

## POLYNOMIAL FUNCTIONS

p(x

- 2.1 Characteristics of Polynomial Functions *p. 85*
- 2.2 The Remainder Theorem p. 97
- 2.3 The Factor Theorem *p. 109*
- 2.4 Analyzing Graphs of Polynomial Functions *p. 121*

**REVIEW PRACTICE SECTION p. 131** 

### 2.1 Characteristics of Polynomial Functions

You've already studied Polynomial functions! Remember?





### **Defining Polynomial Functions**



A **polynomial function**, such as a linear function, quadratic, or cubic, involves only non-negative integer powers of x.

Any polynomial function can be written in the form

 $p(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + a_{n-2} x^{n-2} + \dots + a_2 x^2 + a_1 x^1 + a_0$ 

*Where:* • n is a whole number, representing the degree of the function

 a<sub>n</sub> to a<sub>0</sub> are real numbers, representing the coefficients, with a<sub>n</sub> designated the **leading coefficient** (coeff. of the highest degree term)

This *general formula* may look complicated, but a few **polynomial function examples** should show its simplicity:

- y = 8 This is **degree 0** (constant function)
- y = -5x + 4 This is **degree 1** (linear), with a leading coefficient of -5
- $f(x) = 2x^2 4x + 3$  This is **degree 2** (quadratic), with a leading coefficient of 2
- $y = x^3 + \frac{1}{2}x^2 7x 1$  This is **degree 3** (quadratic), with a leading coefficient of 1
- $p(x) = 3x^4 \sqrt{2}x^3 + 5x 8$  This is **degree 4** (quartic), with a leading coefficient of 3
- $p(x) = -2x^5 + x^4 3x^2 6$  This is **degree 5** (quintic), with a leading coefficient of -2

These examples are all written in **descending order of degree**, where terms are arranged starting with the highest degree term, starting with the **leading coefficient**. (The coefficient of the highest degree term)

Class Example 2.11 Identifying Polynomial Functions

Identify which of the following are polynomial functions. For each that is a polynomial function; state the degree and leading coefficient:

(a)  $y = 4x^5 - 3x^2$  (b)  $y = 2\sqrt{x} + 5x$  (c)  $y = \sqrt{3}x + 7$  (d)  $y = -2x^3 + 5x^{-1}$ 



Polynomial functions can be of any whole number degree n – but for this course we'll only deal with functions where  $n \leq 5$ .

And while the coefficients *can* be any real number – we'll mainly stick with **integer** coefficients.



-5

f(x) = 3

**Classifying Polynomial Functions by Degree** 

A polynomial function can be of any whole number degree, including zero!

The graph on the right is of the constant function f(x) = 3, which is a polynomial function of degree zero.

Let's now acquaint ourselves with some examples of polynomial functions, of degree 1 through 5:



graph "ends positive", or heading upward, in quad I. And If the degree is even, the graph will have a minimum point.

If the sign is negative (see the degree 2 and 5 examples), the graph "end negative", or downward, in quad IV. And if its even degree (as with example 2), the graph will have a maximum point.

I wish my lead coeff. 0 wasn't so negative

Answers from previous page

2.11 (a) For both terms, exponents of x are whole numbers. POLYNOMIAL FUNCTION, degree 5 Leading Coeff. 4

- (b) The first term could be written as  $2x^{1/2}$ , which is **NOT POLYNOMIAL** as the exponent of x is not a whole number.
- (c) That's a **POLYNOMIAL FUNCTION** (Don't be thrown off by the irrational  $\sqrt{3}$  coefficient that's allowed!) Polynomial functions must have whole # variable exponents, coefficients can be any real #. degree 1 Leading Coeff.  $\sqrt{3}$ (d) The last term is **NOT POLYNOMIAL** as the exponent of x is not a whole number.

Math30-1Power RtdLearning.com

# There is a relationship between the degree of a polynomial function and the number of *x*-intercepts on the graph.



### And we should know how to spot a Polynomial Function Graph!

On the previous page we saw the relationship between the degree of a polynomial function and certain characteristics of the graph. You might next ask – how can we immediately tell that a graph is of a polynomial function, and not some other function we study in Math 30?

And once again – great question! I respect your inquisitive nature. Let's dive into that, with a couple of key distinguishing points:



Graph can be drawn without lifting your pencil.

- The first key point is that all polynomial functions have a domain  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}\}$ . That means graphs of polynomial functions:
  - Have no *start* or end *points*, like, for example, radical function graphs.







• The second point is polynomial function graphs have no horizontal asymptotes (like exponential functions) and there is no periodic pattern (as with some trig graphs).



For example, this graph.... STARTS pointing downward







Class Example 2.12 Characteristics of Polynomial Functions

For each of the following polynomial functions, without using your graphing calculator, state:

- i The start and end behavior of the graph ii The number of possible *x*-intercepts
- iii Whether or not the graph will have a minimum or maximum point
- iv The domain of the function and the *y*-intercept

Use your graphing calculator to determine:

v - The *x*-intercepts of the graph vi - The range of the function (b)  $y = x^5 + x^4 - 7x^3 - 13x^2 - 6x$ (a)  $y = x^3 - 2x^2 - 5x + 6$ i - Start / end i - Start / end ii - # of x-ints ii - # of x-ints iji - Max or min? iji - Max or min? iv - Domain: iv - Domain: y-intercept: y-intercept: v - Coords v - Coords of *x*-ints: of *x*-ints: vi - Range: vi - Range:



### 2.1 Characteristics of Polynomial Functions

### Class Example 2.13 More Characteristics of Polynomial Functions

For the function  $p(x) = -x^4 - 3x^3 + 7x^2 + 15x - 18$ , without using your graphing calculator, state:

i - The start and end behavior of the graph

ii - The number of possible *x*-intercepts

- iii Whether or not the graph will have a minimum or maximum point
- iv The domain of the function and the *y*-intercept

Then, use your graphing calculator to determine:

- v The *x*-intercepts of the graph
- vi The range of the function nearest hundredth





### Class Example 2.14 Identifying Polynomial Functions

For each of the polynomial functions listed below, indicate the graph number that matches.

Answers from previous page

2.12 (a) i - Odd degree, Positive Leading Coefficient - So starts negative in quadrant III and ends positive in quad I.
ii - Degree 3 (odd), so between 1 and 3 x-intercepts. iii - Odd degree so no max / min
iv - Domain is {x ∈ ℝ} y-intercept is: y = (0)<sup>3</sup> - 2(0)<sup>2</sup> - -6(0) + 6 → = 6 So cords: (0, 6)

- v x-intercepts (use ZERO on calc): (-2, 0), (1, 0), and (3, 0).  $vi Range: \{y \in \mathbb{R}\}$ .
- (b) i Odd degree, Positive Leading Coefficient So starts negative in quadrant III and ends positive in quad I.
  ii Degree 5 (odd), so between 1 and 5 x-intercepts. iii Odd degree so no max / min
  iv Domain is {x ∈ ℝ} y-intercept is: y = (0)<sup>5</sup>+(0)<sup>4</sup>-7(0)<sup>3</sup> 13(0)<sup>2</sup> 6(0) → = 0 So cords: (0,0)
  - v x-intercepts: (-2, 0), (-1, 0), (0, 0), and <math>(3, 0).  $vi Range: \{y \in \mathbb{R}\}.$



Height of Golf Ball

 $y = -16x^2 + 100x$ 

**Applications of Polynomial Functions** 

In Math 20, we saw how a certain type of polynomial function, the quadratic (degree 2) function, has applications in parabolic motion and finance. (To name just two!)

Remember finding the *maximum height of a ball*? *>* 

*First* – match the window to what's given. Graph  $y_1 = -16x^2 + 100x$ 



So, the maximum height of the ball is 156.24 feet, after 3.1 seconds.

#### Constructing and Analyzing a Polynomial Equation **Class Example** 2.15

A box is with no lid is made by cutting four squares (each with a side length "x" from each corner of a 24 cm by 12 cm rectangular piece of cardboard.

- (a) Determine a function that models the volume of the box.
- (b) Use technology to graph the function, and sketch below. Label each axis, provide a scale, and indicate any intercepts or max / min points. Use your graphing calculator to obtain these... you'll need to "trial-and-error" a suitable viewing window, indicate in your sketch below.



Height (in feet)

- (c) State the domain of the function, with respect to the "real-world" constraints of the problem.
- (d) State the value of "x" that gives the maximum volume. (Round to the nearest hundredth)
- (e) State the maximum volume of the box, (Round to the nearest  $cm^3$ )



tdLearnina.com



Class Example 2.16 Constructing and Analyzing a Polynomial Equation

A box with a lid can be created by removing two congruent squares from one end of a rectangular 8.5 inch by 11 inch piece of cardboard. The congruent rectangles removed from the other end as shown. (The shaded rectangles represent the waste, or removed portions that will not be used in the box)

(a) In the diagram below there are two congruent rectangles; one that will form the **base** of the box, and one that will be the **top**. Complete the diagram by providing the missing dimensions (indicated with →/ ↓) for the base and top.



- (d) State the domain of the function, with respect to the "real-world" constraints of the problem.
- (e) State the value of "x" that gives the maximum volume. (Round to the nearest thousandth)
- (f) State the maximum volume of the box, (Round to the nearest thousandth)
- (g) State the dimensions that yield the maximum volume. (Round to the nearest thousandth)

- (b) Determine a function that models the volume of the box.
- (c) Use technology to graph the function, and sketch below. Label each axis, provide a scale, and indicate any intercepts or max / min points. Use your graphing calculator to obtain these... you'll need to "trial-and-error" a suitable viewing window, indicate in your sketch below.



Answers from previous page





### **2.1 Practice Questions**

**1.** Indicate which of the following functions are polynomial functions:

(a)  $y = 3x^5 - 3x^3 + 2x^2 + 11x + 6$  (b)  $y = 3x^3 - 5x^{0.5} + 2$  (c) y = 5(d)  $y = 4x^4 - 2x^2 + 5x^{-1} - 1$  (e)  $y = 3x^3 - \sqrt{5}x$  (f)  $y = x^2 + 5^x + 2$ 

2. Indicate which of the following graphs are likely those of polynomial functions:



## **3.** For each of the following polynomial functions, state each of the indicated characteristics. *Try as many as you can without graphing.*

(b)  $v = 5 - x^4$ 

(a) $f(x) =$	$= x^3 + 8x^2 + 11x - 20$	
--------------	---------------------------	--

(c) 
$$y = -2x^4 - 6x^3 + 14x^2 + 30x - 36$$

(d)  $y = -2(x+3)^2(x-2)^2(x-1)$ 







### 2.1 Characteristics of Polynomial Functions

4. For each of the following graphs, determine the indicated characteristics of the related function.



5. For each of the following functions, use technology to determine each of the indicated characteristics.

Note that using technology (graphing on your calc) is not required for each characteristic each time! For example, see if you can spot the *x*-intercepts of (c) without graphing. (And degree and *y*-ints **can** always be found without graphing) **Also note:** To get best results graphing on your calculator – you must practice setting your window! For most of these you can use an *x*-min of –6 and an *x*-max of 6. However for the *y* min and max .... use trial and error! (You'll want to see any relative max / min points, so ensure your window is "large enough")

(a) $f(x) = x^3 + 8x^3$	$x^2 + 11x - 20$	(b) $y = x^4 - 3x^3 - 12x^2 + 52x - 48$				
(c) $y = -(x+3)^2$	(x-1)(x-3)	(d) $y = -$				
i - The degree	(a) <i>i</i>	(b) <i>i</i>	(c) <i>i</i>	(d) <i>i</i>		
ii - The coordinates of any x-intercepts	ii	ii	ii	ii		
iii - The coordinates of y-intercept	iii	iii	iii	iii		
iv - The Range	iv	iv	iv	iv		
Note: Where applicable, r	ound					

to the nearest hundredth.

### Answers to Practice Questions on the previous page

1.	Polynomial	functions	are:	(a), (c), (e) <b>2.</b>	Polynomial functions	are	: <b>(a)</b> , <b>(d)</b> , and <b>(</b>	f)			
3.	(a) i <b>1</b>	ii <b>3</b>	iii	Starts neg in quad I	III, ends pos in quad I	iv	1 to 3	v	No max or min	vi	(0, -20)
	(b) i <b>-1</b>	ii <b>4</b>	iii	Starts neg in quad I	III, ends neg in quad IV	iv	0 to 4* see	V	Graph has a <b>max</b>	vi	(0,5)
	(c) i <b>-2</b>	ii 4	iii	Starts neg in quad I	III, ends neg in quad IV	iv	<b>0</b> to <b>4</b>	v	Graph has a <b>max</b>	vi	(0, -36)
	(d) i - <b>2</b>	ii 5*	iii	Starts pos in quad I	II, ends neg in quad IV	iv	<b>3*</b> see note 3	v	No max or min	vi	(0,72)
Note 1: We can visualize this, as the graph of $y = x^4$ is similar to $y = x^2$ , so visualize a "parabola" opening down and shifted 5 units up. So we know, without graphing, that there will be TWO <i>x</i> -intercepts! $y = -2(x + 3)^2(x - 2)^2(x - 1)^2(x - 1$											
Note 2: For functions in factored form, the degree of the entire function is the sum of all exponents, so: $2 + 2 + 1 = 5$											
	Note 3: Each	factor co	rresp	onds to one x-inter	cept, so we know with	certa	inty there are	3.	There's an inv	isibl	e "1" here!



6. Without graphing (use your reasoning abilities!), match each of the following functions with its graph.



A package may be sent through a particular mail service only if it conforms to specific dimensions.
 To qualify, the sum of its *height* plus *the perimeter of its base* must be no more than 72 inches. Also for our design, the base of the box (shaded in the diagram below) has a length equal to double the width.



(c) Use technology to graph the function obtained in (b) with a suitable viewing window.

Provide your sketch below, labeling any max/mins and intercepts. *Also fully label the axis, what each axis represents, and a suitable scale.* 



- (a) In the blank on the left, state an expression for the height (*h*) of the box.
   Need a hint? See the bottom of the next page.
- (b) Determine a function that represents the Volume of the box.
- (d) Provide a domain and range for your function obtained in (b), with respect to the "real world" constraints of the problem.

Domain: Range:

- (e) State the maximum volume of the box that can be sent.
- (f) State the dimensions for the box that provides the maximum volume.

Answers to Practice Questions on the previous page

4.	(a) i <b>ODD</b>	ii NEGATIVE iii 4 x-in	tercepts iv $\{y \in \mathbb{R}\}$	v Constant term: $-72$ (represented by y-intercept)
	(b) i <b>EVEN</b>	ii POSITIVE iii 3 x-in	tercepts iv $\{y \ge -16\}$	<b>5. 30</b> , <i>y</i> ∈ $\mathbb{R}$ } ∨ Constant term: − <b>6</b>
	(c) i <b>ODD</b>	ii <b>POSITIVE</b> iii <b>2</b> <i>x</i> -in	tercepts iv $\{y \in \mathbb{R}\}$	v Constant term: -16
	(d) i <b>EVEN</b>	ii NEGATIVE iii 3 x-in	tercepts iv $\{y \leq 24.4\}$	<b>16</b> , $y \in \mathbb{R}$ } v Constant term: <b>9</b> RTD Learning
5.	(a) i <b>3</b> i	(-5,0), (-4,0) and $(1,0)$	iii $(0, -20)$ iv $\{y \in$	<b>ℝ</b> } PowerMath
	(b) i <b>4</b> i	(-4, 0), (2, 0) and $(3, 0)$	iii $(0, -48)$ iv $\{y \ge$	$x - 167.30, y \in \mathbb{R}$ }
	(c) i <b>4</b> i	i (-3, 0), (1, 0) and (3, 0) Note: Each factor provides an <i>s</i>	iii $(0, -27)$ iv $\{y \leq x$ -intercept	$\{25.96, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}\}$
	(d) i <b>2</b> i	(-3, 0) and $(3, 0)$	iii $(0, 24)$ iv $\{y \le$	$\{24, 5, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}\}$



### 2.1 Characteristics of Polynomial Functions

- 8. An open box is to be made by cutting out squares from the corners of an 8 inch by 15 inch rectangular sheet of cardboard and folding up the sides.
  - (a) On diagram 1 on the right, provide expressions that represent the length and width of the finished box.
  - (b) Determine a function that models the volume of the box.



(C) Use technology to graph the function, and sketch below. Label each axis, provide a scale, and indicate any intercepts or max / min points. *Use your graphing calculator, provide a sketch below.* 



(g) Provide the dimensions that yield the box of maximum volume, (Round to the nearest hundredth)

### Answers from previous and this page

**HINT** for #7(a): The perimeter of the base is: 2x + 2x + x + x = 6x. As we wish for the largest volume box, we'll use all 72 inches (sum of perimeter and height) available. So h + 6x = 72, and h = 72 - 6x.



Copyright © RTD Learning 2020 – all rights reserved



*Thank you* for checking out the first sections of our Polynomial Functions unit.



Access the remaining 41 pages of this unit for just \$29 at <u>www.math30-1power.com</u>.

Included is LOADS of additional high-impact, curriculum relevant practice questions, including a summary review section with more diploma exam style questions.

## You'll also receive:

- Videos tutorials to guide you through all lessons
- Access to schedule live online classes
- Instructor email support