

B.A.(Prog.) Mathematics
Discipline Specific Core Course-(DSC-6) (Major)

DSC-6 : THEORY OF EQUATIONS AND SYMMETRIES

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Theory of Equations and Symmetries	4	3	1	0	Class X pass with Mathematics	Nil

Learning Objectives

The goal of this paper is to acquaint students with certain ideas about:

- Integral roots, rational roots, an upper bound on number of positive or negative roots of a polynomial.
- Finding roots of cubic and quartic equations in special cases using elementary symmetric functions.
- Using Cardon's and Descartes' methods, respectively.

Learning Outcomes

After completion of this paper, the students will be able to:

- Understand the nature of the roots of polynomial equations and their symmetries.
- Solve cubic and quartic polynomial equations with special condition on roots and in general.
- Find symmetric functions in terms of the elementary symmetric polynomials.

SYLLABUS OF DSC-3

Unit – 1

Polynomial Equations and Properties

General properties of polynomials and equations; Fundamental theorem of algebra and its consequences; Theorems on imaginary, integral and rational roots; Descartes' rule of signs for positive and negative roots; Relations between the roots and coefficients of equations, Applications to solution of equations when an additional relation among the roots is given; De Moivre's theorem for rational indices, the n th roots of unity and symmetries of the solutions.

Unit – 2

Cubic and Biquadratic (Quartic) Equations

Transformation of equations (multiplication, reciprocal, increase/diminish in the roots by a given quantity), Removal of terms; Cardon's method of solving cubic and Descartes' method of solving biquadratic equations.

Unit – 3

Symmetric Functions

Elementary symmetric functions and symmetric functions of the roots of an equation; Newton's theorem on sums of the like powers of the roots; Computation of symmetric functions such as $\sum \alpha^2 \beta$, $\sum \alpha^2 \beta^2$, $\sum \alpha^2 \beta \gamma$, $\sum \frac{1}{\alpha^2 \beta \gamma}$, $\sum \alpha^{-3}$, $\sum (\beta + \gamma - \alpha)^2$, $\sum \frac{\alpha^2 + \beta \gamma}{\beta + \gamma}$, ... of polynomial equations; Transformation of equations by symmetric functions and in general.

Essential Readings

1. Burnside, W.S., & Panton, A.W. (1979). The Theory of Equations (11th ed.). Vol. 1. Dover Publications, Inc. (4th Indian reprint. S. Chand & Co. New Delhi).
2. Dickson, Leonard Eugene (2009). First Course in the Theory of Equations. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. The Project Gutenberg eBook: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/29785>

Suggestive Readings

- Prasad, Chandrika (2017). Text Book of Algebra and Theory of Equations. Pothishala Pvt Ltd.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.