1+i)x - 1 + i$.

Solution: First note that

$$(1+i)x - 1 + i = 0 \Rightarrow x = \frac{1-i}{1+i} = \frac{(1-i)^2}{(1+i)(1-i)} = \frac{1+i^2-2i}{1-i^2} = \frac{-2i}{2} = -i$$

Now substituting x by $-i$ in $P(x)$ we get

$$P(-i) = -2(-i)^5 - 2i(-i)^4 - i(-i)^3 + (-i)^2 + 5 = -2(-i) - 2i(1) - i(i) + i^2 + 5 = 2i - 2i - i^2 + i^2 + 5 = 5.$$

Hence the remainder of division of $P(x)$ when is divided by $(1+i)x - 1 + i$ is 5.

3. For each of the following, if it is true prove it and if it is not true give a counter example.

- (a) If r_1 is a zero of polynomial $P_1(x)$ and r_2 is a zero of polynomial $P_2(x)$, then $r_1 + r_2$ is a zero of polynomial $P_1(x) + P_2(x)$.
- (b) If r is a zero of polynomial $P(x)$, then $2r$ is a zero of polynomial $P(2x)$.
- (c) If r is a zero of polynomial $P(x)$ of multiplicity k , then r is a zero of polynomial $(P(x))^n$ of multiplicity nk where $n \geq 1$ is an integer.

Solution:

- (a) It is not true in general. For example $r_1 = 1$ is a root of $P_1(x) = x - 1$ and $r_2 = 2$ is a root of $P_2(x) = x - 2$ but $r_1 + r_2 = 1 + 2 = 3$ is not a root of $P_1(x) + P_2(x) = 2x - 3$ because $2(3) - 3 = 3 \neq 0$.

- (b) It is not true in general. For example $r = 3$ is a root of $P(x) = x - 3$ but $2r = 2(3) = 6$ is not a root of $P(2x) = 2x - 3$ because $2(6) - 3 = 9 \neq 0$.

- (c) It is true and we can prove it either directly or by induction on n .

Direct proof:

Since r is a root of $P(x)$ with multiplicity k , $P(x) = (x-r)^k * Q(x)$ where $Q(r)$ is not 0. Therefore $(P(x))^n = (x-r)^{kn}(Q(x))^n$ where $(Q(r))^n$ is not 0. Hence r is a zero of polynomial $(P(x))^n$ of multiplicity nk .

Proof by induction on n :

If $n = 1$ then it is true in a trivial way. Assuming the statement is true for $n = \ell$,

that is “if r is a zero of polynomial $P(x)$ of multiplicity k , then r is a zero of polynomial $(P(x))^\ell$ of multiplicity ℓk ”. We need to prove that it is also true for $n = \ell + 1$ that is we need to prove that “if r is a zero of polynomial $P(x)$ of multiplicity k , then r is a zero of polynomial $(P(x))^{\ell+1}$ of multiplicity $(\ell + 1)k$ ”. But if r is a zero of polynomial $P(x)$ of multiplicity k , then since

$$(P(x))^{\ell+1} = (P(x))^\ell (P(x)),$$

so by induction assumption r is a zero of polynomial $(P(x))^\ell$ of multiplicity ℓk and also r is a zero of polynomial $P(x)$ of multiplicity k ; therefore r is a zero of polynomial $(P(x))^{\ell+1}$ with multiplicity $(\ell)k + k = (\ell + 1)k$. Thus by the Principle of Mathematical Induction the statement is true for all $n \geq 1$.

4. Consider the polynomial $P(x) = 7x^6 - 33x^5 + 53x^4 - 3x^3 - 62x^2 + 54x + 20$.

- Use Rational Root Theorem to find all possible rational zeros of $P(x)$.
- Use Descartes' Rules of Signs to determine how many positive or negative real zeros $P(x)$ may have.
- Use Bounds Theorem to determine how large the absolute value of a root of $P(x)$ may be.
- Use your answers in part (c) to improve your list of all possible rational zeros of $P(x)$ in part (a).
- If $2 + i$ is a complex root of $P(x)$, find an irreducible real quadratic factor of $P(x)$.

Solution:

- If $\frac{p}{q}$ is a rational root of $P(x)$ then by Rational Root Theorem p divides 20 and q divides 7 so $p \in \{\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4, \pm 5, \pm 10, \pm 20\}$ and $q \in \{\pm 1, \pm 7\}$ and therefore $\frac{p}{q} \in \{\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4, \pm 5, \pm 10, \pm 20, \pm \frac{1}{7}, \pm \frac{2}{7}, \pm \frac{4}{7}, \pm \frac{5}{7}, \pm \frac{10}{7}, \pm \frac{20}{7}\}$.

- Sign of coefficients in $P(x)$ is changing 4 times so Descartes' Rules of Signs the number of positive real zeros of $P(x)$ is either 4 or 2 or 0. Now

$$\begin{aligned} P(-x) &= 7(-x)^6 - 33(-x)^5 + 53(-x)^4 - 3(-x)^3 - 62(-x)^2 + 54(-x) + 20 \\ &= 7x^6 + 33x^5 + 53x^4 + 3x^3 - 62x^2 - 54x + 20 \end{aligned}$$

Since sign of coefficients in $P(-x)$ is changing 2 times so by Descartes' Rules of Signs the number of negative real zeros of $P(x)$ is either 2 or 0.

- $M = \max\{|-33|, |53|, |-3|, |-62|, |54|, |20|\} = 62$, so by Bonds Theorem

$$|x| < \frac{62}{7} + 1 < \frac{63}{7} + 1 = 9 + 1 = 10,$$

that is $|x| < 10$.

- By part (c) absolute value of any real root (which includes rational roots) of $P(x)$ is less than 10. Therefore ± 10 and ± 20 can be omitted from the list of possible rational roots obtained in part (a) and the new improved list of possible rational roots of $P(x)$ is $\{\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4, \pm 5, \pm \frac{1}{7}, \pm \frac{2}{7}, \pm \frac{4}{7}, \pm \frac{5}{7}, \pm \frac{10}{7}, \pm \frac{20}{7}\}$.

(e) Since $2+i$ is root and all coefficients of $P(x)$ are real numbers, so $\overline{2+i} = 2-i$ is also a root and

$$(x - (2+i))(x - (2-i)) = x^2 - 4x + 5$$

is an irreducible real quadratic factor of $P(x)$.

5. Find all the roots of the polynomial $P(x) = 2x^4 - 3x^3 - 7x^2 - 5x - 3$.

Solution: If $\frac{p}{q}$ is a rational root of $P(x)$ then by Rational Root Theorem p divides -3 and q divides 2 so $p \in \{\pm 1, \pm 3\}$ and $q \in \{\pm 1, \pm 2\}$ and therefore $\frac{p}{q} \in \{\pm 1, \pm 3, \pm \frac{1}{2}, \pm \frac{3}{2}\}$. Now since

$$P(-1) = 2(-1)^4 - 3(-1)^3 - 7(-1)^2 - 5(-1) - 3 = 2 + 3 - 7 + 5 - 3 = 0, \text{ and}$$

$$P(3) = 2(3)^4 - 3(3)^3 - 7(3)^2 - 5(3) - 3 = 162 - 81 - 63 - 15 - 3 = 0,$$

So -1 and 3 are roots of $P(x)$ and therefore $P(x)$ is divisible by $(x+1)(x-3) = x^2 - 2x - 3$. Using long division we get $P(x) = (x^2 - 2x - 3)(2x^2 + x + 1)$ and $2x^2 + x + 1 = 0$ gives $x = -\frac{1}{4} \pm \frac{\sqrt{7}}{4}i$. Hence all the roots are $-1, 3, -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{7}}{4}i$ and $-\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{7}}{4}i$.

6. Given that $2i$ is a root of $P(x) = x^6 - x^5 + x^4 - 16x^2 + 16x - 16$, find all roots of $P(x)$ and write $P(x)$ as a product of real linear and irreducible real quadratic factors.

Solution: Since $2i$ is a root and all coefficients of $P(x)$ are real numbers, so $\overline{2i} = -2i$ is also a root and

$$(x - (2i))(x - (-2i)) = x^2 + 4$$

is an irreducible real quadratic factor of $P(x)$. Using long division we get

$P(x) = (x^2 - 2x - 3)(x^4 - x^3 - 3x^2 + 4x - 4)$. Now let $Q(x) = x^4 - x^3 - 3x^2 + 4x - 4$; if $\frac{p}{q}$ is a rational root of $Q(x)$ then by Rational Root Theorem p divides -4 and q divides 1 so $p \in \{\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4\}$ and $q \in \{\pm 1\}$ and therefore $\frac{p}{q} \in \{\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4\}$. Now since

$$Q(2) = (2)^4 - (2)^3 - 3(2)^2 + 4(2) - 4 = 16 - 8 - 12 + 8 - 4 = 0, \text{ and}$$

$$Q(-2) = (-2)^4 - (-2)^3 - 3(-2)^2 + 4(-2) - 4 = 16 + 8 - 12 - 8 - 4 = 0,$$

So 2 and -2 are roots of $Q(x)$ and therefore $Q(x)$ is divisible by $(x+2)(x-2) = x^2 - 4$.

Using long division we get $Q(x) = (x^2 - 4)(x^2 - x + 1)$ and $x^2 - x + 1 = 0$ gives $x = \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i$.

Hence all the roots of $P(x)$ are $\pm 2, \pm 2i$, and $\frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i$. Thus

$$P(x) = (x-2)(x+2)(x^2+4)(x^2-x+1),$$

where both $x^2 + 4$ and $x^2 - x + 1$ are irreducible real quadratic factors.

7. Let $P(x) = -2x^{17} - x^{15} + x^2 - 20$; prove each of the following statements or explain why it is not correct.

- (a) $P(x)$ has at least one zero in the interval $[11, 20]$.
- (b) It is impossible for $P(x)$ to have 2 negative real zeros.

Solution:

- (a) It is not true because if x is a zero of $P(x)$, then using Bounds Theorem,
 $M = \max\{|-1|, |1|, |-20|\} = 20$, and

$$|x| < \frac{20}{|-2|} + 1 = 10 + 1 = 11,$$

that is $|x| < 11$, which means $P(x)$ has no zero in the interval $[11, 20]$ at all.

- (b) It is true because

$$P(-x) = -2(-x)^{17} - (-x)^{15} + (-x)^2 - 20 = 2x^{17} + x^{15} + x^2 - 20;$$

since sign of coefficients is changing only one time so the number of negative real zeros of $P(x)$ is 1 and therefore it is impossible for $P(x)$ to have 2 negative real zeros.

8. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$, $B = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$ and $D = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Evaluate each of the following expressions or explain why it is not defined.

- (a) $(3B + 2D)(6C - A^T)$
- (b) $BD^T + AC$

Solution:

- (a) Since $3B + 2D$ is of size 2×2 and $6C - A^T$ is of size 3×2 and $2 \neq 3$ so $(3B + 2D)(6C - A^T)$ is not defined.

- (b) Since BD^T is of size 2×2 and AC is of size 2×2 so $BD^T + AC$ is defined and is of size 2×2 . In fact

$$\begin{aligned} BD^T + AC &= \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 8 & -4 \\ 1 & -3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -7 & -11 \\ 0 & 16 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -15 \\ 1 & 13 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

9. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a \\ -a & 2 \end{bmatrix}$; find all values of a for which $A^2 - 3A = 3aI_2$ where I_2 is the 2×2 identity matrix.

Solution:

$$A^2 - 3A = 3aI_2 \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a \\ -a & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a \\ -a & 2 \end{bmatrix} - 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a \\ -a & 2 \end{bmatrix} = 3a \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 - a^2 & 3a \\ -3a & 4 - a^2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 3a \\ -3a & 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3a & 0 \\ 0 & 3a \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -a^2 - 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -a^2 - 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3a & 0 \\ 0 & 3a \end{bmatrix}.$$

Therefore must $-a^2 - 2 = 3a$ **which implies** $a^2 + 3a + 2 = 0$ **that is** $(a + 1)(a + 2) = 0$ **which means** $a = -1$ **or** $a = -2$.