

THEORY OF EQUATIONS

Construct a monic cubic polynomial $f(x)$ with integral coeff. s.t.

$$f(4) = 6 \quad \text{and} \quad \sqrt{3} + 1 \text{ is a root of } f(x) = 0$$

Sol.
=

Given eq. is $f(x) = 0$ — (1)

$\sqrt{3} + 1$ is root of $f(x)$ (given)

We know that

In an eq with rational coeff.
irrational roots occur in
Conjugate pair.

$\Rightarrow -\sqrt{3} + 1$ is also root of $f(x)$

Let α is also root of $f(x)$

\therefore Roots are $\alpha, \sqrt{3} + 1, -\sqrt{3} + 1$

$$\Rightarrow (x - 2), [x - (\sqrt{3} + 1)], [x - (-\sqrt{3} + 1)]$$

are factors of $f(x)$

$$\therefore f(x) = (x - 2)(x - \sqrt{3} - 1)(x + \sqrt{3} - 1)$$

Put $x = 4$.

$$f(4) = (4 - 2)(4 - \sqrt{3} - 1)(4 + \sqrt{3} - 1)$$

$$6 = (4 - 2)(3 - \sqrt{3})(3 + \sqrt{3})$$

$$6 = (4 - \alpha)(9 - 3)$$

$$6 = (4 - \alpha)(6)$$

$$4 - \alpha = 1$$

$$-\alpha = 1 - 4$$

$$\alpha = 3.$$

Now $f(x) = (x - 3)[(x - 1) - \sqrt{3}][(x - 1) + \sqrt{3}]$

$$= (x-3) [(x-1)^2 - (\sqrt{3})^2]$$

$$= (x-3) (x^2 + 1 - 2x - 3)$$

$$= (x-3) (x^2 - 2x - 2)$$

$$= x^3 - 2x^2 - 2x - 3x^2 + 6x + 6$$

$$= x^3 - 5x^2 + 4x + 6 \text{ is the required.}$$

e1.