

## Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

Every polynomial function of **degree**  $n \geq 1$ , has exactly  $n$  roots

Determine the number of roots the following polynomials have

$$f(x) = x^3 - 4x^2 + 4x - 16$$

$$f(x) = 3x^5 + x^3 + 5x + 3$$

$$f(x) = x^2 + 4x + 2$$

Given **polynomial**,  $P(x)$ , every rational root of  $P(x)$  can be written as  $\frac{p}{q}$ , where  $p$  is a factor of the **constant term** and  $q$  is a factor of the **leading coefficient** of  $P(x)$ .

Leading Coefficient

Constant Term

$$P(x) = 3x^3 - 14x^2 + 13x + 6$$

Factors of  $3, q$

$$\frac{p}{q}$$

Factors of  $6, p$

Find all **roots** of the following polynomial

$$P(x) = 3x^3 - 14x^2 + 13x + 6$$

Degree: 3    # Roots: 3

Possible Rational Roots

$$\pm 1 \pm 2 \pm 3 \pm 6 \pm \frac{1}{3} \pm \frac{2}{3}$$

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Leading Coefficient

Constant Term

$$P(x) = x^3 + x^2 - 6x + 4$$

Factors of **1**,  $q$

$$\frac{p}{q}$$

Factors of **4**,  $p$

Find all roots of the following polynomial

$$P(x) = x^3 + x^2 - 6x + 4$$

Degree: 3    # Roots: 3

Possible Rational Roots

$$\pm 1 \quad \pm 2 \quad \pm 4$$

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Every polynomial function of degree  $n \geq 1$ , has exactly  $n$  roots

### Rational Root Theorem

Given polynomial,  $P(x)$ , every rational root of  $P(x)$  can be written as  $\frac{p}{q}$ , where  $p$  is a factor of the constant term and  $q$  is a factor of the leading coefficient of  $P(x)$ .