

Roots of Polynomial Equations

Exercise A

- 1 α and β are the roots of the quadratic equation $3x^2 + 7x - 4 = 0$. Without solving the equation, find the values of:
- a $\alpha + \beta$ b $\alpha\beta$ c $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta}$ d $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$
- 2 α and β are the roots of the quadratic equation $7x^2 - 3x + 1 = 0$. Without solving the equation, find the values of:
- a $\alpha + \beta$ b $\alpha\beta$ c $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta}$ d $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$
- 3 α and β are the roots of the quadratic equation $6x^2 - 9x + 2 = 0$. Without solving the equation, find the values of:
- a $\alpha + \beta$ b $\alpha^2 \times \beta^2$
 c $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta}$ d $\alpha^3 + \beta^3$
- Hint** Try expanding $(\alpha + \beta)^3$.
- 4 The roots of a quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ are $\alpha = 2$ and $\beta = -3$. Find integer values for a , b and c .
- 5 The roots of a quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ are $\alpha = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $\beta = -\frac{1}{3}$. Find integer values for a , b and c .
- 6 The roots of a quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ are $\alpha = \frac{-1+i}{2}$ and $\beta = \frac{-1-i}{2}$. Find integer values for a , b and c .
- 7 One of the roots of the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ is $\alpha = -1 - 4i$.
- a Write down the other root, β .
 b Given that $a = 1$, find the values of b and c .
- 8 Given that $kx^2 + (k - 3)x - 2 = 0$, find the value of k if the sum of the roots is 4.
- 9 The equation $nx^2 - (16 + n)x + 256 = 0$ has real roots α and $-\alpha$. Find the value of n .
- 10 The roots of the equation $6x^2 + 36x + k = 0$ are reciprocals of each other. Find the value of k .
- 11 The equation $mx^2 + 4x + 4m = 0$ has roots of the form k and $2k$. Find the values of m and k .
- 12 The equation $ax^2 + 8x + c = 0$, where a and c are real constants, has roots α and α^* .
- a Given that $\text{Re}(\alpha) = 2$, find the value of a .
 b Given that $\text{Im}(\alpha) = 3i$, find the value of c .
- 13 The equation $4x^2 + px + q = 0$, where p and q are real constants, has roots α and α^* .
- a Given that $\text{Re}(\alpha) = -3$, find the value of p .
 b Given that $\text{Im}(\alpha) \neq 0$, find the range of possible values of q .

Exercise B

- 1 α , β and γ are the roots of the cubic equation $2x^3 + 5x^2 - 2x + 3 = 0$. Find the values of:
a $\alpha + \beta + \gamma$ b $\alpha\beta\gamma$ c $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha$ d $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma}$
- 2 α , β and γ are the roots of the cubic equation $x^3 + 5x^2 + 17x + 13 = 0$. Find the values of:
a $\alpha + \beta + \gamma$ b $\alpha\beta\gamma$ c $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha$ d $\alpha^2\beta^2\gamma^2$
- 3 α , β and γ are the roots of the cubic equation $7x^3 - 4x^2 - x + 6 = 0$. Find the values of:
a $\alpha + \beta + \gamma$ b $\alpha\beta\gamma$ c $\alpha^3\beta^3\gamma^3$ d $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma}$
- 4 The roots of a cubic equation $ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d = 0$ are $\alpha = \frac{3}{2}$, $\beta = \frac{1}{2}$ and $\gamma = 1$.
Find integer values for a , b , c and d .
- 5 The roots of a cubic equation $ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d = 0$ are $\alpha = 1 + 3i$, $\beta = 1 - 3i$ and $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}$.
Find integer values for a , b , c and d .
- 6 The roots of a cubic equation $ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d = 0$ are $\alpha = \frac{5}{4}$, $\beta = -\frac{3}{2}$ and $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}$.
Find integer values for a , b , c and d .
- 7 The cubic equation $16x^3 - kx^2 + 1 = 0$ has roots α , β and γ .
a Write down the values of $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma$. (2 marks)
b i Given that $\alpha = \beta$, find the roots of the equation. (5 marks)
ii Find the value of k . (1 mark)
- 8 The cubic equation $2x^3 - kx^2 + 30x - 13 = 0$ has roots α , β and γ .
a Write down the values of $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma$, and express k in terms of α , β and γ . (3 marks)
b Given that $\alpha = 2 - 3i$, find the value of k . (4 marks)
- 9 The cubic equation $x^3 - mx + n = 0$ has roots 1, -4 and α .
a State, with a reason, whether α is real. (1 mark)
b Find the values of m , n and α . (4 marks)
- 10 The cubic equation $2x^3 - 10x^2 + 8x - k = 0$ has a root at $x = 3 - i$.
a Find the other two roots of the equation. (4 marks)
b Hence find the value of k . (2 marks)
- 11 The cubic equation $x^3 - 14x^2 + 56x - 64 = 0$ has roots α , $k\alpha$ and $k^2\alpha$ for some real constant k .
Find the values of α and k . (5 marks)
- 12 Given that the roots of $8x^3 + 12x^2 - cx + d = 0$ are α , $\frac{\alpha}{2}$ and $\alpha - 4$, find α , c and d . (5 marks)
- 13 Given that the roots of the cubic equation $2x^3 + 48x^2 + cx + d = 0$ are α , 2α and 3α , find the values of α , c and d . (5 marks)

Exercise C

- 1 α, β, γ and δ are the roots of the quartic equation $4x^4 + 3x^3 + 2x^2 - 5x - 4 = 0$. Without solving the equation, find the values of:

a $\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta$ b $\alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \alpha\delta + \beta\gamma + \beta\delta + \gamma\delta$
 c $\alpha\beta\gamma + \alpha\beta\delta + \alpha\gamma\delta + \beta\gamma\delta$ d $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma} + \frac{1}{\delta}$

Hint $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma} + \frac{1}{\delta}$
 $= \frac{\beta\gamma\delta + \alpha\gamma\delta + \alpha\beta\delta + \alpha\beta\gamma}{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}$

- 2 α, β, γ and δ are the roots of the quartic equation $2x^4 + 4x^3 - 3x^2 - x + 2 = 0$. Find the values of:

a $\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta$ b $\alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \alpha\delta + \beta\gamma + \beta\delta + \gamma\delta$ c $\alpha\beta\gamma + \alpha\beta\delta + \alpha\gamma\delta + \beta\gamma\delta$
 d $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta$ e $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma} + \frac{1}{\delta}$

- 3 α, β, γ and δ are the roots of the quartic equation $x^4 + 3x^3 + 2x^2 - x + 4 = 0$.

Find the values of:

a $\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta$ b $\alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \alpha\delta + \beta\gamma + \beta\delta + \gamma\delta$ c $\alpha\beta\gamma + \alpha\beta\delta + \alpha\gamma\delta + \beta\gamma\delta$
 d $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta$ e $\alpha^2\beta^2\gamma^2\delta^2$

- 4 α, β, γ and δ are the roots of the quartic equation $7x^4 + 6x^3 - 5x^2 + 4x + 3 = 0$.

Find the values of:

a $\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta$ b $\alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \alpha\delta + \beta\gamma + \beta\delta + \gamma\delta$ c $\alpha\beta\gamma + \alpha\beta\delta + \alpha\gamma\delta + \beta\gamma\delta$
 d $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma} + \frac{1}{\delta}$ e $\alpha^3\beta^3\gamma^3\delta^3$

- 5 The roots of a quartic equation $ax^4 + bx^3 + cx^2 + dx + e = 0$ are $\alpha = -\frac{3}{2}, \beta = -\frac{1}{2}, \gamma = -2$ and $\delta = \frac{2}{3}$. Find integer values for a, b, c, d and e .

- 6 The roots of a quartic equation $ax^4 + bx^3 + cx^2 + dx + e = 0$ are $\alpha = -\frac{1}{2}, \beta = \frac{1}{3}, \gamma = 1 + i$ and $\delta = 1 - i$. Find integer values for a, b, c, d and e .

- 7 The roots of a quartic equation $ax^4 + bx^3 + cx^2 + dx + e = 0$ are such that $\Sigma\alpha = \frac{17}{12}, \Sigma\alpha\beta = -\frac{25}{72}, \Sigma\alpha\beta\gamma = -\frac{53}{72}$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta = -\frac{1}{6}$. Find integer values for a, b, c, d and e .

- 8 The quartic equation $x^4 - 16x^3 + 86x^2 - 176x + 105 = 0$ has roots $\alpha, \alpha + k, \alpha + 2k$ and $\alpha + 3k$ for some real constant k . Solve the equation. **(7 marks)**

- 9 The quartic equation $3072x^4 - 2880x^3 + 840x^2 - 90x + 3 = 0$ has roots $\alpha, r\alpha, r^2\alpha$ and $r^3\alpha$ for some real constant r . Solve the equation. **(7 marks)**

- 10 Three of the roots of the quartic equation $40x^4 + 90x^3 - 115x^2 + mx + n = 0$ are 1, -3 and $\frac{1}{2}$
 a Find the fourth root. **(2 marks)**
 b Find the values of m and n . **(4 marks)**

- 11 The quartic equation $2x^4 - 34x^3 + 202x^2 + dx + e = 0$ has roots $\alpha, \alpha + 1, 2\alpha + 1$ and $3\alpha + 1$.
 a Find α . **(2 marks)**
 b Find the values of d and e . **(4 marks)**

- 12 The equation $4x^4 - 19x^3 + px^2 + qx + 10 = 0, x \in \mathbb{C}, p, q \in \mathbb{R}$, has roots α, β, γ and δ . Given that $\gamma = 3 + i$ and $\delta = \gamma^*$,
 a show that $4\alpha + 4\beta + 5 = 0$ and that $4\alpha\beta - 1 = 0$. **(2 marks)**
 b Hence find all the roots of the quartic equation and find the values of p and q . **(5 marks)**
 c Show these roots on an Argand diagram. **(3 marks)**

13 A quartic equation $6x^4 - 10x^3 + 3x^2 + 6x - 40 = 0$ has roots α, β, γ and δ .

- a Show that $\frac{1-3i}{2}$ is one root of the equation. (3 marks)
- b Without solving the equation, find the other roots. (5 marks)
- c Show these roots on an Argand diagram. (3 marks)

Exercise D

1 A quadratic equation has roots α and β . Given that $\alpha + \beta = 4$ and $\alpha\beta = 3$, find:

a $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta}$ b $\alpha^2\beta^2$ c $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$ d $\alpha^3 + \beta^3$

2 A quadratic equation has roots α and β . Given that $\alpha + \beta = -\frac{2}{3}$ and $\alpha\beta = \frac{3}{4}$, find:

a $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta}$ b $\alpha^2\beta^2$ c $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$ d $\alpha^3 + \beta^3$

3 A quadratic equation has roots α and β . Given that $\alpha + \beta = \frac{5}{4}$ and $\alpha\beta = -\frac{1}{3}$, find:

a $(\alpha + 2)(\beta + 2)$ b $(\alpha - 4)(\beta - 4)$ c $(\alpha^2 + 1)(\beta^2 + 1)$

4 A cubic equation has roots α, β and γ . Given that $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 2$, $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = -3$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma = 4$, find:

a $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma}$ b $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2$ c $\alpha^3 + \beta^3 + \gamma^3$ d $(\alpha\beta)^2 + (\beta\gamma)^2 + (\gamma\alpha)^2$

5 A cubic equation has roots α, β and γ . Given that $\Sigma\alpha = \frac{3}{2}$, $\Sigma\alpha\beta = -\frac{4}{3}$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma = \frac{1}{2}$, find:

a $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma}$ b $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2$ c $\alpha^3 + \beta^3 + \gamma^3$ d $\alpha^3\beta^3\gamma^3$

6 A cubic equation has roots α, β and γ . Given that $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = -\frac{1}{2}$, $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = \frac{3}{4}$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma = -\frac{2}{5}$, find:

a $(\alpha + 2)(\beta + 2)(\gamma + 2)$ b $(\alpha - 3)(\beta - 3)(\gamma - 3)$ c $(1 - \alpha)(1 - \beta)(1 - \gamma)$
 d $(\alpha\beta)^2 + (\beta\gamma)^2 + (\gamma\alpha)^2$ e $(\alpha\beta)^3 + (\beta\gamma)^3 + (\gamma\alpha)^3$

7 A quartic equation has roots α, β, γ and δ . Given that $\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = 3$, $\alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma + \alpha\delta + \beta\gamma + \beta\delta + \gamma\delta = 5$, $\alpha\beta\gamma + \alpha\beta\delta + \alpha\gamma\delta + \beta\gamma\delta = -4$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta = -2$, find:

a $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma} + \frac{1}{\delta}$ b $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 + \delta^2$ c $\alpha^4\beta^4\gamma^4\delta^4$

8 A quartic equation has roots α, β, γ and δ . Given that $\Sigma\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$, $\Sigma\alpha\beta = -\frac{3}{4}$, $\Sigma\alpha\beta\gamma = -\frac{1}{5}$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta = \frac{4}{3}$, find:

a $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma} + \frac{1}{\delta}$ b $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 + \delta^2$ c $\alpha^3\beta^3\gamma^3\delta^3$
 d $(\alpha\beta)^2 + (\beta\gamma)^2 + (\gamma\alpha)^2 + (\gamma\delta)^2 + (\alpha\delta)^2 + (\beta\delta)^2$
 e $(\alpha\beta\gamma)^2 + (\alpha\beta\delta)^2 + (\alpha\gamma\delta)^2 + (\beta\gamma\delta)^2$

9 A quartic equation has roots α, β, γ and δ . Given that $\Sigma\alpha = -\frac{1}{2}$, $\Sigma\alpha\beta = -\frac{1}{3}$, $\Sigma\alpha\beta\gamma = \frac{1}{4}$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta = \frac{3}{2}$, find:

a $(\alpha + 1)(\beta + 1)(\gamma + 1)(\delta + 1)$ b $(2 - \alpha)(2 - \beta)(2 - \gamma)(2 - \delta)$

10 The roots of the equation $x^3 - 6x^2 + 9x - 15 = 0$ are α, β and γ .

a Write down the values of $\alpha + \beta + \gamma$, $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma$. (1 mark)

b Hence find the values of:

i $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma}$ (2 marks)

ii $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2$ (2 marks)

iii $(\alpha - 1)(\beta - 1)(\gamma - 1)$ (3 marks)

- 6 The quartic equation $2x^4 + 4x^3 - 5x^2 + 2x - 1 = 0$ has roots α, β, γ and δ . Find equations with integer coefficients that have roots:
 a $3\alpha, 3\beta, 3\gamma$ and 3δ b $(\alpha - 1), (\beta - 1), (\gamma - 1)$ and $(\delta - 1)$
- 7 The quartic equation $x^4 + 2x^3 - 3x^2 + 4x + 5 = 0$ has roots α, β, γ and δ .
 Without solving the equation, find equations with integer coefficients that have roots:
 a $2\alpha, 2\beta, 2\gamma$ and 2δ (6 marks)
 b $(\alpha - 2), (\beta - 2), (\gamma - 2)$ and $(\delta - 2)$ (6 marks)
- 8 The quartic equation $3x^4 + 5x^3 - 4x^2 - 3x + 1 = 0$ has roots α, β, γ and δ .
 Without solving the equation, find equations with integer coefficients that have roots:
 a $3\alpha, 3\beta, 3\gamma$ and 3δ (6 marks)
 b $(\alpha + 1), (\beta + 1), (\gamma + 1)$ and $(\delta + 1)$ (6 marks)
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Exercise F

- 1 The roots of a quartic equation $ax^4 + bx^3 + cx^2 + dx + e = 0$ are $\alpha = \frac{1}{5}, \beta = -\frac{2}{5}, \gamma = -\frac{3}{5}$ and $\delta = -\frac{1}{2}$.
 Find integer values for a, b, c, d and e .
- 2 The cubic equation $x^3 + px^2 + 37x - 52 = 0$ has roots α, β and γ .
 a Write down the values of $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma$, and express p in terms of α, β and γ . (3 marks)
 b Given that $\alpha = 3 - 2i$, find the value of p . (4 marks)
- 3 The cubic equation $2x^3 + 5x^2 - 2x + q = 0$ has a root at $x = -2 + i$.
 a Find the other two roots of the equation. (4 marks)
 b Hence find the value of q . (2 marks)
- 4 The quartic equation $x^4 - 40x^3 + 510x^2 - 2200x + 1729 = 0$ has roots $\alpha, \alpha + 2k, \alpha + 4k$ and $\alpha + 6k$ for some real constant k . Solve the equation. (7 marks)
- 5 Three of the roots of the quartic equation $24x^4 - 58x^3 + 17x^2 + dx + e = 0$ are $\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{3}$ and 2 .
 a Find the fourth root. (2 marks)
 b Find the values of d and e . (4 marks)
- 6 The equation $x^4 + 2x^3 + mx^2 + nx + 85 = 0, x \in \mathbb{C}, m, n \in \mathbb{R}$, has roots α, β, γ and δ .
 Given that $\alpha = -2 + i$ and $\beta = \alpha^*$,
 a show that $\gamma + \delta - 2 = 0$ and that $\gamma\delta - 17 = 0$. (2 marks)
 b Hence find all the roots of the quartic equation and find the values of m and n . (5 marks)
 c Show these roots on an Argand diagram. (3 marks)
- 7 A quartic equation $4x^4 - 16x^3 + 115x^2 + 4x - 29 = 0$ has roots α, β, γ and δ .
 a Show that $2 - 5i$ is one root of the equation. (3 marks)
 b Without solving the equation, find the other roots. (5 marks)
 c Show these roots on an Argand diagram. (3 marks)

- 8 The roots of the equation $2x^3 - 5x^2 + 11x - 9 = 0$ are α , β and γ .
- a Write down the values of $\alpha + \beta + \gamma$, $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma$. **(1 mark)**
- b Hence find the values of:
- i $\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} + \frac{1}{\gamma}$ **(2 marks)**
- ii $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2$ **(2 marks)**
- iii $(\alpha - 1)(\beta - 1)(\gamma - 1)$ **(3 marks)**
- 9 The roots of the equation $px^4 + 12x^3 + 6x^2 + 5x - 7 = 0$ are α , β , γ and δ .
- a Given that $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta = -1$, write down the value of p . **(1 mark)**
- b Write down the values of $\Sigma\alpha$, $\Sigma\alpha\beta$ and $\Sigma\alpha\beta\gamma$. **(1 mark)**
- c Hence find the value of $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 + \delta^2$. **(3 marks)**
- 10 The roots of the equation $5x^3 + cx + 21 = 0$ are α , β and γ .
- a Given that $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = -6$, write down the value of c . **(1 mark)**
- b Write down values for $\alpha + \beta + \gamma$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma$. **(1 mark)**
- c Hence find the value of $(1 - \alpha)(1 - \beta)(1 - \gamma)$. **(3 marks)**
- 11 The cubic equation $2x^3 + 5x^2 + 7x - 2 = 0$ has roots α , β and γ .
Without solving the equation, find the equation with roots $(3\alpha + 1)$, $(3\beta + 1)$ and $(3\gamma + 1)$.
Give your answer in the form $pw^3 + qw^2 + rw + s = 0$ where p , q , r and s are integers to be found. **(5 marks)**
- 12 The quartic equation $6x^4 - 2x^3 - 5x^2 + 7x + 8 = 0$ has roots α , β , γ and δ .
Without solving the equation, find equations with integer coefficients that have roots:
- a 2α , 2β , 2γ and 2δ **(6 marks)**
- b $(3\alpha - 2)$, $(3\beta - 2)$, $(3\gamma - 2)$ and $(3\delta - 2)$ **(6 marks)**
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