

5.1 Elementary Properties of Equations

5.1.1 Introduction :-

Theory of equation is the part of Mathematics in which we analysis the nature and algebraic solutions of polynomial equations.

5.1.2 Formation of Equations :-

Whenever variables are multiplied by some scalar (rational number) and combined with algebraic notations gives an expression which is equivalent to zero, called as equations.

Ex:- $a_0x^n + a_1x^{n-1} + a_2x^{n-2} + \dots + a_{n-1}x + a_n = 0$ is an equation of degree n with variable x .

We can form the following types of equations:-

- ① Algebraic equation
- ② Rational equation
- ③ Irrational equation
- ④ Modulus equation
- ⑤ Logarithmic equation
- ⑥ Exponential equation
- ⑦ Trigonometric equation.

5.1.3 Polynomial equations :-

The general form of a polynomial equation of n th degree is

$$a_0x^n + a_1x^{n-1} + a_2x^{n-2} + \dots + a_{n-1}x + a_n = 0$$

where $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$ are constants.

Note ① The highest power of x in a polynomial determines the degree of polynomial equations.

② Equations are classified into following categories depending upon degree

① Linear equation : $ax + b = 0$; degree = 1

(ii) Quadratic equations: $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$; degree = 2

(iii) Cubic equation: $ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d = 0$; degree = 3

$$\text{or } a_0x^3 + a_1x^2 + a_2x + a_3 = 0$$

(iv) Biquadratic eqⁿ: $a_0x^4 + a_1x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_3x + a_4 = 0$; degree = 4

(v) Quintic equations ; degree = 5

(vi) Sextic equations ; degree = 6 etc.

(vii)

5.1.4 Division Algorithm for polynomials:-

For any two polynomials $f(x) \neq 0$ and $g(x) \neq 0$, there exists uniquely two polynomials $q(x)$ and $r(x)$

such that $f(x) = g(x) \cdot q(x) + r(x)$.

Where either $r(x) = 0$ or degree $r(x) < \deg g(x)$.

① Remainder theorem:-

If we put $g(x) = (x-a)$ (a polynomial of first degree)

Then,

$$f(x) = (x-a) \cdot q(x) + r(x)$$

$$= (x-a) \cdot q(x) + r, \text{ where } r \text{ is constant.}$$

$$\therefore f(a) = (a-a) \cdot q(a) + r$$

$$\therefore r = f(a), \text{ which is remainder.}$$

② Factor theorem:- If $f(a) = 0$, then the remainder is zero.

i.e. the polynomial is completely divisible by $(x-a)$.

5.1.5 Theorem:- If $f_n(x)$ is divisible by $(x-\alpha)$, then

α shall be a root of equation $f_n(x) = 0$.

Conversely, if α be a root of the equation $f_n(x) = 0$, then $f_n(x)$ shall be divisible by $(x-\alpha)$. Prove it.

Proof:-

Let Q denote the quotient and R the remainder when $f_n(x)$ is divided by $(x-\alpha)$.

$$\therefore (x-\alpha) \overline{) f_n(x)} \begin{matrix} Q \\ R \end{matrix}$$

R

we have, $f_n(x) \equiv (x-\alpha) \cdot Q + R$ — (1)

If $f_n(x)$ is exactly divisible by $(x-\alpha)$. Then we must have $R=0$

So, Eq (1) becomes, $f_n(x) \equiv (x-\alpha) Q$ — (2)

Now, if we put $x=\alpha$ in (2), we get $f_n(x)=0$

Hence, $x=\alpha$ is a root of equation $f_n(x)=0$.

Conversely,

If $x=\alpha$ is a root of eqⁿ $f_n(x)=0$

Then, we have $f_n(\alpha)=0$

Putting $x=\alpha$ in (1), we get

$$f_n(x) = (\alpha - \alpha)Q + R$$

$$\text{or, } 0 = 0 \cdot Q + R = R$$

i.e. Remainder is zero when $f_n(x)$ is divided by $(x-\alpha)$.

Proved.

[5.1.6] Fundamental Theorem of Algebra:

Statement:- "Every polynomial equation with real coefficients has at least one root, real or complex."

[5.1.7] Theorem:- To Prove "Every equation of n th degree has n roots and no more."

Proof:- Suppose,

$$f_n(x) = a_0 x^n + a_1 x^{n-1} + a_2 x^{n-2} + \dots + a_{n-1} x + a_n = 0 \quad (1)$$

is a polynomial of degree $n \geq 1$ and $a_0 \neq 0$

From fundamental theorem of Algebra, $f_n(x)$ has at least one root, say α_1 .

Then, $(x-\alpha_1)$ is a root of $f_n(x)$.

$$\text{So, } f_n(x) \equiv (x-\alpha_1) \cdot f_{n-1}(x) \quad (2)$$

where, $f_{n-1}(x)$ is a polynomial of $(n-1)$ th degree.

According to fundamental theorem of Algebra,

$f_{n-1}(x)=0$ has a root, say α_2

Then, $f_{n-1}(x)$ is divisible by $(x-\alpha_2)$.

$$\therefore f_{n-1}(x) \equiv (x-\alpha_2) f_{n-2}(x)$$

and consequently from (2)

$$f_n(x) \equiv (x-\alpha_1)(x-\alpha_2) f_{n-2}(x) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Similarly, $f_{n-2}(x) = 0$ has a root, say α_3

$$\text{Then, } f_{n-2}(x) \equiv (x-\alpha_3) \cdot f_{n-3}(x)$$

Thus, eq (3) becomes,

$$f_n(x) \equiv (x-\alpha_1)(x-\alpha_2)(x-\alpha_3) \cdot f_{n-3}(x)$$

Continuing this process, we get

$$f_n(x) \equiv (x-\alpha_1)(x-\alpha_2)(x-\alpha_3) \cdots (x-\alpha_n) Q \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Now, each of $f_n(x)$ and $(x-\alpha_1)(x-\alpha_2)(x-\alpha_3) \cdots (x-\alpha_n)$ is of n th degree, hence Q is free from x .

Hence, equating the coefficient of x^n between equation (1) and (4), we get $Q = a_0$.

So, eq (4) becomes

$$f_n(x) \equiv a_0 (x-\alpha_1)(x-\alpha_2)(x-\alpha_3) \cdots (x-\alpha_n) \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

Therefore, $f_n(x) = 0$ has n roots.

Now, we have to prove $f_n(x) = 0$ has got n and only n roots.

Let $\delta \neq \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$

Then, no factor of $f_n(x) = 0$ can vanish as is evident from (5) and consequently $f_n(x) \neq 0$ for $x = \delta$.

Hence, $f_n(x) = 0$ cannot have more than n roots.

This proves the theorem.