

**MA 180**  
**Section 1.4**

**Solving Equations Graphically**

**A. The x-intercept method (finding the zeros or roots)**

- (1) Set the equation to zero
- (2) Enter the non-zero side of the equation into Y1
- (3) Choose an appropriate window to graph
- (4) 2<sup>nd</sup> TRACE [CALC]
- (5) Select 2: zero (root on the TI-82)
- (6) Arrow left/right and press ENTER when you are to the left of the zero
- (7) Arrow left/right and press ENTER when you are to the right of the zero
- (8) Arrow “close” to the zero and press ENTER to select your GUESS

1. Use this method to solve the equation  $-2x^4 + 4 = x^3 + 2$

**B. The intersection of graphs method**

- (1) Enter the left-hand side of the equation (LHS) into Y1
- (2) Enter the right-hand side of the equation (RHS) into Y2
- (3) Choose an appropriate window to graph
- (4) 2<sup>nd</sup> TRACE [CALC]
- (5) Select 5:intersect
- (6) Press ENTER on the FIRST CURVE
- (7) Press ENTER on the SECOND CURVE
- (8) Press ENTER with your GUESS
- (9) The x-coordinate of the point of intersection is the solution to the equation

2. Use this method to solve the equation  $\frac{1}{4}x^3 - 5x = \frac{1}{5}x^2 - 2$