


Notes 3.7 – Polynomial Roots


Warmup – Polynomial vs Not a Polynomial – Why?

Compare each set of functions, then explain how they are different. You can use either a graphing calculator or desmos.com to help you.


1. a. $f(x) = x^3$
 cubic
 3 roots
 domain & range both \mathbb{R}



b. $g(x) = 3^x$
 exponential
 no roots
 domain \mathbb{R}
 range $(0, \infty)$



2. a. $f(x) = 2x^2 + 5x - 12$
 quadratic
 2 roots
 one continuous graph




b. $g(x) = \frac{2x^2}{x^2 - 3x + 2}$
 rational
 1 root
 3 parts to graph


3. a. $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x$
 linear
 1 root

b. $g(x) = \frac{1}{2x}$
 rational
 no roots
 2 parts to graph

4. a. $f(x) = x^2$
 quadratic
 domain \mathbb{R}



b. $g(x) = x^{\frac{1}{2}}$
 square root
 limited domain



Investigation

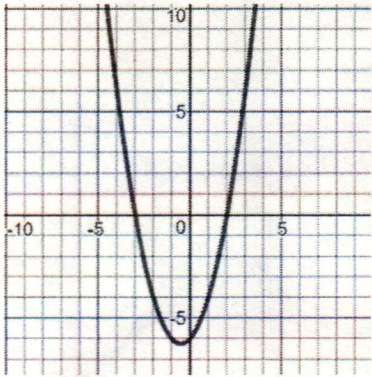
Quadratics are a type of polynomial. Find the roots (x-intercepts) for each equation and identify if they are real or imaginary.

a. $f(x) = x^2 + x - 6$

$$(x+3)(x-2)$$

$$x = -3, 2$$

both real



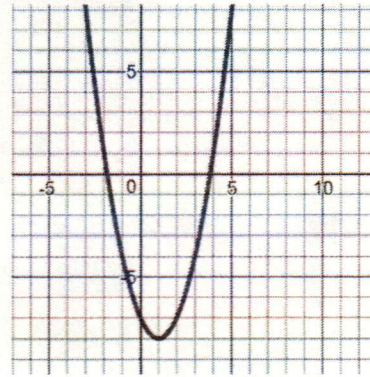
b. $g(x) = x^2 - 2x - 7$

$$x = \frac{-(-2) \pm \sqrt{(-2)^2 - 4(1)(-7)}}{2(1)}$$

$$x = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{32}}{2}$$

$$x = 1 \pm 2\sqrt{2}$$

both real



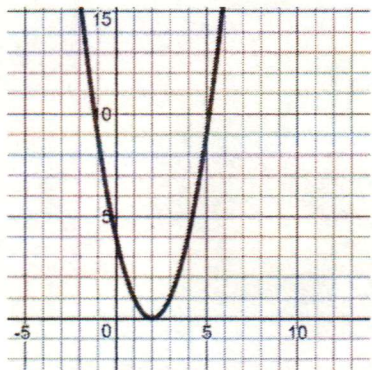
c. $h(x) = x^2 - 4x + 4$

$$(x-2)^2$$

$$\rightarrow (x-2)(x-2)$$

$$x = 2$$

both real



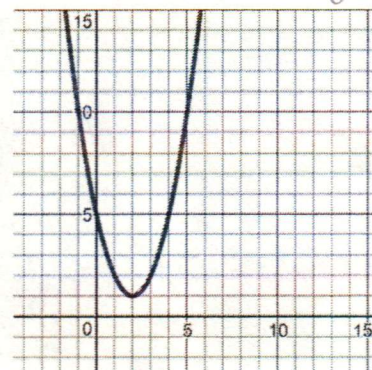
d. $k(x) = x^2 - 4x + 5$

$$x = \frac{-(-4) \pm \sqrt{(-4)^2 - 4(1)(5)}}{2(1)}$$

$$x = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{-4}}{2}$$

$$x = 2 \pm 1i$$

2 imaginary



Write the equations of each of the quadratics in factored form.

$$f(x) = (x+3)(x-2)$$

$$g(x) = (x - (1+2\sqrt{2}))(x - (1-2\sqrt{2}))$$

$$h(x) = (x-2)^2 \\ (x-2)(x-2)$$

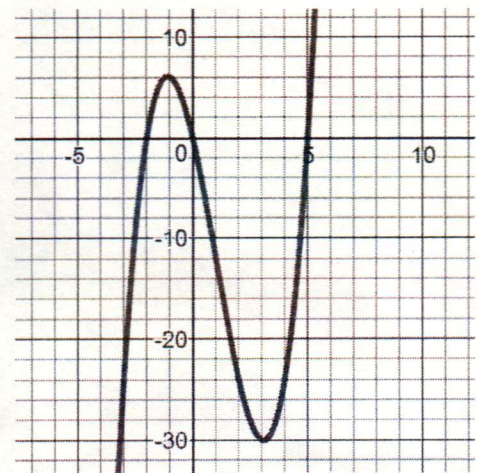
$$k(x) = (x - (2+i))(x - (2-i))$$

What is the relationship between roots and factors?

Roots can be used to write the factors

A cubic function is also a polynomial. Compare the equation of this cubic function to its graph.

$$m(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 - 10x$$



e. Identify the roots of the function. Show how you can verify the roots are correct.

$$x = -2, 0, 5$$

$$y = (-2)^3 - 3(-2)^2 - 10(-2) = 0$$

$$y = (0)^3 - 3(0)^2 - 10(0) = 0$$

$$y = (5)^3 - 3(5)^2 - 10(5) = 0$$

f. Write the equation in factored form.

$$m(x) = (x - (-2))(x - 0)(x - 5)$$

$$y = (x+2)(x)(x-5)$$

Now compare this cubic function with its graph.

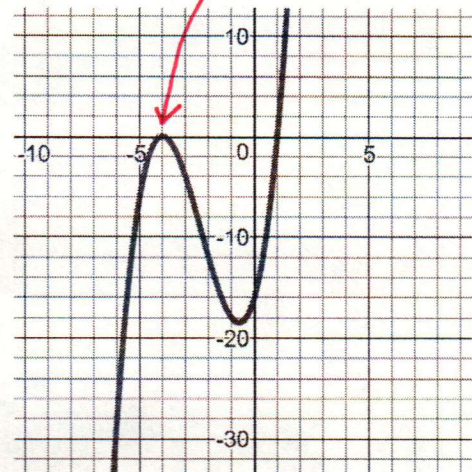
$$n(x) = x^3 + 7x^2 + 8x - 16$$

g. Identify the roots.

$$x = -4, 1$$

h. Write the equation in factored form.

$$n(x) = (x+4)^2(x-1)$$



a bounce means that factor is repeated

i. Verify your equation in factored form is correct by converting it into standard form.

$$(x^2 + 8x + 16)(x - 1)$$

$$n(x) = x^3 + 7x^2 + 8x - 16$$

	x^2	$8x$	16
x	x^3	$8x^2$	$16x$
-1	$-x^2$	$-8x$	-16

This cubic function has less obvious roots.

$$p(x) = (x+3)(x^2+4)$$

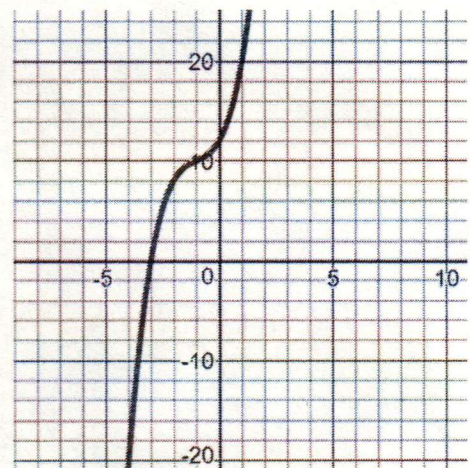
j. Find the roots of the function.

$$x+3=0 \quad x^2+4=0$$

$$x=-3 \quad x^2=-4$$

$$x = \pm\sqrt{-4}$$

$$x = \pm 2i$$



Vocabulary

Word	Meaning/Notation	Example
Fundamental Theorem of Algebra	A polynomial of n^{th} degree has n roots	x^5 has 5 roots
Roots	another name for x-intercepts	$(x, 0)$
Factored Form	$y = (x-p)(x-q)(x-r), \text{etc}$ roots = p, q, r	