



ALGEBRAICAL SOLUTION OF EQUATIONS

ALGEBRA is a branch of mathematics. When we study Higher Algebra we see that a quadratic, cubic and biquadratic equations can be solved by Quadratic formula, Cardan's method, Ferrari's method respectively. But the general algebraical solution of equations of a degree higher than the fourth has not been obtained.

The study of "NUMERICAL ANALYSIS" tell us how can we find the roots of a polynomial equation of degree n . A cubic, quartic or a polynomial equation of degree higher than fourth may be solved by a very famous method which is called Q-D method.

First we discuss the algebraical solution of cubic and biquadratic equations.

Cardan's Method (Solution of a Cubic Equation):

Consider the following cubic equation:-

$$x^3 + Ax^2 + Bx + C = 0 \quad \rightarrow (1)$$

remove the term involving x^2

$$y^3 + by + C = 0 \quad \rightarrow (2)$$

To remove the term involving x^2 :

To remove the second term from the given equation

$$Px^3 + Ax^2 + Bx + C = 0$$

Let α, β and γ are the roots of equation, so that the sum of the roots is equal to $-A/P$.

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = -A/P$$

If we increase each of the roots by $A/3P$ so we get a new equation by substituting $x = y - A/3P$ in the given equation, whose sum of the roots will be equal to $-A/P, +A/P$ or the co-efficient of second term will be zero. The new equation can be written as

$$Py^3 + by + c = 0$$

To solve the equation (2)

Put $y = s + t$, then

$$y^3 = (s + t)^3 = s^3 + t^3 + 3st(s + t) = s^3 + t^3 + 3sty \quad \rightarrow (3)$$

So the equation(2) can be written as

$$s^3 + t^3 + 3sty + by + c = 0$$

$$s^3 + t^3 + (3st + b)y + c = 0 \quad \rightarrow (4)$$

Put $3st + b = 0$

$\rightarrow (5)$

then $s^3 + t^3 = -c$

$\rightarrow (6)$

Equation (5) can be written as

$$st = -\frac{b}{3} \Rightarrow s^3 t^3 = -b^3/27$$

Since $s^3 + t^3 = -c$ and $s^3 t^3 = -b^3/27$, so that s^3 and t^3 are the roots of the equation

$$z^2 - (s^3 + t^3)z + (s^3 t^3) = 0$$

$$z^2 + cz - \frac{b^3}{27} = 0 \quad \rightarrow (7)$$

Solving this equation, we have

$$z = -\frac{c}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{c^2}{4} + \frac{b^3}{27}}, \quad -\frac{c}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{c^2}{4} + \frac{b^3}{27}}$$

Since s^3 and t^3 are the roots of the equation(7) so that

$$s^3 = -\frac{c}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{c^2}{4} + \frac{b^3}{27}}, \quad t^3 = -\frac{c}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{c^2}{4} + \frac{b^3}{27}}$$

The value of y is obtained from the equation

$$y = s + t$$

$$y = \left\{ -\frac{c}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{c^2}{4} + \frac{b^3}{27}} \right\}^{1/3} + \left\{ -\frac{c}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{c^2}{4} + \frac{b^3}{27}} \right\}^{1/3}$$

The above solution is generally known as Cardan's solution.

In this case we obtain nine values for x ,

Because $s^3 + t^3 = -c$ and $s^3 t^3 = -b^3/27$,

$$s^3 t^3 \text{ would hold if } st = \frac{b}{3}, \frac{-\omega b}{3}, \frac{-\omega^2 b}{3}$$

We obtain three values of y substituting $st = -b/3$ in equation(3) (where $s^3 + t^3 = -c$)

$$y^3 + by + c = 0$$

others six values are obtain from the cubic equations

$$y^3 + \omega by + c = 0, \quad y^3 + \omega^2 by + c = 0$$

{Note: these equations obtain by putting $st = -\omega b/3$ and $st = -\omega^2 b/3$ in equation(3),

where $s^3 + t^3 = -c$ }

As we know that equation (2) is a cubic equation , So it has only three cube roots.

Since $st = -b/3$, the cube roots are to be taken in pairs so that the product of each pair is rational. The $\omega^2 s, \omega t$ which fulfill the conditions are s, t or $\omega s, \omega^2 t$ or $\omega^2 s, \omega t$ where ω is the cube root of unity.

So that the roots of equation(2) are

$$y = s + t, \quad \omega s + \omega^2 t, \quad \omega^2 s + \omega t$$

The roots of equation (1) are

$$x = y - A/3p$$

Irreducible Case [$y = (m + in)^{1/3} + (m - in)^{1/3}$]:

If $s = (m + in)^{1/3}$ and $t = (m - in)^{1/3}$, then

Put $m = r\cos\theta$ and $n = r\sin\theta$,

where $r = \sqrt{m^2 + n^2}$ and $\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{n}{m}$ so that

$$(m + in)^{1/3} = \{r(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta)\}^{1/3}$$

By De Moivre's theorem the three values are

$$r^{1/3}(\cos \frac{\theta}{3} + i \sin \frac{\theta}{3}), \quad r^{1/3}(\cos \frac{\theta + 2\pi}{3} + i \sin \frac{\theta + 2\pi}{3})$$

$$\text{and } r^{1/3}(\cos \frac{\theta + 4\pi}{3} + i \sin \frac{\theta + 4\pi}{3})$$

The three values of $(a - ib)^{1/3}$ are

$$r^{1/3}(\cos \frac{\theta}{3} + i \sin \frac{\theta}{3}), \quad r^{1/3}(\cos \frac{\theta + 2\pi}{3} + i \sin \frac{\theta + 2\pi}{3})$$

$$\text{and } r^{1/3}(\cos \frac{\theta + 4\pi}{3} + i \sin \frac{\theta + 4\pi}{3})$$

Hence the roots are

$$2 r^{1/3} \cos \frac{\theta}{3}, \quad 2 r^{1/3} \cos \frac{\theta + 2\pi}{3}, \quad 2 r^{1/3} \cos \frac{\theta + 4\pi}{3}$$

Example 2:

$$\text{Solve } x^3 + 12x^2 + 66x + 117 = 0 \quad \rightarrow (1)$$

Solution:

To remove second term put $y - 4$ for x

$$(y - 4)^3 + 12(y - 4)^2 + 66(y - 4) + 117 = 0$$

$$y^3 + 18y - 19 = 0 \quad \rightarrow (2)$$

Let $y = s + t$

$$s^3 + t^3 + (3st + b)y + c = 0$$

$$s^3 + t^3 + (3st + 18)y - 19 = 0$$

$$\text{Put } 3st + 18 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad s^3 t^3 = -216$$

$$\text{then } s^3 + t^3 = 19$$

s^3 and t^3 are the roots of the equation

$$z^2 - 19z - 216 = 0 \quad \rightarrow (3)$$

$$z = -8, 27$$

Hence $s^3 = -8 \Rightarrow s = -2$

and $t^3 = 27 \Rightarrow t = 3$

The roots of equation (2) are

$$y = s + t = -2 + 3 = 1$$

$$y = \omega s + \omega^2 t = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{-3}}{2}(-2) + \frac{-1 - \sqrt{-3}}{2}(3) = \frac{-1 - 5\sqrt{-3}}{2}$$

$$y = \omega^2 s + \omega t = \frac{-1 + 5\sqrt{-3}}{2}$$

Since $x = y - 4$, so the roots of equation(1) are

$$x = -3, \frac{-9 - 5\sqrt{-3}}{2}, \frac{-9 + 5\sqrt{-3}}{2}$$

FERRARI'S METHOD (Biquadratic Equations):

We solve a Biquadratic Equation by Ferrar's method.

Consider the following biquadratic equation

$$x^4 + 2ax^3 + bx^2 + 2cx + d = 0$$

Adding both side $(mx + n)^2$

$$x^4 + 2ax^3 + bx^2 + 2cx + d + (mx + n)^2 = (mx + n)^2$$

$$x^4 + 2ax^3 + (m^2 + b)x^2 + 2(mn + c)x + (n^2 + d) = (mx + n)^2$$

Suppose that the left hand side is equal to $(x^2 + ax + k)^2$

$$x^4 + 2ax^3 + (m^2 + b)x^2 + 2(mn + c)x + (n^2 + d) = (x^2 + ax + k)^2$$

$$x^4 + 2ax^3 + (m^2 + b)x^2 + 2(mn + c)x + (n^2 + d) = x^4 + 2ax^3 + (2k + a^2)x^2 + 2akx + k^2$$

By equating the coefficients, we have

$$m^2 = 2k + a^2 - b, mn = ak - c, n^2 = k^2 - d$$

To eliminate m and n , we write

$$m^2 n^2 = (mn)^2$$

$$(2k + a^2 - b)(k^2 - d) = (ak - c)^2$$

$$2k^3 - bk^2 + 2(ac - d)k + (bd - a^2d - c^2) = 0$$

This equation is satisfied for one real value of k . To find either real value of k is positive or negative, suppose that left hand side is equal to $f(k)$. Substituting $+\infty, 0, -\infty$ for k , we have

$$f(+\infty) = \infty, f(0) = r, f(-\infty) = -\infty$$

If r is positive, then k is negative, if r is negative then k is positive.

We can obtain the value of m and n after finding the value of k . Since

$$(x^2 + ax + k)^2 = (mx + n)^2$$

$$x^2 + ax + k = \pm(mx + n)$$

We have two equations to find the values of x .

$$x^2 + (a - m)x + (k - n) = 0$$

and

$$x^2 + (a + m)x + (k + n) = 0$$

When the Coefficient of x^4 is not equal to 1:

$$px^4 + 2ax^3 + bx^2 + 2cx + d = 0$$

In this case we suppose left hand side is equal to

$$p\left(x^2 + \frac{a}{p}x + k\right)^2.$$

Example 3:

$$\text{Solve } x^4 + 2x^3 - 5x^2 + 6x - 3 = 0 \quad \rightarrow (1)$$

Solution:

Adding $(mx + n)^2$ both side in equation (1)

$$x^4 + 2x^3 - 5x^2 + 6x - 3 + (mx + n)^2 = (mx + n)^2$$

$$x^4 + 2x^3 + (m^2 - 5)x^2 + (2mn + 6)x + (n^2 - 3) = (mx + n)^2 \quad \rightarrow (2)$$

Suppose that the left hand side is equal to $(x^2 + x + k)^2$

$$x^4 + 2x^3 + (m^2 - 5)x^2 + (2mn + 6)x + (n^2 - 3) = (x^2 + x + k)^2$$

$$x^4 + 2x^3 + (m^2 - 5)x^2 + (2mn + 6)x + (n^2 - 3) = x^4 + 2x^3 + (1 + 2k)x^2 + 2kx + k^2$$

Equating the coefficients, we have

$$m^2 - 5 = 1 + 2k, 2mn + 6 = 2k, n^2 - 3 = k^2$$

$$m^2 = 2k + 6, mn = k - 3, n^2 = k^2 + 3$$

So that

$$m^2n^2 = (mn)^2$$

$$(2k + 6)(k^2 + 3) = (k - 3)^2$$

$$2k^3 + 5k^2 + 12k + 9 = 0$$

This equation is satisfied for $k = -1$

$$\text{thus } m^2 = 4 \quad \Rightarrow \quad m = 2$$

$$\text{and } mn = k - 3 \quad \Rightarrow \quad n = -2$$

we have supposed that

$$(x^2 + x + k)^2 = (mx + n)^2$$

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

$$\begin{aligned}
 x^2 + x - 1 &= \pm(2x - 2) \\
 x^2 + x - 1 &= (2x - 2) \quad \text{or} \quad x^2 + x - 1 = -(2x - 2) \\
 x^2 - x + 1 &= 0 \quad , \quad x^2 + 3x - 3 = 0 \\
 x &= \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{-3}}{2} \quad , \quad x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{-21}}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

METHOD OF DESCARTES:

Consider the following equation

$$x^4 + a_1x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_3x + a_4 = 0 \quad \rightarrow (1)$$

To remove the second term we divide successively by $(x + \frac{a_1}{4})$, using synthetic divide method.

The transformed equation is

$$x^4 + ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d = 0$$

To find the roots of the above biquadratic equation suppose that

$$x^4 + ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d = (x^2 + kx + m)(x^2 - kx + n)$$

$$x^4 + (m + n - k^2)x^2 + k(n - m)x + mn$$

by equating the coefficients, we have

$$m + n - k^2 = a \quad , \quad k(n - m) = b \quad , \quad mn = c$$

$$n + m = a + k^2 \quad , \quad n - m = b/k \quad , \quad mn = c$$

We obtain m and n by first two equations

$$\text{so that } 2m = a + k^2 - \frac{b}{k} \quad \text{and} \quad 2n = a + k^2 + \frac{b}{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad m = \frac{k^3 + ak - b}{2k} \quad \text{and} \quad n = \frac{k^3 + ak + b}{2k}$$

Substituting these values in third equation, we have

$$(k^3 + ak - b)(k^3 + ak + b) = 4k^2c$$

$$k^6 + 2ak^4 + (a^2 - 4c)k^2 - b^2 = 0$$

$$(k^2)^3 + 2a(k^2)^2 + (a^2 - 4c)k^2 - b^2 = 0$$

Let $t = k^2$ then

$$t^3 + 2at^2 + (a^2 - 4c)t - b^2 = 0$$

It is a cubic equation which has a real positive root. Substituting the values of m, n and k in the following equation.

$$x^4 + ax^2 + bx + c = (x^2 + kx + m)(x^2 - kx + n) = 0$$

we find the value of x by the following equations.

$$x^2 + kx + m = 0 \quad , \quad x^2 - kx + n = 0$$

Note: To remove the second term of the following equation

$$b_1x^4 + b_2x^3 + b_3x^2 + b_4x + b_5 = 0$$

Divide the equation by $\left(x + \frac{b_2}{4b_1}\right)$ using synthetic division method.

Example 4:

Solve $x^4 - 12x^3 + 44x^2 - 56x + 20 = 0$

Solution:-

To remove the second term, dividing by $(x - 3)$

3	1	-12	44	-56	20
		3	-27	5	-15
	1	-9	17	-5	5
		3	-18	-3	
	1	-6	-1	-8	
		3	-9		
	1	-3	-10		
		3			
	1	0			
1	1				

Hence the result is

$$x^4 - 10x^2 - 8x + 5 = 0$$

Suppose that

$$x^4 - 10x^2 - 8x + 5 = (x^2 + kx + m)(x^2 - kx + n)$$

$$= x^4 + (m + n - k^2)x^2 + k(n - m)x + mn$$

By equating the coefficients, we have

$$m + n - k^2 = -10, \quad k(n - m) = -8, \quad mn = 5$$

$$n + m = -10 + k^2, \quad n - m = -\frac{8}{k}, \quad mn = 5$$

By adding and subtracting first two equations, we get

$$n = \frac{k^3 - 10k - 8}{2k} \quad \text{and} \quad m = \frac{k^3 - 10k + 8}{2k}$$

Substituting these values in third equation, we have

$$\left(\frac{k^3 - 10k - 8}{2k}\right)\left(\frac{k^3 - 10k + 8}{2k}\right) = 5$$

or

$$k^6 - 2ak^4 + 80k^2 - 64 = 0$$

$$(k^2)^3 - 20(k^2)^2 + 80k^2 - 64 = 0$$

Let $t = k^2$

$$t^3 - 20t^2 + 80t - 64 = 0$$

It is a cubic equation which has a root 4.

Thus $t = k^2 = 4 \Rightarrow k = \pm 2$

We consider only one value either $k = 2$ or $k = -2$

If $k = 2$ then $m = -1$ and $n = -5$

So that

$$x^4 - 10x^2 - 8x + 5 = (x^2 + 2x - 1)(x^2 - 2x - 5) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 + 2x - 1 = 0, \quad x^2 - 2x - 5 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = -1 \pm \sqrt{2}, \quad x = -1 \pm \sqrt{6}$$

EXERCISE D-2

Solve the following equations by Cardan's method.

(1) $x^3 + 30x + 117 = 0$

(2) $x^3 - 12x - 20 = 0$

(3) $x^3 + 9x^2 + 63x + 98 = 0$

(4) $x^3 + 3x^2 + 21x + 38 = 0$

(5) $x^3 + 15x^2 + 60x + 176 = 0$

(6) $x^3 + 12x^2 + 36x + 8 = 0$

(7) $x^3 + 6x^2 + 6x - 8 = 0$

(8) $x^3 + 15x^2 + 63x + 73 = 0$

(9) $x^3 - 9x^2 + 8 = 0$

(10) $4x^3 - 9x^2 + 18x - 4 = 0$

(11) $2x^3 - 3x^2 + 6x - 9 = 0$

Solve the following equations by Ferrari's method.

(12) $x^4 - 4x^3 + 2x^2 + 12x - 15 = 0$

(13) $x^4 + 6x^3 + 4x^2 - 12x - 12 = 0$

(14) $x^4 - 6x^3 + 6x^2 + 6x - 7 = 0$

(15) $x^4 - 16x^3 + 59x^2 - 2x - 21 = 0$

(16) $x^4 - 3x^2 - 24x - 7 = 0$

(17) $x^4 - 18x^2 - 16x - 3 = 0$

(18) $x^4 - 17x^2 + 30x - 9 = 0$

(19) $4x^4 - 32x^3 + 47x^2 - 2x - 5 = 0$

(20) $9x^4 + 90x^3 + 198x^2 - 60x - 16 = 0$

(21) $16x^4 + 32x^3 + 23x^2 + 2x + 7 = 0$

Solve the following equations by Descartes' method.

(22) $x^4 - 2x^2 - 12x - 8 = 0$

(23) $x^4 - x^2 + 2x - 1 = 0$

(24) $x^4 + 8x^2 + 3x + 72 = 0$

(25) $x^4 - 13x^2 - 2x + 20 = 0$

(26) $x^4 + x^2 - \sqrt{2}x + 2 = 0$

(27) $x^4 - 14x^2 + 3\sqrt{5}x + 18 = 0$

(28) $x^4 - 12x^3 + 29x^2 - 52x - 70 = 0$

(29) $x^4 - 8x^3 + 23x^2 - 6x - 153 = 0$

(30) $x^4 + 8x^3 + 21x^2 + 20x + 12\sqrt{5}x + 24\sqrt{5} - 35 = 0$

(31) If one root of the following equation is 3, then find other four roots using Descartes' method.

$$x^5 - 3x^4 - 11x^3 + 37x^2 + 9x - 63 = 0$$

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