

Competition Math Week 4 Homework:

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Review:

Vieta's with quadratics:

Find the sum and product of the roots of the following quadratics:

$$x^2 + 5x - 18$$

$$\text{Sum} = -5$$

$$\text{Product} = -18$$

$$x^2 + 14x + 8$$

$$\text{Sum} = -14$$

$$\text{Product} = 8$$

Given that the following quadratic has roots r and s

$$x^2 + ax + b$$

$$\text{And } rs = 4, r+s = -7$$

Find a and b

$$\text{Notice } a = -(r+s) = 7$$

$$b = rs = 4$$

Given that the following quadratic has roots 4 and r

$$x^2 + ax + 8$$

Find r and a

$$4+r = -a$$

$$4r = 8 \rightarrow r = 2$$

$$a = -6$$

Polynomials:

Divide the following expressions using synthetic division

$$x^3 + 2x^2 - 5x - 6 \quad \text{divided by} \quad x-2$$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} 2 & 1 & 2 & -5 & -6 \\ & & 2 & 8 & 6 \\ \hline & 1 & 4 & 3 & 0 \end{array} \rightarrow x^2 + 4x + 3$$

$$x^3 + 4x^2 - 16x - 15 \quad \text{divided by} \quad x-3$$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} 3 & 1 & 4 & -16 & -15 \\ & & 3 & 21 & 15 \\ \hline & 1 & 7 & 5 & 0 \end{array} \rightarrow x^2 + 7x + 5$$

$$x^4 + x^3 - 18x^2 + 13x + 15 \quad \text{divided by} \quad x+5$$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr} -5 & 1 & 1 & -18 & 13 & 15 \\ & & -5 & 20 & -10 & -15 \\ \hline & 1 & -4 & 2 & 3 & 0 \end{array} \rightarrow x^3 - 4x^2 + 2x + 3$$

Factor the following polynomials using any method:

$$x^3 + 8x^2 + x - 42 = 0$$

$$(x-2)(x+3)(x+7)$$

$$x^4 - 3x^3 - 27x^2 - 13x + 42 = 0$$

$$(x-1)(x+2)(x+3)(x-7)$$

$$4x^3 - 9x^2 - 81x - 54 = 0$$

$$(x+3)(x-6)(4x+3)$$

List all possible rational roots in the following polynomials:

$$x^3 + 18x^2 - 14x + 92 = 0$$

$\pm$ factors of 92

$$= \pm 1, 2, 4, 23, 46, 92$$

$$4x^5 + 3x^3 - 12x + 5 = 0$$

$\pm$ factors of 5 / factors of 4

$$= \pm(1, 5)/(1, 2, 4)$$

$$= \pm 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, 5, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{4}$$

$$3x^4 + 2x^3 - 5x^2 + 10x - 14 = 0$$

$\pm$ factors of 14 / factors of 3

$$= \pm(1, 2, 7, 14)/(1, 3)$$

$$= \pm 1, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{7}{3}, \frac{14}{3}, 7, 14$$

Higher order Vieta's:

Given

$$f(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - 6x + 9$$

With roots $r, s,$ and t

Find $rst, r+s+t,$ and $rs+st+rt$

$$rst = -9$$

$$r+s+t = -2$$

$$rs+st+rt = -6$$

Challenge:

Given:

$$f(x) = x^3 + 8x^2 + 5x - 10$$

Has roots $r, s,$ and t

Find:

$$r^2 + s^2 + t^2$$

$$1/r + 1/s + 1/t$$

$$r^3 + s^3 + t^3$$

$$\text{*hard* } (r+1/r)(s+1/s)(t+1/t)$$

$$\text{Notice: } (-8)^2 = (r+s+t)^2 = r^2 + s^2 + t^2 + 2(rs+st+rt) = r^2 + s^2 + t^2 + 2(5)$$

$$\text{So, } r^2 + s^2 + t^2 = (-8)^2 - 2*5 = 54$$

$$\text{Likewise, notice } 1/r + 1/s + 1/t = (st + rt + rs) / (rst) = 5 / 10 = 1/2$$

We use the same method in $r^2 + s^2 + t^2$ to solve for $r^3 + s^3 + t^3$

$$\text{Notice } (-8)^3 = (r+s+t)^3 = r^3 + s^3 + t^3 + 3rs^2 + 3sr^2 + 3rt^2 + 3tr^2 + 3st^2 + 3ts^2 + 6rst$$

Notice by adding $3rst$, we get:

$$r^3 + s^3 + t^3 + 3(rs^2 + sr^2 + rst) + 3(rt^2 + tr^2 + rst) + 3(st^2 + ts^2 + rst)$$

$$= r^3 + s^3 + t^3 + 3rs(r+s+t) + 3rt(r+s+t) + 3st(r+s+t)$$

$$= r^3 + s^3 + t^3 + 3(r+s+t)(rs+rt+st)$$

And of course, we have to subtract back the $3rst$, to get:

$$(-8)^3 = (r+s+t)^3 = r^3 + s^3 + t^3 + 3(r+s+t)(rs+rt+st) - 3rst = r^3 + s^3 + t^3 + 3(-8)(5) + 3*10$$

So

$$r^3 + s^3 + t^3 = (-8)^3 - 3(-8)(5) + 3*10 = -512 + 120 + 30 = -362$$

Finally, notice that

$$(r+1/r)(s+1/s)(t+1/t) = rst + 1/rst + r/st + s/rt + t/rs + rs/t + rt/s + st/r \\ = 10 + 1/10 + (r/st + s/rt + t/rs) + (rs/t + rt/s + st/r)$$

Looking at $r/st + s/rt + t/rs$, we see:

$$r/st + s/rt + t/rs = (r^2 + s^2 + t^2) / rst = 54 / 10$$

Looking at $rs/t + rt/s + st/r$, we see:

$$rs/t + rt/s + st/r = [(rs)^2 + (rt)^2 + (st)^2] / rst$$

Seeing the sum of squares of rs , rt , st , leads us to want to square $(rs + rt + st)$ which we know the value of:

$$(rs + rt + st)^2 = 5^2 = (rs)^2 + (rt)^2 + (st)^2 + 2(r^2st) + 2(rs^2t) + 2(rst^2)$$

Notice:

$$2(r^2st) + 2(rs^2t) + 2(rst^2) = 2(r + s + t)(rst) = 2(-8)(10) = -160$$

So,

$$(rs)^2 + (rt)^2 + (st)^2 = 25 + 160 = 185$$

And,

$$rs/t + rt/s + st/r = 185 / 10$$

So,

$$(r+1/r)(s+1/s)(t+1/t) = 10 + 1/10 + 54 / 10 + 185 / 10 = 34$$

(2020 AIME II #11) **very hard**

Let $P(x) = x^2 - 3x - 7$, and let $Q(x)$ and $R(x)$ be two quadratic polynomials also with the coefficient of x^2 equal to 1. David computes each of the three sums $P + Q$, $P + R$, and $Q + R$ and is surprised to find that each pair of these sums has a common root, and these three common roots are distinct. If $Q(0) = 2$, then $R(0) = \frac{m}{n}$, where m and n are relatively prime positive integers. Find $m + n$.

[Solution Linked here](#)