

$$a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x^1 + a_0$$

eg

$$3x^4 - 2x^2 + 2.64x - \pi$$

$$a_4 = 3 \quad a_1 = 2.64$$

$$a_3 = 0 \quad a_0 = -\pi$$

$$a_2 = -2$$

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a root of a polynomial is a number that when you plug it in, the polynomial evaluates to zero.

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A rational function is

$$\frac{\text{poly}}{\text{poly}}$$

eg

$$\frac{x^3 - 3x}{x^2 - 2x + 5}$$

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