

COLLEGE ALGEBRA

GPS # 36

4.3

SOLUTION OF POLYNOMIAL EQUATIONS II

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Useful Guidelines:

* Square Root and Cube Root: The cube root function is defined for all inputs, whereas the square root function is defined only for nonnegative inputs.

* Square Root Property: If k is a nonnegative numbers and $x^2 = k$, then $x = \pm\sqrt{k}$.

* Solve Equations with Cube Roots: The solution to the equation $x^3 = k$ is $x = \sqrt[3]{k}$.

* Power function: $f(x) = x^p$, where p is a rational number.

* Root function: $f(x) = \sqrt[n]{x}$, where $n \geq 2$.

1. Use the square root property to solve each equation and give the solution set.

a) $x^2 = 49$

$$x = \pm\sqrt{49}$$

$$x = \pm 7$$

Solution set

$$\{-7, 7\}$$

b) $x^2 - 8 = 0$

$$\underline{+8 +8}$$

$$x^2 = 8$$

$$x = \pm\sqrt{8}$$

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

Solution set

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

c) $(x-4)^2 = 25$

$$\begin{array}{r} (x-4) = \pm 5 \\ +4 \quad +4 \\ \hline x = -1, 9 \end{array}$$

Solution set

$$\{-1, 9\}$$

d) $(2x-5)^2 = 12$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x-5 = \pm 2\sqrt{3} \\ +5 \quad +5 \\ \hline \frac{2x}{2} = \frac{5 \pm 2\sqrt{3}}{2} \end{array}$$

Solution set

$$\{x | x = 2.5 \pm \sqrt{3}\}$$

2. Use the cube roots to solve each equation and give the solution set.

a) $2x^3 - 250 = 0$

$$\begin{array}{r} +250 +250 \\ \hline 2x^3 = 250 \\ \hline z \end{array}$$

$$x^3 = 125$$

$$x = \sqrt[3]{125}$$

$$x = 5$$

Solution set

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$$\{x | x = 5\}$$

b) $(y-1)^3 = 8$

$$y-1 = \sqrt[3]{8}$$

$$y-1 = 2$$

$$\underline{+1 \quad +1}$$

Solution set

$$\{y | y = 3\}$$

3. Solve the polynomial equation by using the root method and give the solution set.

a) $x^3 - 60 = 4$

$$\begin{array}{r} +60 +60 \\ \hline x^3 = 64 \end{array}$$

$$x = \sqrt[3]{64}$$

$$x = 4$$

b) $6x^4 - 24x^2 = 0$

$$6x^2(x^2 - 4) = 0$$

$$6x^2 = 0 \quad x^2 - 4 = 0$$

$$x = 0 \quad (x-2)(x+2) = 0$$

$$x = \pm 2$$

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Solution set

$$\{-2, 0, 2\}$$