

**Section 5-6  
The Fundamental  
Theorem of Algebra**

Students will be able to use the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra to solve polynomial equations with complex solutions.

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You can factor any polynomial of degree  $n$  into  $n$  linear factors, but sometimes the factors will involve imaginary numbers.

-The degree of the polynomial tells you how many roots and equation has.

$y = x^2$  has how many roots?

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Find the roots of the following:

$0 = x^2 - 9$   
 $\sqrt{9}$   
 $x = \pm 3$   
 $0 = x^2 - 2x + 1$   
 $0 = (x-1)(x-1)$   $x = 1$  mult. 2  
 $0 = x^2 + 3x + 1$   
 $x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{9-4}}{2} = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$

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German mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauss is credited with proving the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra:

If  $P(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n \geq 1$ , then  $P(x) = 0$  has exactly  $n$  roots, including multiple and imaginary roots.

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What are all of the roots of  $x^4 + 2x^3 = 13x^2 - 10x$

$0 = x^4 + 2x^3 - 13x^2 + 10x$   
 $x = -5, 0, 1, 2$

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What are the zeros of  $f(x) = x^4 + 2x^3 - 4x^2 - 7x - 2$ ?

$x = 2, -1$   
 $(x-2)(x+1)$   
 $2 \overline{) 1 \ 2 \ -4 \ -7 \ -2}$   
 $\underline{2 \ 8 \ 8 \ 2}$   
 $(x-2) \overline{) 1 \ 4 \ 4 \ 1 \ 0}$   
 $(x^3 + 4x^2 + 4x + 1)$   
 $(x-2) \overline{) -1 \ 1 \ 4 \ 4 \ 1}$   
 $\underline{-1 \ -3 \ -1}$   
 $1 \ 3 \ 1 \ 0$   
 $(x^2 + 3x + 1) \leftarrow x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$

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Concept Summary:

Equivalent ways to state the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra.

1. Every polynomial of degree  $n \geq 1$  has exactly  $n$  roots, including multiple and imaginary roots.
2. Every polynomial of degree  $n \geq 1$  has  $n$  linear factors.
3. Every polynomial function of degree  $n \geq 1$  has at least one complex zero.

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Find the zeros:

$$x^5 - x^4 - 7x^3 + 7x^2 - 18x + 18 = 0$$

$x = -3, 1, 3 \quad (x+3)(x-1)(x-3)(x+i\sqrt{2})(x-i\sqrt{2})$

3	1	-1	-7	7	-18	18
	3	6	-3	12	-18	
	1	2	-1	4	-6	0

$x^4 + 2x^3 - x^2 + 4x - 6$

1	2	-1	4	-6	
	1	3	2	6	
	1	3	2	6	0

$(x^3 + 3x^2) + (2x + 6)$

$x^2(x+3) + 2(x+3)$

$(x^2 + 2)(x+3)$  graph

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

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