

## 17.2 Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

### Fundamental Theorem of Algebra (FTOA)

A polynomial of degree  $n$  has exactly  $n$  linear factors and  $n$  zeros (roots/x-int/solutions), including those that show up multiple times.

Ex #1 Factor, then use the Zero Product Property, and show that the FTOA is true by counting the # of factors & zeros.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } f(x) &= x^3 + 9x \\ &= x(x^2 + 9) \end{aligned}$$

$$0 = x(x + 3i)(x - 3i)$$

$$\boxed{x = 0 \quad x = -3i \quad x = 3i}$$

degree = 3, 3 factors, 3 zeros

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } f(x) &= x^3 - 64 \\ &= x^3 - 4^3 \end{aligned}$$

$$0 = (x - 4)(x^2 + 4x + 16)$$

$$\boxed{x = 4}$$

$$x = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{4^2 - 4(1)(16)}}{2(1)}$$

$$x = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 64}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{-48}}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{-4 \pm i\sqrt{48}}{2}$$

$$\boxed{x = \frac{-4 + i\sqrt{48}}{2} \quad x = \frac{-4 - i\sqrt{48}}{2}}$$

$$\left(x - \frac{-4 + i\sqrt{48}}{2}\right) \neq \left(x - \frac{-4 - i\sqrt{48}}{2}\right)$$

$$\text{b) } g(x) = x^4 - 16$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (x^2 + 4)(x^2 - 4) \\ &= (x + 2i)(x - 2i)(x + 2)(x - 2) \end{aligned}$$

$$0 = (x + 2i)(x - 2i)(x + 2)(x - 2)$$

$$\boxed{x = -2i \quad x = 2i \quad x = -2 \quad x = 2}$$

degree is 4, 4 factors, & 4 zeros.

degree = 3

3 factors

3 zeros ✓

## Complex Conjugate Root Theorem

If  $a+bi$  (or  $a+b\sqrt{c}$ ) is a zero, then  $a-bi$  (or  $a-b\sqrt{c}$ ) is a zero, too!

Ex #2 Write a polynomial of  $n^{\text{th}}$  degree that has the given zeros in standard form.

a)  $n=3$ ;  $x=0, x=5, x=-7$

$$f(x) = (x-0)(x-5)(x-(-7))$$

$$= x(x-5)(x+7)$$

$$= x(x^2+2x-35)$$

$$\boxed{f(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - 35x}$$

|      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
|      | $x$   | $-5$  |
| $x$  | $x^2$ | $-5x$ |
| $+7$ | $7x$  | $-35$ |

b)  $n=4$ ;  $x=3, x=-3, x=1+2i, x=1-2i$

$$f(x) = (x-3)(x+3)(x-(1+2i))(x-(1-2i))$$

|      |                            |                             |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|      | $x$                        | $-3$                        |
| $x$  | $x^2$                      | <del><math>-3x</math></del> |
| $+3$ | <del><math>3x</math></del> | $-9$                        |

|       |                             |                             |                                |
|-------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
|       | $x$                         | $-1$                        | $-2i$                          |
| $x$   | $x^2$                       | $-x$                        | <del><math>-2xi</math></del>   |
| $-1$  | $-x$                        | $1$                         | <del><math>2</math></del>      |
| $+2i$ | <del><math>2xi</math></del> | <del><math>-2i</math></del> | <del><math>-4</math></del> $4$ |

$$f(x) = (x^2 - 9)(x^2 - 2x + 5)$$

|       |         |         |
|-------|---------|---------|
|       | $x^2$   | $-9$    |
| $x^2$ | $x^4$   | $-9x^2$ |
| $-2x$ | $-2x^3$ | $18x$   |
| $+5$  | $5x^2$  | $-45$   |

$$\boxed{f(x) = x^4 - 2x^3 - 4x^2 + 18x - 45}$$

c)  $n=4$ ;  $x=2, x=-5, x=-4$  (double root)

$$f(x) = (x-2)(x+5)(x+4)(x+4)$$

$$\boxed{f(x) = x^4 + 11x^3 + 30x^2 - 32x - 160}$$