

1.1 Roots of polynomial equations

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 15 marks**

KEY WORDS roots 根 • coefficients 系数 • symmetric functions 对称函数
• roots of polynomial equations 多项式方程的根 • substitution 代换

Objective

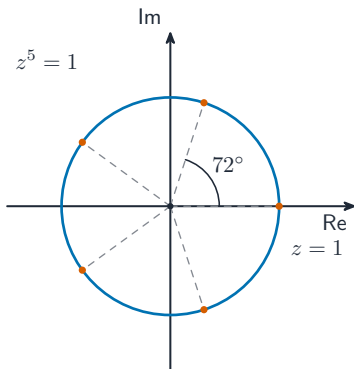
Build the skills to answer exam questions on **roots of polynomial equations** 多项式方程的根 — the relations between roots and **coefficients** 系数, **symmetric functions** 对称函数, and forming a new equation by **substitution** 代换.

You must be able to:

- use $\sum \alpha$, $\sum \alpha\beta$, $\alpha\beta\gamma$ for quadratics and cubics
- evaluate symmetric functions such as $\sum \alpha^2$
- form an equation whose roots are a transformation of the originals

1 Worked examples

■ Roots and coefficients



The roots of a polynomial are tied to its coefficients by $\sum \alpha$, $\sum \alpha\beta$, ...

$x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$ has roots α, β . Find the equation with roots $\alpha + 1, \beta + 1$.
 $\alpha + \beta = 5$, $\alpha\beta = 6$; new sum = 7, new product = $\alpha\beta + \alpha + \beta + 1 = 12$. So
 $x^2 - 7x + 12 = 0$.

$\sum \alpha^2 = (\sum \alpha)^2 - 2 \sum \alpha\beta.$

2 Practice

2.1 For $x^2 - 7x + 10 = 0$ with roots α, β , write down $\alpha + \beta$ and $\alpha\beta$. [2]

2.2 Hence find $\alpha^2 + \beta^2$. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 For $2x^3 - 3x^2 + 4x - 5 = 0$ with roots α, β, γ , the value of $\alpha + \beta + \gamma$ is: [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A $\frac{3}{2}$
B $-\frac{3}{2}$
C 2
D $\frac{5}{2}$

3.2 The cubic $x^3 - 4x^2 + 5x - 2 = 0$ has roots α, β, γ .

(a) Write down $\sum \alpha$, $\sum \alpha\beta$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma$. [3]

(b) Find $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2$. [3]

3.3 The equation $x^2 + 3x - 1 = 0$ has roots α, β . Find a quadratic equation with integer coefficients whose roots are $\frac{1}{\alpha}$ and $\frac{1}{\beta}$. [4]
