

Q1 If  $P(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ , and  $Q(x) = -ax^2 + bx + c$ , where  $ac$  not equal to zero.  
Show that the equation  $P(x).Q(x) = 0$  has at least two real roots. ( IIT 89)

Solution: Roots of equation  $P(x).Q(x) = 0$  will be the roots of equation  
 $P(x)=0$  and  $Q(x)=0$

$D_1$  be the discriminant of  $P(x)$

$D_2$  be the discriminant of  $Q(x)$

$$D_1 + D_2 = (b^2 - 4ac) + (b^2 + 4ac) = 2b^2 \geq 0$$

So at least one of  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  must be greater than or equal to zero.

So at least one of the equations  $P(x)=0$ , and  $Q(x)=0$  has real roots.

Hence the equation  $P(x).Q(x)=0$  has at least two real roots.

second method:

$ac$  is not equal to zero.

So  $ac > 0$ , or  $ac < 0$

If  $ac > 0$ ,  $D_2 = b^2 + 4ac > 0$

If  $ac < 0$ ,  $D_1 = b^2 - 4ac > 0$

So at least one of  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  must be greater than or equal to zero.

So at least one of the equations  $P(x)=0$ , and  $Q(x)=0$  has real roots.

Hence the equation  $P(x).Q(x)=0$  has at least two real roots.

Q.2. Show that if  $p, q, r, s$  are real numbers and  $pr = 2(q+s)$   
then at least one of the equations  $x^2 + px + q = 0$  and  $x^2 + rx + s = 0$   
has real roots.

Solution:

$$x^2 + px + q = 0 \quad \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

$$x^2 + rx + s = 0 \quad \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

$$pr=2(q+s) \quad \dots\dots\dots(3)$$

Let D1 and D2 be the discriminants of equations (1) and (2) respectively.

$$\begin{aligned} D1 + D2 &= p^2 - 4q + r^2 - 4s \\ &= p^2 + r^2 - 4(q+s) \\ &= p^2 + r^2 - 2pr \quad (\text{using equation (3)}) \\ &= (p-r)^2 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

So at least one of D1 and D2  $\geq 0$

So at least one of the equations (1) and (2) have real roots.

3. Show that the equation  $e^{\sin x} - e^{-\sin x} - 4 = 0$  has no real solution. (IIT 1982)

Let  $y = e^{\sin x}$ .

Then the equation becomes  $y - 1/y - 4 = 0$

or,  $y^2 - 4y - 1 = 0$

Discriminant,  $D = 4^2 - 4(1)(-1) = 20$

Two roots are  $y = (4 + \sqrt{20})/2, (4 - \sqrt{20})/2$

or,  $y = (2 + \sqrt{5}), (2 - \sqrt{5})$

or,  $e^{\sin x} = (2 + \sqrt{5}), (2 - \sqrt{5})$

Taking log on both sides, we get

$\sin x = \log(2 + \sqrt{5}),$  or  $\sin x = \log(2 - \sqrt{5})$

$2 - \sqrt{5}$  is negative. But log of negative number is not defined.

So only one equation is left.

$\sin x = \log(2 + \sqrt{5}) > \log e$

or,  $\sin x > 1$

This is not possible.

So the required equation has no real solution.

If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the roots of the equation  $x^2 + px + q = 0$  and  $x^{2n} + px^n + qn = 0$ , where  $n$  is an even integer, prove that  $\alpha/\beta, \beta/\alpha$  are the roots of the equation  $x^{n+1} + (x+1)^n = 0$ .

Solution:

$\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the roots of the equation  $x^2 + px + q = 0$

So,  $\alpha + \beta = -p$ .....(1)

$\alpha \beta = q$  .....(2)

Since  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the roots of the equation  $x^{2n} + px^n + qn = 0$

$\alpha^{2n} + p^n \alpha^n + qn = 0$

or,  $(\alpha^n)^2 + p^n \alpha^n + qn = 0$ .....(3)

and,

$(\beta^n)^2 + p^n \beta^n + qn = 0$ .....(4)

From (3) and (4) we see that  $\alpha^n$  and  $\beta^n$  are the roots of  $y^2 + p^n y + qn = 0$

So,  $\alpha^n + \beta^n = -p^n$ .....(5)

$\alpha^n \beta^n = qn$  .....(6)

From (1), we have

$\alpha + \beta = -p$

or,  $(\alpha + \beta)^n = (-p)^n = p^n$  (n is even)

or,  $(\alpha + \beta)^n = -(-p^n) = -(\alpha^n + \beta^n)$  (from 5)

or,  $\alpha^n + \beta^n + (\alpha + \beta)^n = 0$  .....(7)

Dividing (7) by  $\alpha^n$ , we get

$(\alpha/\beta)^n + 1 + ((\alpha/\beta) + 1)^n = 0$  .....(8)

Dividing (7) by  $\beta^n$ , we get

$(\beta/\alpha)^n + 1 + ((\beta/\alpha) + 1)^n = 0$  .....(9)

From (8) and (9) we see that  $\alpha/\beta$  and  $\beta/\alpha$  are the roots of  $x^n + 1 + (x+1)^n = 0$ .

2. If sum of the roots of the equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  is equal to the sum of the squares of their reciprocals, show that  $bc^2, ca^2, ab^2$  are in AP. (IIT 76)

Solution:

Let  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  be the roots of the equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ .

Then,  $\alpha + \beta = -b/a$  .....(1)

$\alpha \beta = c/a$  .....(2)

Now,  $\alpha + \beta = 1/\alpha^2 + 1/\beta^2$

or,  $\alpha + \beta = (\alpha^2 + \beta^2)/(\alpha \beta)^2$

or,  $\alpha + \beta = ((\alpha + \beta)^2 - 2\alpha\beta) / (\alpha \beta)^2$  .....(3)

Now put the values of  $(\alpha + \beta)$  and  $(\alpha \beta)$  from (1) and (2) in equation (3).

Thus, we get

$$-b/a = (b^2 - 2ac)/c^2$$

$$\text{or, } -bc^2 = b^2a - 2ca^2$$

$$\text{or, } bc^2 + ab^2 = 2ca^2$$

Hence  $bc^2$ ,  $ca^2$ ,  $ab^2$  are in A.P.

Proved.

Q4 . If one root of a quadratic equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  is equal to  $n$ th power of the other, show that

$$(acn)^{1/n+1} + (an/c)^{1/n+1} + b = 0.$$

Q5 If  $r$  be the ratio of the roots of the equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ , show that

$$(r+1)^2 / r = b^2 / ac$$

Q6 Solve for  $x$ :

$$(5 + 2\sqrt{6})^{x^2-3} + (5 - 2\sqrt{6})^{x^2-3} = 10$$

Q7 If  $c, d$  are the roots of the equation  $(x-a)(x-b) - k = 0$ , show that  $a, b$  are the roots of the equation  $(x-c)(x-d) + k = 0$ .

Q8 The coefficient of  $x$  in the equation  $x^2 + px + q = 0$  was wrongly written as 17 in place of 13 and the roots thus found were -2 and -15. Find the roots of the correct equation.