

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

GPS # 23

5.6 POLYNOMIAL EQUATIONS

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Useful Guidelines:

To Solve a Quadratic Equation, $2x^2 + x - 3 = 0$

1. Factor the polynomial: $(2x+3)(x-1) = 0$

2. Set each variable factor equal to zero: $(2x+3) = 0$ or $(x-1) = 0$

4. Find the solution(s): $x = -\frac{3}{2}$ or $x = 1 \Rightarrow$ the solution set is $\{-\frac{3}{2}, 1\}$

Zero-Factor Property:

If two numbers have a product of 0, then at least one of the numbers must be 0.

Solve the following equations:

1. a) $x^2 + 4x - 5 = 0$

$$(x+5)(x-1) = 0$$

$$x+5=0 \quad \text{or} \quad x-1=0$$

$$x=-5 \quad x=1$$

Sol. set $\{-5, 1\}$

b) $3p^2 - 11p + 6 = 0$

$$(3p-2)(p-3) = 0$$

$$3p-2=0 \quad \text{or} \quad p-3=0$$

$$p = \frac{2}{3} \quad p=3$$

Sol. set $\{\frac{2}{3}, 3\}$

2. a) $5z^2 - 12z = -7$

$$5z^2 - 12z + 7 = 0$$

$$(5z-7)(z-1) = 0$$

$$5z-7=0 \quad \text{or} \quad z-1=0$$

$$z = \frac{7}{5} \quad z=1$$

Sol. set $\{\frac{7}{5}, 1\}$

b) $7k^2 - 23k = -6$

$$7k^2 - 23k + 6 = 0$$

$$(7k-2)(k-3) = 0$$

$$7k-2=0 \quad \text{or} \quad k-3=0$$

$$k = \frac{2}{7} \quad k=3$$

Sol. set $\{\frac{2}{7}, 3\}$

3. a) $4x^3 + 4x^2 - 8x = 0$

$$4x(x^2 + x - 2) = 0$$

$$4x(x+2)(x-1) = 0$$

$$4x=0 \quad x+2=0 \quad x-1=0$$

$$x=0 \quad x=-2 \quad x=1$$

Sol. set $\{-2, 0, 1\}$

b) $y^3 - 2y^2 - 4y + 8 = 0$

[Factor by grouping]

$$y^2(y-2) - 4(y-2) = 0$$

$$(y-2)(y^2-4)$$

$$(y-2)(y-2)(y+2)$$

$$y-2=0$$

$$y=2$$

$$y+2=0$$

$$y=-2$$

Sol. set $\{-2, 2\}$