

Ch 2.5 (part 2) | Zeros of Polynomial Functions

Rational Zero Theorem → factors of the constant & leading coefficient

ex 1) $x^5 - 4x^2 + 6x + 5$
 leading coefficient $q: \pm 1$ constant $p: \pm 1, \pm 5$ List all possible roots.
 possible roots: $\frac{p}{q}: \pm 1, \pm 5$ 4 possible roots

ex 2) List all possible roots of $f(x) = -4x^4 + 4x^2 - 2x + 6$
 $p: \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 6$ $q: \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4$
 $\frac{p}{q}: \pm 1, \pm \frac{1}{2}, \pm \frac{1}{4}, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm \frac{3}{2}, \pm \frac{3}{4}, \pm 6$ 16 possible roots

Descartes Rule of Signs → # of positive or negative real roots

Positives: # sign changes of $f(x)$
Negatives: # sign changes of $f(-x)$

ex 3) Determine # of pos or neg real roots

$f(x) = -5x^7 + x^4 + x^2 + x + 9$
 # positives? yes no no no → 1 positive zero (root)

$f(-x) = -5(-x)^7 + (-x)^4 + (-x)^2 + (-x) + 9$
 $5x^7 + x^4 + x^2 - x + 9$
 # negatives? no no yes yes → 2 or 0 negative roots

subtract 2

ex 4) # roots? $f(x) = x^7 + x^4 + x^2 + x + 9$

pos? no sign changes → 0 positive roots
 $f(-x) = (-x)^7 + (-x)^4 + (-x)^2 + (-x) + 9$
 $= -x^7 + x^4 + x^2 - x + 9$ → 3 or 1 neg roots
 # neg?

ex 5) Find all roots of $f(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - 5x - 6$

$p: \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 6; q: \pm 1; \frac{p}{q}: \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 6$

$f(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - 5x - 6 \rightarrow 1$ positive root

$f(-x) = (-x)^3 + 2(-x)^2 - 5(-x) - 6$

$-x^3 + 2x^2 + 5x - 6 \rightarrow 2$ or 0 negative roots

8 possible roots

+	1	2	-5	-6
		1	3	-2
2	1	3	2	4
		2	8	6
	1	4	3	0

\therefore roots: $\{2, -3, -1\}$

$x^2 + 4x + 3 = 0$
 $(x+3)(x+1) = 0$
 $x = -3 \mid x = -1$

ex 6) $f(x) = x^3 + 7x^2 + 19x + 13$

$p: \pm 1, \pm 13; q: \pm 1; \frac{p}{q}: \pm 1, \pm 13$

$f(x) =$ no sign changes $\rightarrow 0$ pos roots

$f(-x) = (-x)^3 + 7(-x)^2 + 19(-x) + 13$

$= -x^3 + 7x^2 - 19x + 13 \rightarrow 3$ or 1 neg roots

-1

1	7	19	13
	-1	-6	-13
1	6	13	0

$x^2 + 6x + 13 = 0$

$x = \frac{-(-6) \pm \sqrt{6^2 - 4(1)(13)}}{2(1)}$

$= \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{36 - 52}}{2}$

$= \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{-16}}{2} = \frac{-6 \pm 4i}{2}$

$= -3 \pm 2i$

$\therefore \{-1, -3 + 2i, -3 - 2i\}$

HW: p 336, # 17-20, 39, 41