

Precalculus Unit 2

Homework—Real Zeros of Polynomials

In exercises 1-6, use the Factor Theorem to determine whether the first polynomial is a factor of the second polynomial.

1. $x-1$; $x^3 - x^2 + x - 1$ yes

2. $x-3$; $x^3 - x^2 - x - 15$ yes

3. $x-2$; $x^3 + 3x - 4$ no

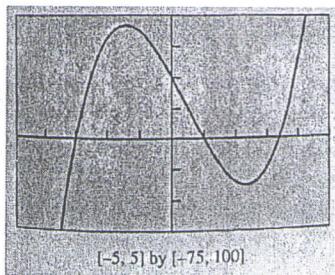
4. $x-2$; $x^3 - 3x - 2$ yes

5. $x+2$; $4x^3 + 9x^2 - 3x - 10$ yes

6. $x+1$; $2x^{10} - x^9 + x^8 + x^7 + 2x^6 - 3$ no

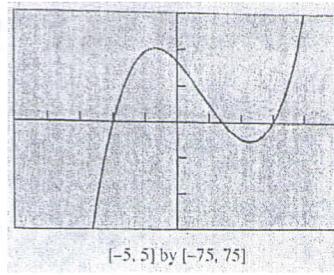
In exercises 7-8, use the graph to guess possible linear factors of $f(x)$. Then completely factor $f(x)$.

7. $f(x) = 5x^3 - 7x^2 - 49x + 51$



$$f(x) = (x+3)(x-1)(5x-17)$$

8. $f(x) = 5x^3 - 12x^2 - 23x + 42$



$$f(x) = (x+2)(x-3)(5x-7)$$

In exercises 9-11, use the Rational Root Theorem to write a list of all potential rational zeros. Then determine which ones, if any, are zeros.

9. $f(x) = 6x^3 - 5x - 1$ possible: $\pm 1, \pm \frac{1}{2}, \pm \frac{1}{3}, \pm \frac{1}{6}$ actual: 1

10. $f(x) = 3x^3 - 7x^2 + 6x - 14$ possible: $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 7, \pm 14, \pm \frac{1}{3}, \pm \frac{2}{3}, \pm \frac{7}{3}, \pm \frac{14}{3}$ actual: $\frac{7}{3}$

11. $f(x) = 2x^3 - x^2 - 9x + 9$ possible: $\pm 1, \pm 3, \pm 9, \pm \frac{1}{2}, \pm \frac{3}{2}, \pm \frac{9}{2}$ actual: $\frac{3}{2}$

In exercises 12-14, find all of the real zeros of the function, finding exact values whenever possible.

Identify each zero as rational or irrational.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{rational} \quad \text{irrational} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \sqrt{2}, -\sqrt{2} \end{array}$$

13. $f(x) = x^3 + x^2 - 8x - 6$ zeros: $-3, |\pm \sqrt{3}|$

14. $f(x) = 2x^4 - 7x^3 - 2x^2 - 7x - 4$ zeros: $-\frac{1}{2}, 4$ (no irrational)