

# The Equation $X^3 - 5x = 59$ Has A Solution Between 4 And 5. Use A Trial And Improvement Method To Find This

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Understanding how to solve equations is a fundamental aspect of algebra, especially when dealing with polynomial equations like cubic equations. One such equation that often challenges students and mathematicians alike is  $X^3 - 5x = 59$ . Recognizing whether this equation has a solution within a specific interval, such as between 4 and 5, is essential. Not only does this enhance problem-solving skills, but it also introduces the powerful method of trial and improvement—an iterative process to narrow down solutions effectively.

In this article, we will explore the equation  $X^3 - 5x = 59$ , demonstrate how to determine whether a solution exists between 4 and 5, and employ the trial and improvement method to approximate the root accurately. By the end, you'll understand how to approach similar equations systematically and confidently.

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## Understanding the Equation $X^3 - 5x = 59$

Before diving into solution techniques, it's crucial to analyze the nature of the equation:

- Type of Equation: Cubic polynomial
- Goal: Find the value(s) of  $x$  that satisfy the equation
- Interval of interest: between 4 and 5

The equation can be rewritten as a function:

$$f(x) = x^3 - 5x - 59$$

We seek  $x$ -values where  $f(x) = 0$ .

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## Why Investigate the Interval Between 4 and 5?

To determine whether a solution exists between 4 and 5, we need to evaluate the function at these points:

- At  $(x=4)$ ,  $f(4) = 4^3 - 5(4) - 59$
- At  $(x=5)$ ,  $f(5) = 5^3 - 5(5) - 59$

If the function values at these points have opposite signs, the Intermediate Value Theorem guarantees at least one root exists between these points.

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## Calculating Function Values at 4 and 5

Let's compute:

- $f(4) = 4^3 - 5 \times 4 - 59 = 64 - 20 - 59 = -15$
- $f(5) = 5^3 - 5 \times 5 - 59 = 125 - 25 - 59 = 41$

Since  $f(4) = -15$  (negative) and  $f(5) = 41$  (positive), the function crosses zero somewhere between 4 and 5. Therefore, there exists at least one solution between 4 and 5.

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## Using Trial and Improvement to Find the Solution

The trial and improvement method involves guessing a value of  $x$  within the interval, evaluating the function at that point, and refining the guess based on whether the function value is positive or negative. This iterative process continues until the approximation is sufficiently accurate.

Step-by-Step Approach:

1. Initial guesses: Choose  $x$ -values at the ends of the interval
2. Evaluate: Calculate  $f(x)$  at these guesses
3. Refine guesses: Pick a new  $x$ -value between the points where the sign changes
4. Repeat: Continue until the function value is close enough to zero

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## Implementing the Trial and Improvement Method

Let's proceed with practical guesses:

First Guess:  $x = 4$

-  $f(4) = -15$  (negative)

Second Guess:  $x = 5$

-  $f(5) = 41$  (positive)

Since the signs differ, the root lies between 4 and 5.

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## Refining the Guess: Midpoint between 4 and 5

Calculate the midpoint:  $x = \frac{4 + 5}{2} = 4.5$

-  $f(4.5) = (4.5)^3 - 5 \times 4.5 - 59$

Calculating:

-  $4.5^3 = 91.125$

-  $5 \times 4.5 = 22.5$

So,

$f(4.5) = 91.125 - 22.5 - 59 = 9.625$

Since  $f(4.5) = 9.625$  (positive), the root is between 4 and 4.5.

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## Next Guess: $x = 4.25$

Calculate  $f(4.25)$ :

-  $4.25^3 \approx 76.7656$

-  $5 \times 4.25 = 21.25$

$f(4.25) \approx 76.7656 - 21.25 - 59 = -3.4844$

Since  $f(4.25) \approx -3.48$  (negative), the root is between 4.25 and 4.5.

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## Further Refinement: $x = 4.375$

Calculate:

- $\backslash(4.375^3 \approx 83.7402\backslash)$
- $\backslash(5 \times 4.375 = 21.875\backslash)$

$$\backslash[f(4.375) \approx 83.7402 - 21.875 - 59 = 2.8652\backslash]$$

Positive value, so root is between 4.25 and 4.375.

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## Next: $x = 4.3125$

Calculate:

- $\backslash(4.3125^3 \approx 80.191\backslash)$
- $\backslash(5 \times 4.3125 = 21.5625\backslash)$

$$\backslash[f(4.3125) \approx 80.191 - 21.5625 - 59 = -0.3715\backslash]$$

Negative value, so the root is between 4.3125 and 4.375.

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## Refining Further: $x = 4.34375$

Calculate:

- $\backslash(4.34375^3 \approx 81.956\backslash)$
- $\backslash(5 \times 4.34375 = 21.71875\backslash)$

$$\backslash[f(4.34375) \approx 81.956 - 21.71875 - 59 = 1.237\backslash]$$

Positive, so root is between 4.3125 and 4.34375.

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## Next: $x = 4.328125$

Calculate:

- $\backslash(4.328125^3 \approx 81.066\backslash)$
- $\backslash(5 \times 4.328125 = 21.6406\backslash)$

$$\backslash[f(4.328125) \approx 81.066 - 21.6406 - 59 = 0.425\backslash]$$

Positive, root between 4.3125 and 4.328125.

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**Next:  $x = 4.3203125$**

Calculate:

- $(4.3203125)^3 \approx 80.626$
- $(5 \times 4.3203125 = 21.6016)$

$$[f(4.3203125) \approx 80.626 - 21.6016 - 59 = 0.0244]$$

Close to zero, positive.

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**Next:  $x = 4.31640625$**

Calculate:

- $(4.31640625)^3 \approx 80.376$
- $(5 \times 4.31640625 = 21.582)$

$$[f(4.31640625) \approx 80.376 - 21.582 - 59 = -0.206]$$

Negative, so the root is between 4.3164 and 4.3203.

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**Final Approximation:  $x \approx 4.318$**

Since  $(f(4.3164) \approx -0.206)$  and  $(f(4.3203) \approx 0.0244)$ , the root is approximately at:

$$[x \approx \frac{4.3164 + 4.3203}{2} \approx 4.31835]$$

At this point, the function value is very close to zero, indicating an approximate solution.

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## Summary of the Process

- We started with the known interval  $[4, 5]$  where the function crosses zero.
- Used the Intermediate Value Theorem to confirm the existence of at least one solution.
- Applied the trial and improvement method, refining guesses iteratively.
- Achieved an approximate solution around  $x \approx 4.318$ .

This iterative approach demonstrates how trial and improvement can effectively approximate roots of equations, especially when algebraic solutions are complex or inaccessible.

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## Conclusion: The Importance of the Trial and Improvement Method

The trial and improvement method is a straightforward, yet powerful technique for solving equations where algebraic solutions are difficult or impossible to find directly. Its systematic nature allows for refining guesses until a satisfactory approximation is reached, making it invaluable in numerical analysis and practical problem-solving.

In the case of  $x^3 - 5x = 59$ , we established the

## Frequently Asked Questions

**How can we determine that the equation  $x^3 - 5x = 59$  has a solution between 4 and 5?**

By evaluating the function at  $x=4$  and  $x=5$ , and observing a change in the sign of the function's value, indicating a root lies between these two points.

**What is the trial and improvement method for solving the equation  $x^3 - 5x = 59$ ?**

It involves guessing values for  $x$  within the interval, checking the function's value, and refining the guesses until the solution is found with desired accuracy.

**How do we use trial and improvement to find the**

## **solution between 4 and 5 for the given equation?**

Start by testing  $x=4$  and  $x=5$ , then choose a midpoint, such as 4.5, evaluate the function, and narrow down the interval based on the sign of the function until the solution is approximated closely.

## **What are the key steps in applying trial and improvement to solve $x^3 - 5x = 59$ ?**

The steps include selecting initial bounds, evaluating the function at these bounds, choosing a midpoint, determining the sign of the function at the midpoint, and iteratively narrowing the interval until the solution is accurately approximated.

## **Why is the trial and improvement method suitable for solving the equation $x^3 - 5x = 59$ in the interval between 4 and 5?**

Because the method is simple and effective for equations where the root is unknown but can be bracketed within an interval, allowing iterative refinement without complex algebraic solutions.

## **Additional Resources**

The Equation  $x^3 - 5x = 59$  Has A Solution Between 4 And 5. Use A Trial And Improvement Method To Find This

When working with nonlinear equations such as  $x^3 - 5x = 59$ , identifying whether a solution exists within a specific interval and approximating its value are essential skills in mathematics. In this guide, we will explore how to demonstrate that the equation  $x^3 - 5x = 59$  has a solution between 4 and 5 and how to use the trial and improvement method to find this solution with increasing accuracy. This approach is practical, simple, and highly effective, especially when algebraic solutions are complex or not immediately apparent.

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### **Understanding the Problem**

The equation we are examining is:

$$x^3 - 5x = 59$$

Our goal is to determine if there is a value of  $x$  between 4 and 5 that satisfies this equation, and if so, to approximate that value using the trial and improvement method.

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Why Check for a Solution Between 4 and 5?

Before applying the trial and improvement method, we need to verify whether a solution exists within the interval  $[4, 5]$ . The Intermediate Value Theorem (IVT) states that if a continuous function  $f(x)$  takes on different signs at two points, then it must cross zero somewhere between those points.

In our case, define:

$$f(x) = x^3 - 5x - 59$$

If  $f(4)$  and  $f(5)$  have opposite signs, then by the IVT, there exists at least one  $x$  between 4 and 5 where  $f(x) = 0$ .

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Step 1: Evaluate the Function at the Endpoints

Let's compute  $f(4)$  and  $f(5)$ :

- At  $x = 4$ :

$$f(4) = 4^3 - 5 \times 4 - 59 = 64 - 20 - 59 = 64 - 79 = -15$$

- At  $x = 5$ :

$$f(5) = 5^3 - 5 \times 5 - 59 = 125 - 25 - 59 = 125 - 84 = 41$$

Since  $f(4) = -15$  (negative) and  $f(5) = 41$  (positive), the function changes sign over the interval  $[4, 5]$ . Therefore, by the Intermediate Value Theorem, there is at least one solution between 4 and 5.

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Step 2: Applying the Trial and Improvement Method

The trial and improvement method involves choosing a value within the interval, evaluating the function, and then refining the guess based on whether the value is positive or negative. The goal is to narrow down the interval where the solution lies.

Initial guesses:

- Start with  $x = 4$  (where  $f(4) = -15$ )
- Next,  $x = 5$  (where  $f(5) = 41$ )

Since  $f(4)$  is negative and  $f(5)$  is positive, the root lies somewhere between 4 and 5.

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### Step 3: Narrowing Down the Interval

Let's choose a midpoint between 4 and 5:

$$- x = (4 + 5) / 2 = 4.5$$

Calculate  $f(4.5)$ :

$$f(4.5) = (4.5)^3 - 5 \times 4.5 - 59$$

$$= 91.125 - 22.5 - 59 = 91.125 - 81.5 = 9.625$$

Since  $f(4.5) = 9.625$  (positive), and  $f(4)$  was negative, the root must be between 4 and 4.5.

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### Step 4: Further Refinement

Next, pick the midpoint between 4 and 4.5:

$$- x = (4 + 4.5) / 2 = 4.25$$

Calculate  $f(4.25)$ :

$$f(4.25) = (4.25)^3 - 5 \times 4.25 - 59$$

$$= 76.765625 - 21.25 - 59 \approx 76.765625 - 80.25 = -3.484375$$

Now,  $f(4.25)$  is negative, and  $f(4.5)$  is positive, so the root lies between 4.25 and 4.5.

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### Step 5: Continue Narrowing

Next, test the midpoint between 4.25 and 4.5:

$$- x = (4.25 + 4.5) / 2 = 4.375$$

Calculate  $f(4.375)$ :

$$f(4.375) = (4.375)^3 - 5 \times 4.375 - 59$$

$$= 83.740234375 - 21.875 - 59 \approx 83.740234375 - 80.875 = 2.865234375$$

Since  $f(4.375)$  is positive, the root is between 4.25 and 4.375.

Next, pick the midpoint between 4.25 and 4.375:

$$- x = (4.25 + 4.375) / 2 = 4.3125$$

Calculate  $f(4.3125)$ :

$$f(4.3125) \approx (4.3125)^3 - 5 \times 4.3125 - 59$$

$$= 80.03662109375 - 21.5625 - 59 \approx 80.0366 - 80.5625 = -0.5259$$

$F(4.3125)$  is negative, so the root is between 4.3125 and 4.375.

Next, test midpoint:

$$- x = (4.3125 + 4.375) / 2 = 4.34375$$

Calculate  $f(4.34375)$ :

$$f(4.34375) \approx 81.878 - 21.71875 - 59 \approx 81.878 - 80.71875 = 1.159$$

Positive, root between 4.3125 and 4.34375.

Next, test:

$$- x = (4.3125 + 4.34375) / 2 \approx 4.328125$$

Calculate  $f(4.328125)$ :

$$f(4.328125) \approx 80.956 - 21.6406 - 59 \approx 80.956 - 80.6406 = 0.3154$$

Positive, so root between 4.3125 and 4.328125.

Next:

$$- x = (4.3125 + 4.328125) / 2 \approx 4.3203125$$

Calculate  $f(4.3203125)$ :

$$f(4.3203125) \approx 80.995 - 21.6016 - 59 \approx 80.995 - 80.6016 = 0.3934$$

Positive. Now, test:

$$- x = (4.3125 + 4.3203125) / 2 \approx 4.31640625$$

Calculate:

$$f(4.31640625) \approx 80.985 - 21.561 - 59 \approx 80.985 - 80.561 = 0.424$$

Since  $f(4.3164)$  is positive, and  $f(4.3125)$  is negative, the zero is between 4.3125 and 4.3164.

Next, test:

-  $x = (4.3125 + 4.3164) / 2 \approx 4.3144$

Calculate  $f(4.3144)$ :

$f(4.3144) \approx 80.990 - 21.581 - 59 \approx 80.990 - 80.581 = 0.409$

Again positive, so the root is between 4.3125 and 4.3144.

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Summary of the Trial and Improvement Process

| Step    | Interval        | Midpoint (x) | f(x) Estimate | Sign of f(x) | Next Interval     |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Initial | [4, 5]          | 4.5          | 9.625         | Positive     | [4, 4.5]          |
| 1       | [4, 4.5]        | 4.25         | -3.484375     | Negative     | [4.25, 4.5]       |
| 2       | [4.25, 4.5]     | 4.375        | 2.865234375   | Positive     | [4.25, 4.375]     |
| 3       | [4.25, 4.375]   | 4.3125       | -0.5259       | Negative     | [4.3125, 4.375]   |
| 4       | [4.3125, 4.375] | 4.34375      | 1.159         | Positive     | [4.3125, 4.34375] |
| 5       |                 |              |               |              |                   |

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