

Math 1090 ~ Business Algebra

Section 3.4 Polynomial Functions

Objectives:

- Determine the degree of a polynomial function and find the coefficients, the leading coefficient and the constant.
- Write a polynomial function in descending order.
- Sketch a variety of general polynomial functions, even and odd.
- Find the zeros or roots of a polynomial function.

Polynomial Function

$$f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + ... + a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0$$

$$f(x) = 8x^4 - 2x^3 + 3x - 1$$

Example

Degree

Coefficients

Leading coefficient

Constant

Graphs

$$n=1$$
 $n=2$

$$n=4$$

 $\rm Ex~1:~For~these~polynomials,~write~in~standard~form.~State~the~degree,~leading~coefficient~and~show~the~general~shape~of~each.$

n = 3

a)
$$f(x) = 4x - 12 - 2x^3 - x^2$$

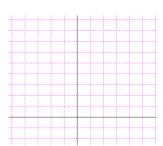
b)
$$f(x) = 3x^7 - 14x + 3x^2 - 4x^4 - 5$$

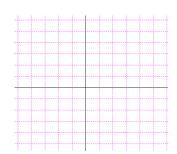
Ex 2: For these polynomials, answer the following.

- a) Degree
- b) zeros
- c) y-intercept
- d) x-intercept
- e) sketch the graph

A)
$$f(x) = x^4 - 8x^2 + 16$$

B)
$$g(x) = 2x^3 - 2x^2 - 4x$$





 $\ensuremath{\mathrm{Ex}}$ 3: For these piecewise functions, fill in the points and sketch the graph.

a)
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 4 & x \ge 3 \\ |x| & -3 \le x < 3 \\ -1 & x < -3 \end{cases}$$

х	-4	-3	0	1	3	4
у						



