

4) If  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ,  $g(x) = -ax^2 + bx + c$ , where  $ac \neq 0$ , then prove that  $f(x)g(x) = 0$  has at least two real roots.

Solution: Let  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  be discriminants of  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  and  $-ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ .

Then,  $D_1 = b^2 - 4ac$ ,  $D_2 = b^2 + 4ac$

Now,

$$ac \neq 0 \Rightarrow \text{either } ac > 0 \text{ or } ac < 0.$$

If  $ac > 0$ , then  $D_2 > 0$ . Therefore, roots of  $-ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  are real.

If  $ac < 0$ , then  $D_1 > 0$ . Therefore, roots of  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  are real.

Thus,  $f(x)g(x)$  has at least two real roots.