

Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

7 Graphs of Polynomials

$$-3x + 4y = 5$$

$$2x - y = -10$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1-z^{n+1}}{1-z}$$

Learning Objectives

- Determine whether or not a function is a polynomial.
- Identify the degree, leading term, leading coefficient and constant term of a polynomial.
- Determine the existence of zeros using the Intermediate Value Theorem.
- Find the zeros and multiplicities of a polynomial; use multiplicity to determine the behavior of the graph at each zero.
- Identify the end behavior of a polynomial function.
- Sketch the graph of a polynomial function using zeros, multiplicities and end behavior.
- Solve applications that require finding the maximum or minimum value of a polynomial function.

A Polynomial Function and Vocabulary

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

n must be a whole #

Degree

the highest exponent on x ,
in the function

Leading Term

the term w/ the highest exponent

Leading coefficient

the # multiplied by the highest
power of x

Constant

the term with no x in it

ex

$$f(x) = 3x^2 + 5x + 7$$

$$n = 2$$

$$a_2 = 3$$

$$a_1 = 5 \quad \text{deg} = 2$$

$$a_0 = 7$$

$$\text{leading term} = 3x^2$$

$$\text{leading coeff.} = 3$$

$$\text{Constant} = 7$$

Ex1: Determine which of these are polynomial functions and identify the degree, the leading term, the leading coefficient and the constant of those that are.

a) $f(x) = \sqrt{5}x^2 - 4x^3$

$f(x) = -4x^3 + \sqrt{5}x^2$
is polynomial
deg = 3, lt. = $-4x^3$, lc. = -4
const = 0

b) $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x+2} + 1$

NOT a polynomial
(because x is
inside a root)

c) $f(x) = -3(x-2)^2 + 4x^6$

$f(x) = 4x^6 - 3x^2 + 12x - 12$
this is polynomial
deg = 6, lt. = $4x^6$, lc = 4
const = -12

d) $f(x) = \frac{x-3}{x+2}$

This is NOT a poly-
nomial because x
is in denominator.

e) $f(x) = \frac{6x^5 + 3x^2 - 1}{3}$

$f(x) = 2x^5 + x^2 - \frac{1}{3}$
is polynomial
deg = 5, lt. = $2x^5$, lc = 2
const = $-\frac{1}{3}$

f) $f(x) = \pi$ (π is a
constant)

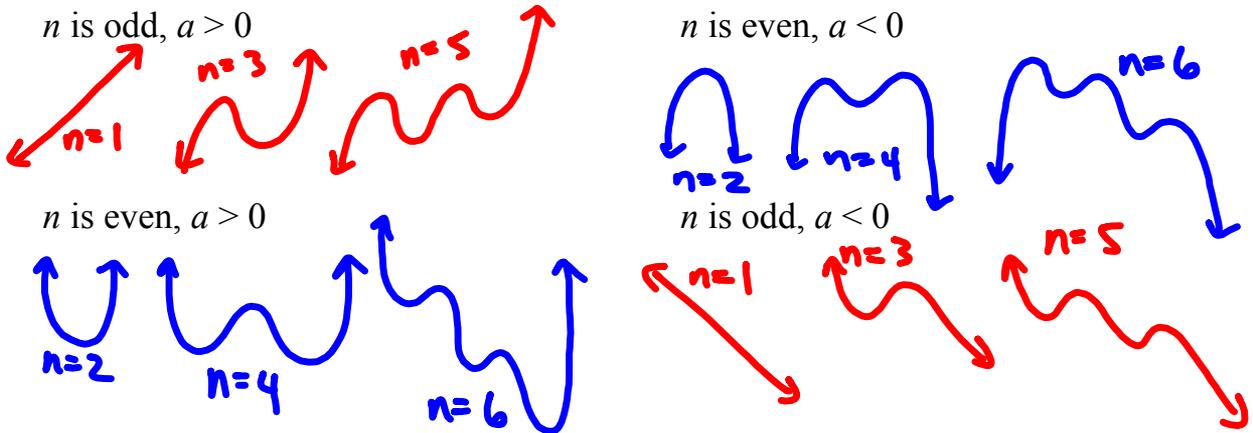
is polynomial
deg = 0, lt. = π , lc = π ,
const = π

$$\begin{aligned} -3(x-2)^2 &= 3(x-2)(x-2) \\ &= 3(x^2 - 2x - 2x + 4) \\ &= 3(x^2 - 4x + 4) \\ &= 3x^2 + 12x - 12 \end{aligned}$$

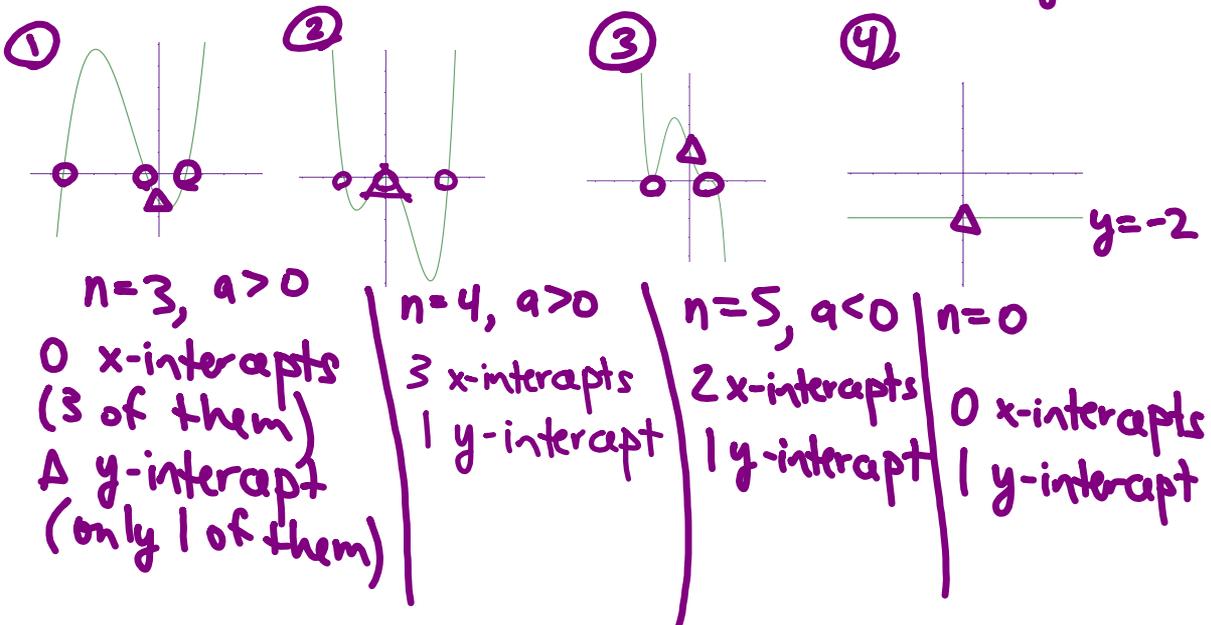
degree = n , $lc = a$

Polynomial functions have the characteristic of being continuous and smooth.

The leading coefficient and the degree can tell us a lot about the graph of a polynomial, including its end behavior.



Ex 2: For each graph, guess at a likely degree, circle the x and y -intercepts, and identify the sign (+ or -) of the leading coefficient. **Let a = leading coeff.**



To graph a polynomial, it helps to determine the roots and the y-intercept.

Real Zeros of Polynomial Functions (roots = zeros; they're synonyms for polynomials)

Equivalent Statements: for $a \in \mathbb{R}$, $f(x)$ a polynomial

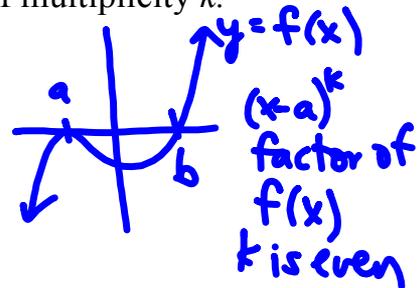
- ① $x = a$ is a zero of $f(x)$.
- ② $x = a$ is a solution of $f(x) = 0$.
- ③ $(x-a)$ is a factor of $f(x)$.
- ④ $(a,0)$ is an x-intercept of the graph of $f(x)$.

Repeated Zeros

A factor $(x-a)^k$ for $k > 1$ yields a repeated zero, $x = a$ of multiplicity k .

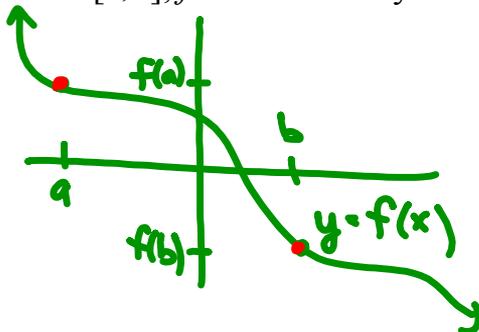
- If k is odd, the graph crosses the x-axis at $x = a$.
- If k is even, the graph touches the x-axis at $x = a$.

$(x-b)^m$
factor of $f(x)$
 m odd



Intermediate Value Theorem

Let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ and $a < b$. If $f(x)$ is a polynomial and $f(a) \neq f(b)$, then over the interval $[a,b]$, f takes on every value between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$.



in other words, we don't have a horizontal line as our polynomial.

Ex3: For each function, describe the end-behavior, find all real zeros, including multiplicity, and the number of turning points on the graph.

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

$n=5, a > 0$

(a) on left, down; on right, up.

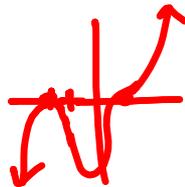
(b) $(x+2)^2(x-1)^3 = 0$

$x+2=0 \quad x-1=0$

$x = -2, 1$

(d) 2 turning pts

if we multiply this out, we'll get leading term of x^5 .



(c) zero | multiplicity

-2	2	(exponent on $x+2$)
1	3	(exponent on $x-1$)

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

if we multiply out, our leading term will be

$-x(x)(x^2) = -x^4$

(a) $n=4, a < 0$, on left & right sides, graph goes down forever

(b) $-x(x+7)(x-3)^2 = 0$

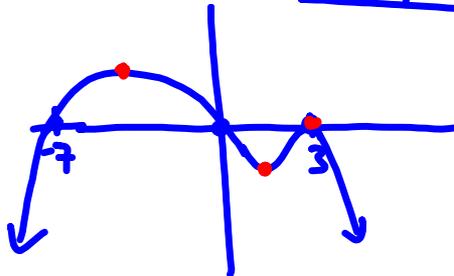
$-x=0 \quad x+7=0 \quad x-3=0$

$x = 0, -7, 3$ zeros of f

(d) 3 turning pts

(c) zeros | multiplicity

0	1	(odd)
-7	1	(odd)
3	2	(even)



Ex 4: Sketch the graph of $f(x)$ by looking at the leading coefficient, finding the zeros, and perhaps plotting more points. ω

$$f(x) = -48x^2 + 3x^4$$

$$n = 4, a > 0$$

$$f(x) = 3x^4 - 48x^2$$

$$= 3x^2(x^2 - 16)$$

$$\star f(x) = 3x^2(x-4)(x+4)$$

roots: $3x^2(x-4)(x+4) = 0$

$$x = 0, 4, -4$$

multiplicity: 2, 1, 1

\Rightarrow graph crosses x-axis at $x=4$
and $x=-4$
graph only touches x-axis
at $x=0$

x-intercepts

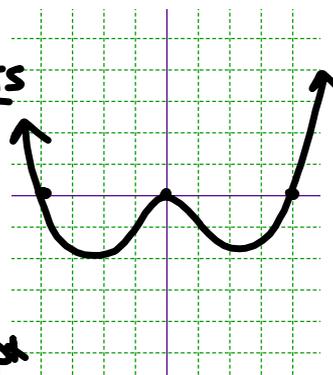
$(0, 0)$

$(4, 0)$

$(-4, 0)$

y-intercept

$(0, 0)$



An Application Problem

Ex5: The profit (in millions of dollars) for a sport cap manufacturer can be modeled by $P(x) = -x^3 + 4x^2 + x$, where x is the number of caps they produce (in millions). They currently produce 4 million caps, making a profit of \$4,000,000. What smaller number of caps could they make and still make the same profit?

i.e. if $P=4$, what are the x -values that will solve that eqn?

$$4 = -x^3 + 4x^2 + x$$

$$0 = \underbrace{-x^3 + 4x^2} + \underbrace{x - 4}$$

$$0 = -x^2(\underline{x-4}) + (\underline{x-4})$$

$$0 = (x-4)(-x^2+1)$$

$$0 = (x-4)(1-x^2)$$

$$0 = (x-4)(1-x)(1+x)$$

$$x-4=0 \quad 1-x=0 \quad 1+x=0$$

$$x=4, 1, \textcircled{-1}$$

can't make -1 caps

⇒ for same profit, the company can make 1,000,000 caps.