

**Learning Target(s):** I can use the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra to find all zeros of a polynomial function.  
 I can use the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra to find the number of solutions to a polynomial function.  
 I can use the Conjugates Theorem to write the equation of a polynomial function given the zeros.

Notes: 5.7 Apply the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

$$x^2 - 4x + 4 = 0$$

**Repeated Solution** – for the equation  $f(x) = 0$ ,  $k$  is a repeated solution if and only if the factor

$x - k$  has a degree greater than 1 when  $f$  is factored completely.

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

$$x = 2$$

**The Fundamental Theorem of Algebra** – if  $f(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$  where  $n > 0$  then the equation  $f(x) = 0$  has at least one solution.

**Corollary** – if  $f(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$ , then the equation  $f(x) = 0$  has exactly  $n$  solutions provided each solution repeated twice is counted as 2 solutions and so on.

**Ex 1:** Find the number of solutions or zeros for each equation or function.

a.  $x^3 - 3x^2 + 9x - 27 = 0$

deg: 3  
3 solutions

b.  $x^4 + 6x^3 - 32x = 0$

deg: 4  
4 solutions

**Ex 2:** Find all zeros of  $f(x) = x^4 - 7x^3 + 13x^2 + x - 20$

p:  $20 \rightarrow \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4, \pm 5, \pm 10, \pm 20$

q:  $1 \rightarrow \pm 1$

$$\frac{p}{q} = \frac{\pm 1}{1}, \frac{\pm 2}{1}, \frac{\pm 4}{1}, \frac{\pm 5}{1}, \frac{\pm 10}{1}, \frac{\pm 20}{1}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} (-1) \quad 1 \quad -7 \quad 13 \quad 1 \quad -20 \\ \phantom{(-1)} \quad \quad -1 \quad 8 \quad -20 \quad 20 \\ \hline 1x^3 - 8x^2 + 21x - 20 \quad \boxed{0} \quad \checkmark \end{array}$$

$$2 \pm i$$

$$\begin{array}{r} (4) \quad 1 \quad -8 \quad 21 \quad -20 \\ \phantom{(4)} \quad \quad 4 \quad -16 \quad 20 \\ \hline 1x^2 - 4x + 5 \quad \boxed{0} \quad \checkmark \end{array}$$

$$4 \pm 2i$$

$$x^2 - 4x + 5$$

$$x = \frac{-(-4) \pm \sqrt{(-4)^2 - 4(1)(5)}}{2(1)} = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{4}}{2}$$

$$x = -1, 4, 2 \pm i$$