

6.3 Solving Polynomial Equations

Any n^{th} degree polynomial has n roots.

Roots can be :

- ① repeated
- ② rational (can be written as a fraction)
- ③ irrational (cannot be written as a fraction)
- ④ imaginary (has i)

Special Note:

Irrational Roots & Imaginary Roots

$$a \pm \sqrt{b}$$

$$a \pm bi$$

always exist in pairs.

- ① Solve $x^3 + 3x^2 - 14x - 20 = 0$ & classify the roots.
degree 3 \rightarrow 3 roots

PlySmit2	Roots
1: Polynomial Root Finder	-5 rational
[ORDER (degree)]	3.236 irrational
[a+bi]	-1.236 irrational

GRAPH

* Press $F \leftarrow D$ (Graph) to see if your decimal roots can be written as a fraction.

② solve $x^3 - 2x^2 + 3x - 6 = 0$ and classify the roots.

Roots

2 rational

1.732i imaginary

-1.732i imaginary

④ solve $x^4 + 3x^2 - 18 = 0$ and classify the roots. degree 4

Roots

2.449i imaginary

-2.449i imaginary

1.732 irrational

-1.732 irrational

⑤ solve $x^4 - 14x^2 + 45 = 0$ and classify the roots.