

Math III - Tues, 5/24

Return tests + go over

Section 3.1

Checkpoint 7 on Thursday (on 3.1)

Mission 4 handed out ~~on Thursday~~ today  
+ due Thurs, June 2 (Team)

# Math 111 Lecture Notes

## SECTION 3.1: POLYNOMIAL FUNCTIONS

standard form:

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

factored form

$$g(x) = (x-3)(x+1)$$

A **power function** is of the form  $f(x) = a_n x^n$  where  $a_n$  is a real number and  $n$  is a non-negative integer.

A **polynomial function** is of the form

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

where  $a_n, a_{n-1}, \dots, a_1, a_0$  are real numbers and  $n$  is a non-negative integer.

The **leading term** is  $a_n x^n$ . This determines the long-run behavior of the function.

The **degree** of the polynomial is  $n$ .

### Basic Power Functions

FIGURE 1.

$$y = x^2$$

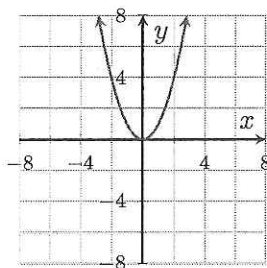


FIGURE 2.

$$y = x^3$$

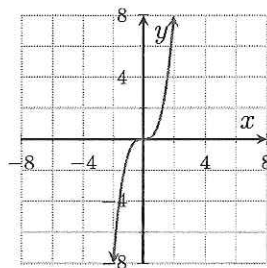


FIGURE 3.

$$y = x^4$$

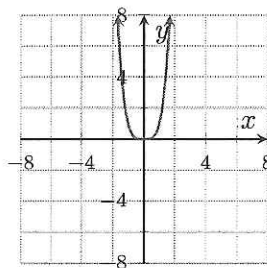
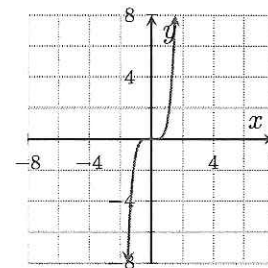


FIGURE 4.

$$y = x^5$$



### Basic Power Functions (close up)

FIGURE 5. Even Powers

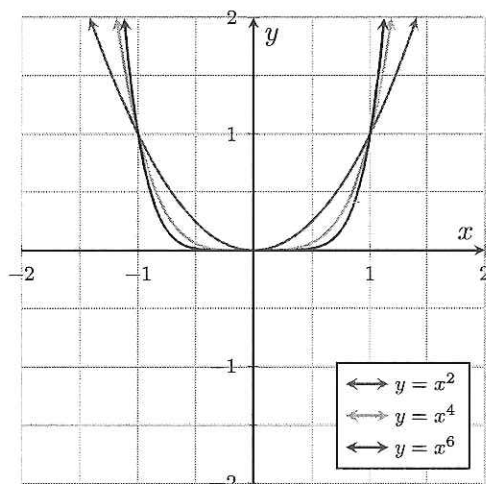
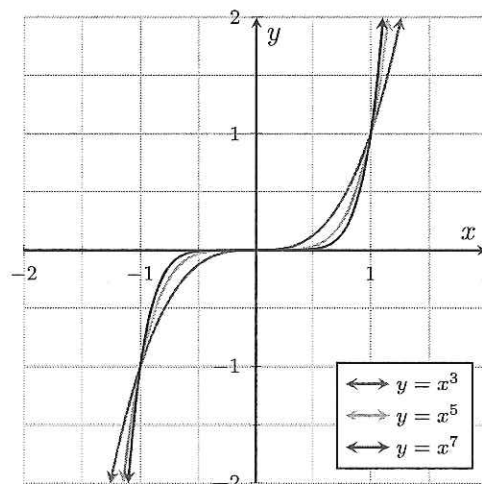
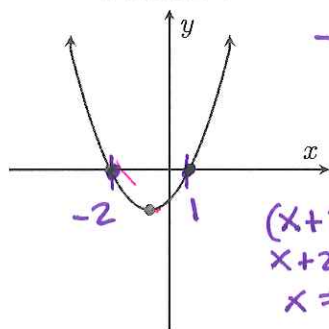


FIGURE 6. Odd Powers



## General Polynomial Functions

FIGURE 7



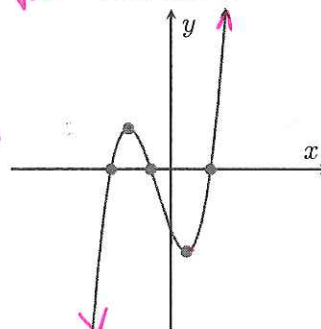
$$(x+2)(x-1)=0$$

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

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

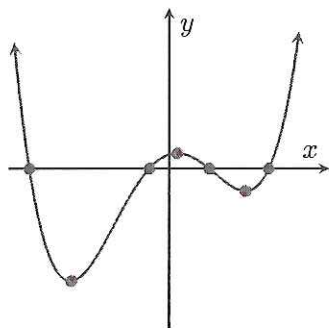
- Degree: 2
- Max. # of zeros: 2
- Max. # of turning points: 1

FIGURE 8



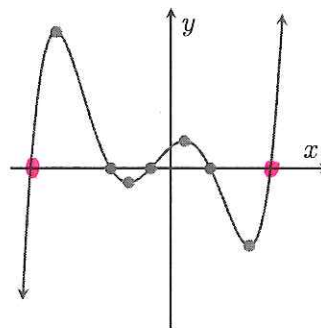
- Degree: 3
- Max. # of zeros: 3
- Max. # of turning points: 2

FIGURE 9



- Degree: 4
- Max. # of zeros: 4
- Max. # of turning points: 3

FIGURE 10



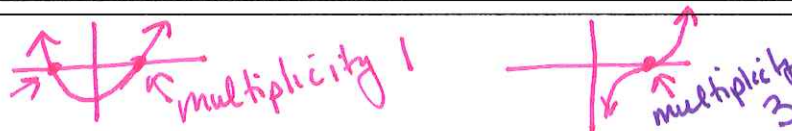
- Degree:  $5 = n$
- Max. # of zeros:  $5 = n$
- Max. # of turning points:  $4 = n - 1$

A polynomial function  $f$  has a real zero  $r$  if and only if  $(x - r)$  is a factor of  $f(x)$ .

If  $r$  is a zero of **even multiplicity**, then the factor  $(x - r)$  occurs an even number of times. The graph then *looks like* the graph of an even power function at that zero. Hence the function “bounces” there.



If  $r$  is a zero of **odd multiplicity**, then the factor  $(x - r)$  occurs an odd number of times. The graph then *looks like* the graph of an odd power function at that zero. Hence, if  $(x - r)$  occurs once, the function passes “straight through” at that zero and if  $(x - r)$  occurs any other odd number of times, the function “flattens” there.





Example 1. Let  $f(x) = 4x(x-7)^2(x+1)^5(x+2)^3$ . Determine the following:

- (a) the zeros and their respective multiplicities

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

Zeros	Multiplicity
7	2
-1	5
-2	3
0	1

x-intercepts {

- (b) the degree and long-run behavior

1<sup>st</sup> term:  $4x^{11}$

11<sup>th</sup> degree

ends of the function tails

as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow \infty$

as  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow -\infty$

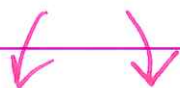
$-\frac{1}{2}(x^2 + 4x + -2x - 8)$

Example 2. Graph the polynomial function defined by  $f(x) = -\frac{1}{2}(x-2)(x+4)$  by finding the following: the degree of the polynomial, the long run behavior, the maximum number of turning points, the horizontal and vertical intercepts, and the zeros and their multiplicity.

Degree: 2

1<sup>st</sup> term:  $-\frac{1}{2}x^2$

long-run behavior



as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow -\infty$

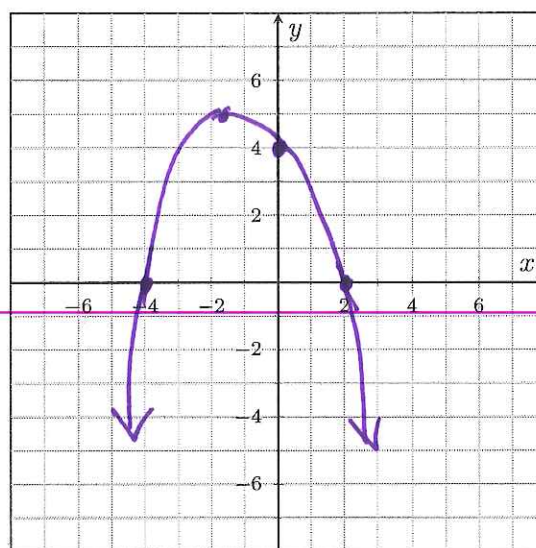
as  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow -\infty$

max # of turning points  
 $n-1$  or  $2-1 = 1$

zero	multiplicity
2	1
-4	1

vertical or y-intercept  $f(0) = -\frac{1}{2}(0-2)(0+4) = -\frac{1}{2}(-2)(4) = 4$

FIGURE 11



$$x = \frac{-b}{2a}$$

**Example 3.** Graph the polynomial function defined by  $f(x) = \frac{1}{4}(x+1)^2(x+2)(x-5)$  by finding the following: the degree of the polynomial, the long run behavior, the maximum number of turning points, the horizontal and vertical intercepts, and the zeros and their multiplicity.

Degree: 4

1<sup>st</sup> term:  $\frac{1}{4}x^4$

long-run behavior

↑ ↑

as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow \infty$

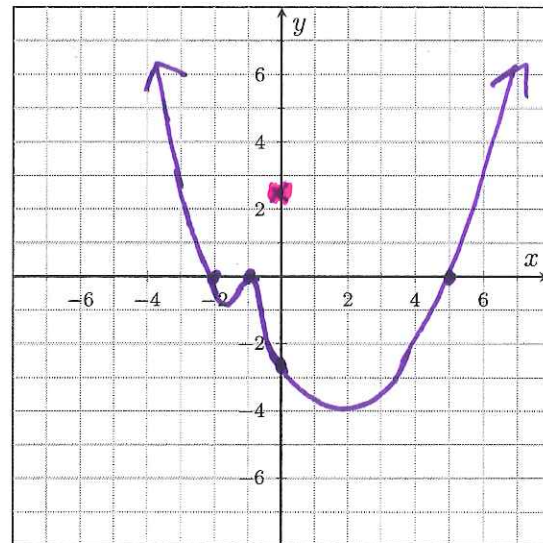
as  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow \infty$

max # of turning points: 3  
degree - 1

zero	mult	
-1	2	← bounce
-2	1	← cross
5	1	← cross

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{y-int: } f(0) &= \frac{1}{4}(0+1)^2(0+2)(0-5) \\
 &= \frac{1}{4}(1)^2(2)(-5) \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \cdot 2 \cdot -5 \\
 &= -\frac{5}{2} = -2\frac{1}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

FIGURE 12



**Example 4.** Graph the polynomial function defined by  $f(x) = -\frac{1}{2}x(x+3)(x-2)^3$  by finding the following: the degree of the polynomial, the long run behavior, the maximum number of turning points, the horizontal and vertical intercepts, and the zeros and their multiplicity.

Degree: 5  
1<sup>st</sup> term:  $-\frac{1}{2}x^5$

long-run behavior

as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow -\infty$

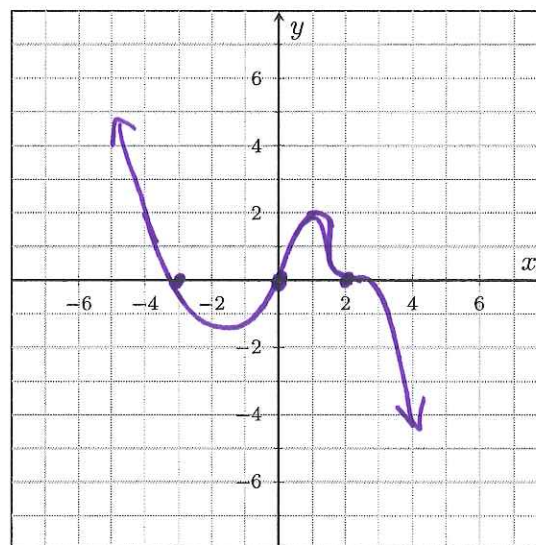
as  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow \infty$

zeros	mult
0	1
-3	1
2	3

$$f(0) = -\frac{1}{2}(0)(0+3)(0-2)^3$$

$$= 0$$

FIGURE 13



**Example 5.** Find a possible formula for the polynomial function graphed in Figure 14 using the zeros and their multiplicities.

Zeros	mult
-2	odd (1)
0	odd (1)
3	odd (1)

$$h(x) = k(x+2)(x-0)(x-3)$$

$$= kx(x+2)(x-3)$$

$$(1, -3)$$

$$-3 = k(1)(1+2)(1-3)$$

$$-3 = k(1)(3)(-2)$$

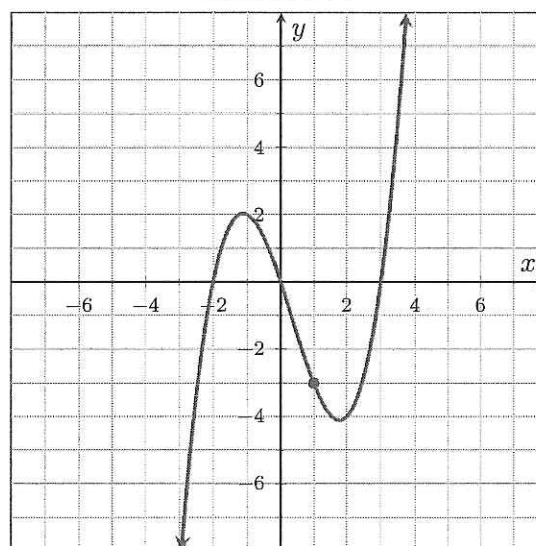
$$-3 = k(-6)$$

$$\frac{-3}{-6} = \frac{k}{-6}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = k$$

$$h(x) = \frac{1}{2}x(x+2)(x-3)$$

FIGURE 14





**Example 6.** Find a possible formula for the polynomial function graphed in Figure 15 using the zeros and their multiplicities.

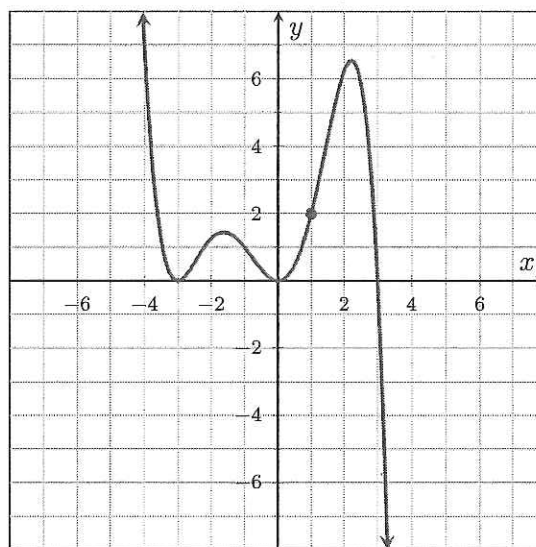
$$y\text{-int} = 0$$

odd degree

zeros	mult
-3	2 (even)
0	2 (even)
3	1

(1, 2)

FIGURE 15



$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= (x+3)^2(x-0)^2(x-3) \\ &= x^2(x+3)^2(x-3) \end{aligned}$$

find k

$$f(x) = kx^2(x+3)^2(x-3) \quad \text{use (1, 2)}$$

$$2 = k(1)^2(1+3)^2(1-3)$$

$$2 = k(1)(16)(-2)$$

$$\frac{2}{-32} = \frac{-32k}{-32}$$

$$-\frac{1}{16} = k$$

$$f(x) = -\frac{1}{16}x^2(x+3)^2(x-3)$$



**Example 7.** Find a possible formula for the polynomial function graphed in Figure 16 using the zeros and their multiplicities.

Zero	mult
-1	odd : 3
2	even : 2

$$g(x) = k(x+1)^3(x-2)^2$$

$$(0, -4)$$

$$-4 = k(0+1)^3(0-2)^2$$

$$-4 = k(1)(4)$$

$$\frac{-4}{4} = \frac{4k}{4}$$

$$-1 = k$$

$$g(x) = -(x+1)^3(x-2)^2$$

FIGURE 16

