

Precalculus for Team-Based Inquiry Learning

2024 Development Edition

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Website: [Precalculus for Team-Based Inquiry Learning](https://teambasedinquirylearning.github.io/precalculus/)¹

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Chapter 1

Equations, Inequalities, and Applications (EQ)

Objectives

BIG IDEA for the chapter goes here, in outcomes/main.ptx
By the end of this chapter, you should be able to...

1. Solve a linear equation in one variable. Solve a linear inequality in one variable and express the solution graphically and using interval notation.
2. Solve application problems involving linear equations.
3. Given two points, determine the distance between them and the midpoint of the line segment connecting them.
4. Solve a linear equation involving an absolute value. Solve a linear inequality involving absolute values and express the answers graphically and using interval notation.
5. Solve quadratic equations using factoring, the square root property, completing the square, and the quadratic formula and express these answers in exact form.
6. Solve a rational equation.
7. Solve quadratic inequalities and express the solution graphically and with interval notation. Solve rational inequalities and express the solution graphically and using interval notation.

Readiness Assurance. Before beginning this chapter, you should be able to...

a Readiness Outcome 1

- Review:
- Practice:

b Readiness Outcome 2

- Review:
- Practice:

1.1 Linear Equations and Inequalities (EQ1)

Objectives

- Solve a linear equation in one variable. Solve a linear inequality in one variable and express the solution graphically and using interval notation.

1.1.1 Activities

Remark 1.1.1 Recall that when solving a linear equation, you use addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to isolate the variable.

Activity 1.1.2 Solve the linear equations.

(a) $3x - 8 = 5x + 2$

A. $x = 2$

C. $x = -5$

B. $x = 5$

D. $x = -2$

(b) $5(3x - 4) = 2x - (x + 3)$

A. $x = \frac{17}{14}$

C. $x = \frac{23}{14}$

B. $x = \frac{14}{17}$

D. $x = \frac{14}{23}$

(c) $\frac{2}{3}x - 8 = \frac{5x+1}{6}$

Activity 1.1.3 The following linear equations appear similar, but their solutions are very different.

(a) Which of these equations has one unique solution?

A. $4(x - 2) = 4x + 6$

C. $4(x - 1) = x + 4$

B. $4(x - 1) = 4x + 4$

(b) Which of these equations has many solutions?

A. $4(x - 2) = 4x + 6$

C. $4(x - 1) = x + 4$

B. $4(x - 1) = 4x + 4$

(c) Which of these equations has no solutions?

A. $4(x - 2) = 4x + 6$

C. $4(x - 1) = x + 4$

B. $4(x - 1) = 4x + 4$

(d) What happens when solving a linear equation when it has no solution? when it has many solutions?

Definition 1.1.4 A linear equation with one unique solution is a **conditional equation**. A linear equation that is true for all values of the variable is an **identity equation**. A linear equation with no solutions is an **inconsistent equation**. \diamond

Activity 1.1.5 An inequality is a relationship between two values that are not equal.

(a) What is the solution to the linear equation $3x - 1 = 5$?

(b) Which of these values is a solution of the inequality $3x - 1 \geq 5$?

A. $x = 0$

C. $x = 4$

B. $x = 2$

D. $x = 10$

(c) Express the solution of the inequality $3x - 1 \geq 5$ in interval notation.

A. $(-\infty, 2]$

C. $(2, \infty)$

B. $(-\infty, 2)$

D. $[2, \infty)$

(d) Draw the solution to the inequality on a number line.

Activity 1.1.6

(a) Which of these values is a solution of the inequality $-x < 8$?

A. $x = -10$

C. $x = 4$

B. $x = -8$

D. $x = 10$

(b) Solve the linear inequality $-x < 8$. How does your solution compare to the values chosen in part (a)?

(c) Expression the solution of the inequality $-x < 8$ in interval notation.

A. $(-\infty, -8)$

C. $(-8, \infty)$

B. $(-\infty, -8]$

D. $[-8, \infty)$

Remark 1.1.7 You can treat solving linear inequalities, just like solving an equation. The one exception is when you multiply or divide by a negative value, reverse the inequality symbol.

Activity 1.1.8 Solve the following inequalities. Express your solution in interval notation and graphically on a number line.

(a) $-3x - 1 \leq 5$

(b) $3(x + 4) > 2x - 1$

(c) $-\frac{1}{2}x \geq -\frac{2}{4} + \frac{5}{4}x$

Definition 1.1.9 A **compound inequality** includes multiple inequalities in one statement. \diamond

Activity 1.1.10 Consider the statement $3 \leq x < 8$. This really means that $3 \leq x$ and $x < 8$.

(a) Which of the following inequalities are equivalent to the compound inequality $3 \leq 2x - 3 < 8$?

A. $3 \leq 2x - 3$

C. $2x - 3 < 8$

B. $3 \geq 2x - 3$

D. $2x - 3 > 8$

(b) How do the solutions overlap?

Remark 1.1.11 Solving a compound linear inequality, uses the same methods as a single linear inequality ensuring that you perform the same operations on all three parts. Alternatively, you can break the compound inequality up into two and solve separately.

1.1.2 Videos

It would be great to include videos down here, like in the Calculus book!

1.2 Applications of Linear Equations (EQ2)

Objectives

- Solve application problems involving linear equations.

1.2.1 Activities

Observation 1.2.1 Linear equations can be used to solve many types of real-world applications. We'll investigate some of those in this section.

Remark 1.2.2 Distance, rate, and time problems are a standard example of an application of a linear equation. For these, it's important to remember that

$$d = rt$$

where d is distance, r is the rate (or speed), and t is time.

Often we will have more than one moving object, so it is helpful to denote which object's distance, rate, or time we are referring to. One way we can do this is by using a subscript. For example, if we are describing an eastbound train (as we will in the first example), it may be helpful to denote its distance, rate, and time as d_E , r_E , and t_E respectively. Notice that the subscript E is a label reminding us that we are referring to the eastbound train.

Activity 1.2.3 Two trains leave a station at the same time. One is heading east at a speed of 75 mph, while the other is heading west at a speed of 85 mph. After how long will the trains be 400 miles apart?

(a) How fast is each train traveling?

- A. $r_E = 85$ mph, $r_W = 75$ mph
- B. $r_E = 75$ mph, $r_W = 85$ mph
- C. $r_E = 400$ mph, $r_W = 400$ mph
- D. $r_E = 75$ mph, $r_W = 400$ mph
- E. $r_E = 400$ mph, $r_W = 85$ mph

(b) Write an equation relating t_E and t_W .

- A. The eastbound train is slower than the westbound train, so $75 + t_E = 85 + t_W$.
- B. The eastbound train left an hour before the westbound train, so if we let $t_E = t$, then $t_W = t - 1$.
- C. Both trains have been traveling the same amount of time, so $t_E = t_W$. Since they are the same, we can just call them both t .
- D. We don't know how the times relate to each other, so we must denote them separately as t_E and t_W .
- E. Since the trains are traveling at different speeds, we need the proportion $\frac{r_E}{r_W} = \frac{t_E}{t_W}$.

(c) Fill in the following table using the information you've just determined about the trains' rates and times since they left the station. Then fill in the distance column based on how distance relates to rate and time.

Table 1.2.4

	rate	time	distance from station
eastbound train			
westbound train			

(d) At the moment in question, the trains are 400 miles apart. How does that total distance relate to the distance each train has traveled?

- A. The 400 miles is irrelevant. They've been traveling the same amount of time so they must be the same distance away from the station. That tells us $d_E = d_W$.
- B. The 400 miles is the difference between the distance each train traveled, so $d_E - d_W = 400$.

- C. The 400 miles represents the sum of the distances that each train has traveled, so $d_E + d_W = 400$.
- D. The 400 miles is the product of the distance each train traveled, so $(d_E)(d_W) = 400$.
- (e) Now plug in the expressions from your table for d_E and d_W into the equation you just found. Notice that it is a linear equation in one variable, t . Solve for t , and put that answer in context of the problem.
 - A. The trains are 400 miles apart after 2 hours.
 - B. The trains are 400 miles apart after 2.5 hours.
 - C. The trains are 400 miles apart after 3 hours.
 - D. The trains are 400 miles apart after 3.5 hours.
 - E. The trains are 400 miles apart after 4 hours.

Remark 1.2.5 In [Activity 1.2.3](#) we examined the motion of two objects moving at the same time in opposite directions. In [Activity 1.2.6](#) we will examine a different perspective, but still apply $d = rt$ to solve.

Activity 1.2.6 Jalen needs groceries, so rides his bike to the store and it takes him half an hour. After finishing his shopping, he sees his friend Alex who offers him a ride home. He takes the same route home as he did to the store, but this time it only takes one-fifth of an hour. If his average rate was 18 mph faster on the way home, how far away does Jalen live from the grocery store?

We'll use the subscript b to refer to variables relating to Jalen's trip to the store while riding his bike and the subscript c to refer to variables relating to Jalen's trip home while riding in his friend's car.

- (a) How long does his bike trip from home to the store and his car trip from the store back home take?
 - A. $t_b = 18$ hours, $t_c = 18$ hours
 - B. $t_b = \frac{1}{5}$ of an hour, $t_c = \frac{1}{2}$ of an hour
 - C. $t_b = \frac{1}{2}$ of an hour, $t_c = \frac{1}{5}$ of an hour
 - D. $t_b = 2$ hours, $t_c = 5$ hours
 - E. $t_b = 5$ hours, $t_c = 2$ hours
- (b) Write an equation relating r_b and r_c .
 - A. Both the trip to the store and the trip home covered the same distance, so $r_b = r_c$. Since they are the same, we can just call them both r .
 - B. We don't know how the two rates relate to each other, so cannot write an equation comparing them and must leave them as separate variables r_b and r_c .
 - C. Jalen's rate on the trip home in the car was 18 mph faster than his trip to the store on his bike, so if we let $r_b = r$, then $r_c = r + 18$.

D. Jalen's rate on the trip home in the car was 18 mph faster than his trip to the store on his bike, so if we let $r_b = r$, then $r_c = r + 18$.

- (c) Fill in the following table using the information you've just determined about the Jalen's rates and times on each leg of his grocery store trip. Then fill in the distance column based on how distance relates to rate and time in each case.

Table 1.2.7

	rate	time	distance covered
bike trip (to the store)			
car trip (going back home)			

- (d) Our goal is to figure out how far away Jalen lives from the store. To help us get there, write an equation relating d_b and d_c .
- The distance he traveled by bike is the same as the distance he traveled by car, so $d_b = d_c$
 - The distance he traveled by bike took longer than the distance he traveled by car, so $d_b + \frac{1}{2} = d_c + \frac{1}{5}$
 - The distance, d , between his house and the grocery store is sum of the distance he traveled on his bike and the distance he traveled in the car, so $d_b + d_c = d$.
 - The distance, d , between his house and the grocery store is sum of the difference he traveled on his bike and the distance he traveled in the car, so $d_b - d_c = d$.
- (e) Now plug in the expressions from your table for d_b and d_c into the equation you just found. Notice that it is a linear equation in one variable, r . Solve for r .
- (f) Our goal was to determine the distance between Jalen's house and the grocery store. Solving for r did not tell us that distance, but it did get us one step closer. Use that value to help you determine the distance between his house and the store, and write your answer using the context of the problem. (Hint: can you find an expression involving r that we made that represents that distance?)
- The grocery store is 6 miles away from Jalen's house.
 - The grocery store is 8 miles away from Jalen's house.
 - The grocery store is 10 miles away from Jalen's house.
 - The grocery store is 12 miles away from Jalen's house.
 - The grocery store is 14 miles away from Jalen's house.

Remark 1.2.8 Another type of application of linear equations is called a mixture problem. In these we will mix together two things, like two types of candy in a candy store or two solutions of different concentrations of alcohol.

1.2.2 Videos

Coming eventually.....

1.3 Distance and Midpoint (EQ3)

Objectives

- Given two points, determine the distance between them and the midpoint of the line segment connecting them.

1.3.1 Activities

Activity 1.3.1 The points A and B are shown in the graph below. Use the graph to answer the following questions:

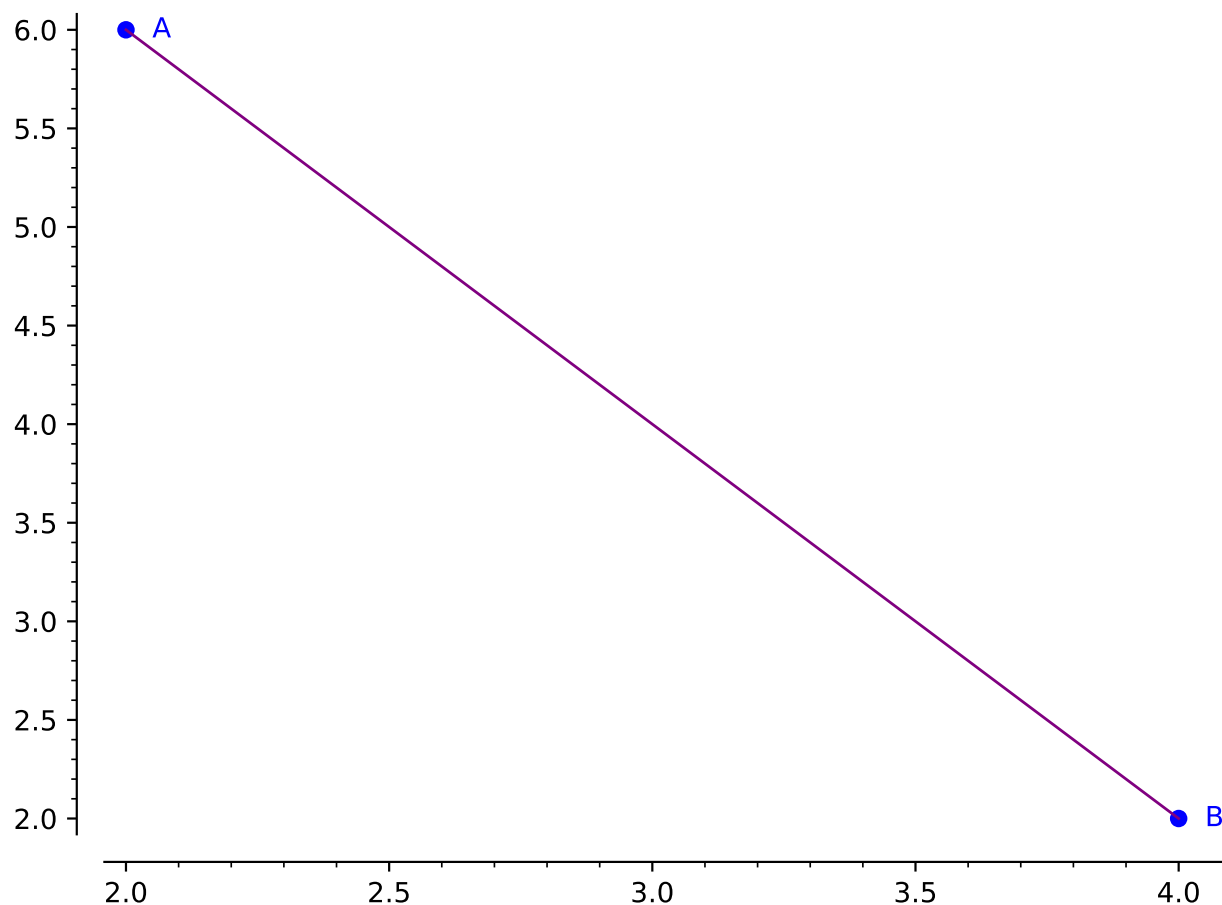


Figure 1.3.2

- (a) Draw a right triangle so that the hypotenuse is the line segment between points A and B . Label the third point of the triangle C .

- (b) Find the lengths of line segments AC and BC .
- (c) Now that you know the lengths of AC and BC , how can you find the length of AB ? Find the length of AB .

Remark 1.3.3 Using the **Pythagorean Theorem** can be helpful in finding the distance of a line segment (as long as you create a right triangle!).

Activity 1.3.4 Suppose you are given two points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) . Let's investigate how to find the length of the line segment that connects these two points!

- (a) Draw a sketch of a right triangle so that the hypotenuse is the line segment between the two points.
- (b) Find the lengths of the legs of the right triangle in terms of x and y .
- (c) Find the length of the line segment that connects the two original points in terms of x and y .

Definition 1.3.5 The distance, d , between two points, (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) , can be found by using the **distance formula**: $d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$.

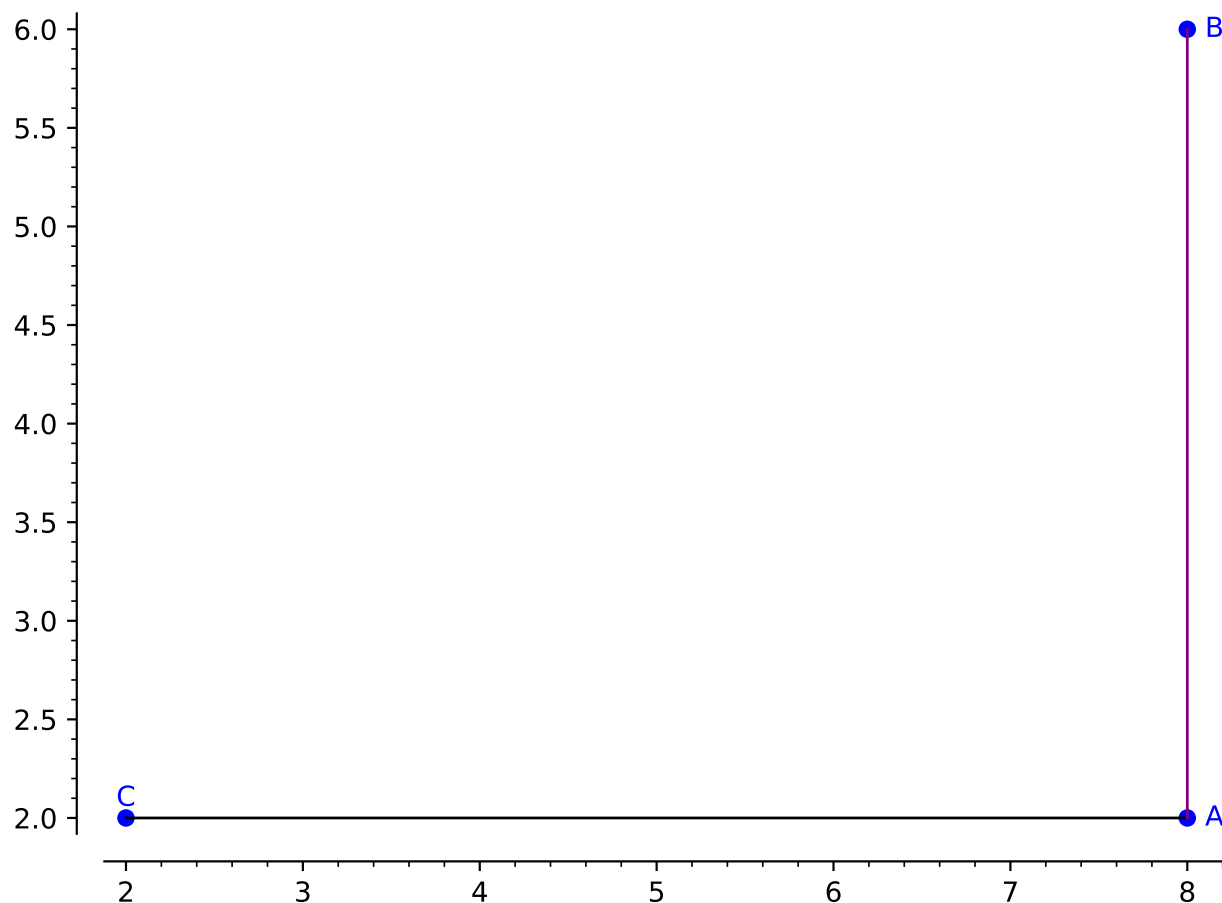
Notice that the distance formula is an application of the Pythagorean Theorem! \diamond

Activity 1.3.6 Apply the [Definition 1.3.5](#) to calculate the distance between the given points.

- (a) What is the distance between $(4, 6)$ and $(9, 15)$?
- | | |
|---------|-----------------|
| A. 10.2 | C. $\sqrt{106}$ |
| B. 10.3 | D. $\sqrt{56}$ |
- (b) What is the distance between $(-2, 5)$ and $(-7, -1)$?
- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| A. $\sqrt{11}$ | C. 3.3 |
| B. 7.8 | D. $\sqrt{61}$ |
- (c) Suppose the line segment AB has one endpoint, A , at the origin. For which coordinate of B would make the line segment AB the longest?
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| A. $(3, 7)$ | C. $(-6, 4)$ |
| B. $(2, -8)$ | D. $(-5, -5)$ |

Remark 1.3.7 A **midpoint** refers to the point that is located in the middle of a line segment. In other words, the midpoint is the point that is halfway between the two endpoints of a given line segment.

Activity 1.3.8 Two line segments are shown in the graph below. Use the graph to answer the following questions:

**Figure 1.3.9**

(a) What is the midpoint of the line segment AB ?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A. (16, 4) | C. (8, 8) |
| B. (8, 4) | D. (10, 2) |

(b) What is the midpoint of the line segment AC ?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| A. (6, 0) | C. (6, 4) |
| B. (4, 4) | D. (5, 2) |

(c) Suppose we connect the two endpoints of the two line segments together, to create the new line segment, BC . Can you make an educated guess to where the midpoint of BC is?

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| A. (10, 8) | C. (5, 4) |
| B. (6, 4) | D. (5, 2) |

(d) How can you test your conjecture? Is there a mathematical way to find the midpoint of any line segment?

Definition 1.3.10 The midpoint of a line segment with endpoints (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) , can be found by taking the average of the x and y values. Mathematically, the **midpoint formula** states that the midpoint of a line segment can be found by: $(\frac{x_1+x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1+y_2}{2})$. \diamond

Activity 1.3.11 Apply the [Definition 1.3.10](#) to calculate the midpoint of the following line segments.

(a) What is the midpoint of the line segment with endpoints $(2, 6)$ and $(-6, -8)$?

A. $(3, 1)$

C. $(10, 4)$

B. $(1, 1)$

D. $(4, 4)$

(b) What is the midpoint of the line segment with endpoints $(2, 6)$ and $(-6, -8)$?

A. $(-3, -1)$

C. $(-2, -1)$

B. $(-2, 0)$

D. $(-3, 0)$

(c) Suppose C is the midpoint of AB . The coordinates of A are $(10, 10)$. What are the coordinates of B ?

A. $(9.5, 9)$

C. $(18, 16)$

B. $(11, 12)$

D. $(8, 6)$

Activity 1.3.12 On a map, your friend Sarah's house is located at $(-2, 5)$ and your other friend Austin's house is at $(6, -2)$.

(a) How long is the direct path from Sarah's house to Austin's house?

(b) Suppose your other friend, Micah, lives in the middle between Sarah and Austin. What is the location of Micah's house on the map?

1.3.2 Videos

It would be great to include videos down here, like in the Calculus book!

1.4 Absolute Value Equations and Inequalities (EQ4)

Objectives

- Solve a linear equation involving an absolute value. Solve a linear inequality involving absolute values and express the answers graphically and using interval notation.

1.4.1 Activities

1.4.2 Videos

It would be great to include videos down here, like in the Calculus book!

1.5 Quadratic Equations (EQ5)

Objectives

- Solve quadratic equations using factoring, the square root property, completing the square, and the quadratic formula and express these answers in exact form.

1.5.1 Activities

1.5.2 Videos

It would be great to include videos down here, like in the Calculus book!

1.6 Rational Equations (EQ6)

Objectives

- Solve a rational equation.

1.6.1 Activities

1.6.2 Videos

It would be great to include videos down here, like in the Calculus book!

1.7 Quadratic and Rational Inequalities (EQ7)

Objectives

- Solve a rational equation.

1.7.1 Activities

1.7.2 Videos

It would be great to include videos down here, like in the Calculus book!

Chapter 2

Functions (FN)

Chapter 3

Linear Functions (LF)

Chapter 4

Polynomial and Rational Functions (PR)

Objectives

BIG IDEA for the chapter goes here, in outcomes/main.ptx
By the end of this chapter, you should be able to...

1. Graph quadratic functions and identify their axis of symmetry, and maximum or minimum point.
2. Use quadratic models to solve an application problem and establish conclusions.
3. Rewrite a rational function as a polynomial plus a proper rational function.
4. Determine the zeros of a real polynomial function, write a polynomial function given information about its zeros and their multiplicities, and apply the Factor Theorem and the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra.
5. Find the intercepts, estimated locations of maxima and minima, and end behavior of a polynomial function, and use this information to sketch the graph.
6. Find the domain and range, vertical and horizontal asymptotes, and intercepts of a rational function and use this information to sketch the graph.

Readiness Assurance. Before beginning this chapter, you should be able to...

a Readiness Outcome 1

- Review:
- Practice:

b Readiness Outcome 2

- Review:
- Practice:

4.1 Graphing Quadratic Functions (PR1)

Objectives

- Graph quadratic functions and identify their axis of symmetry, and maximum or minimum point.

4.1.1 Activities

Observation 4.1.1 Quadratic functions have many different applications in the real world. For example, say we want to identify a point at which the maximum profit or minimum cost occurs. Before we can interpret some of these situations, however, we will first need to understand how to read the graphs of quadratic functions to locate these least and greatest values.

Activity 4.1.2 Use the graph of the quadratic function $f(x) = 3(x - 2)^2 - 4$ to answer the questions below.

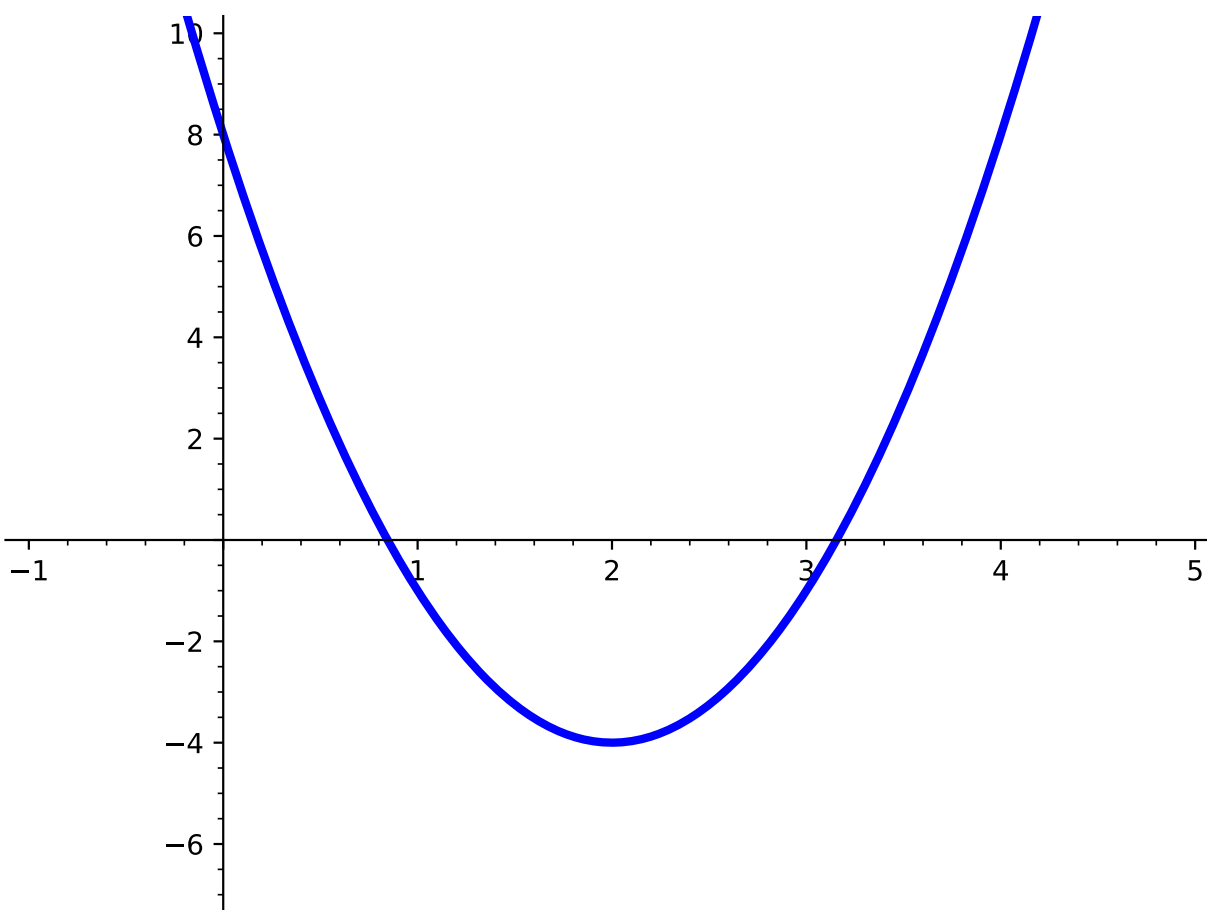


Figure 4.1.3

- (a) Make a table for values of $f(x)$ corresponding to the given x -values. What is happening

to the y -values as the x -values increase? Do you notice any other patterns of the y -values of the table?

Table 4.1.4

x	$f(x)$
-2	
-1	
0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

- (b) At which point (x, y) does $f(x)$ have a minimum value? That is, is there a point on the graph that is lower than all other points?
- A. The minimum value appears to occur near $(0, 8)$.
 - B. The minimum value appears to occur near $(-\frac{1}{5}, 10)$.
 - C. The minimum value appears to occur near $(2, -4)$.
 - D. There is no minimum value of this function.
- (c) At which point (x, y) does $f(x)$ have a maximum value? That is, is there a point on the graph that is higher than all other points?
- A. The maximum value appears to occur near $(-2, 44)$.
 - B. The maximum value appears to occur near $(-\frac{1}{5}, 10)$.
 - C. The maximum value appears to occur near $(2, -4)$.
 - D. There is no maximum value of this function.

Definition 4.1.5 The maximum or minimum of a quadratic function is also known as its **vertex**. The **vertex form** of a quadratic function is given by $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$, where (h, k) is the **vertex** of the parabola and $x = h$ is the **axis of symmetry**. \diamond

Activity 4.1.6 Use the given the quadratic function, $f(x) = 3(x - 2)^2 - 4$, to answer the following:

- (a) Applying [Definition 4.1.5](#), what is the vertex and axis of symmetry of $f(x)$?
- A. vertex: $(2, -4)$; axis of symmetry: $x = 2$
 - B. vertex: $(-2, 4)$; axis of symmetry: $x = -2$
 - C. vertex: $(-2, -4)$; axis of symmetry: $x = -2$
 - D. vertex: $(2, 4)$; axis of symmetry: $x = 2$
- (b) Compare what you got in part a with the values you found in [Activity 4.1.2](#). What do you notice?

Definition 4.1.7 Given the **standard form** of a quadratic function, $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$, with real coefficients a, b , and c , the **axis of symmetry** is defined as $x = \frac{-b}{2a}$ and has a **vertex** at the point $(\frac{-b}{2a}, f(\frac{-b}{2a}))$. \diamond

Activity 4.1.8 Use the graph of the quadratic function to answer the questions below.

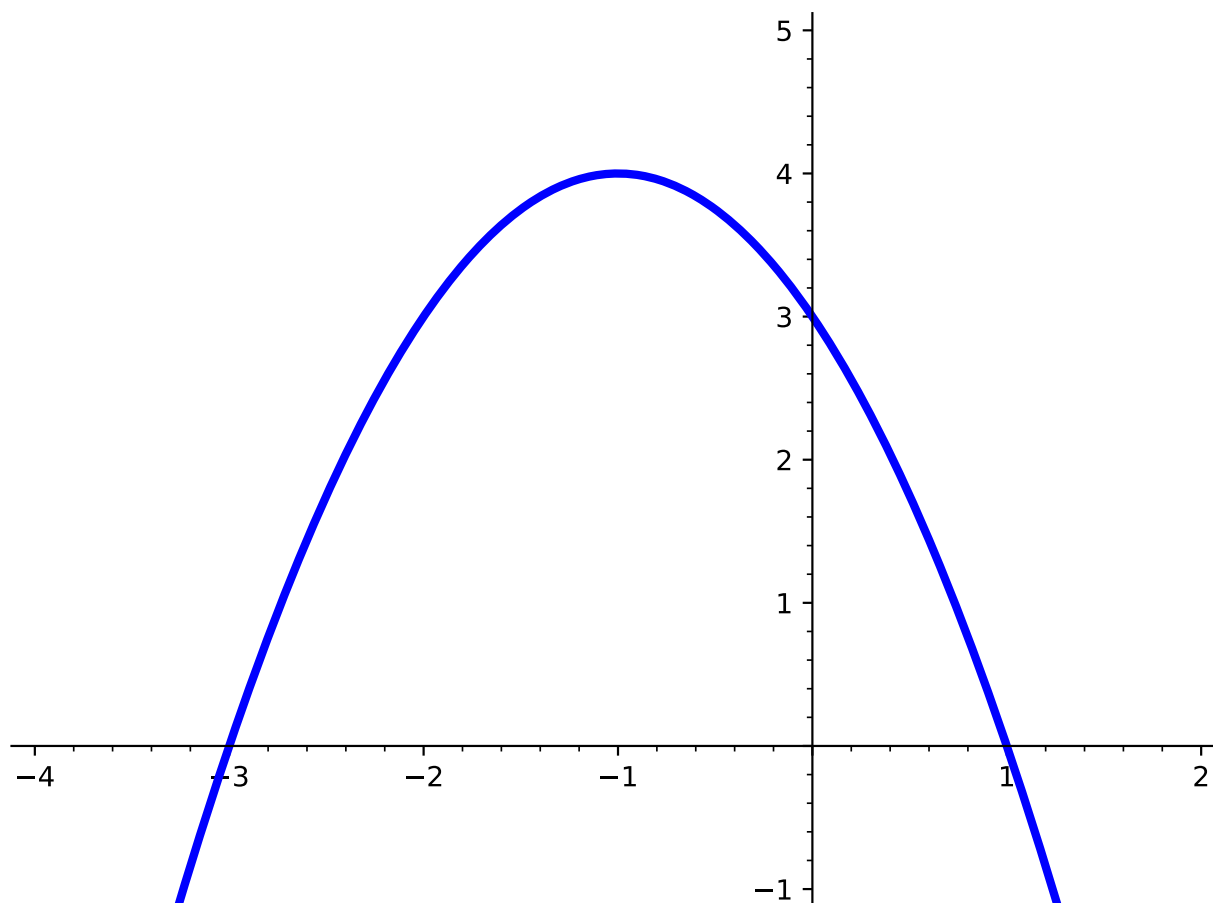


Figure 4.1.9

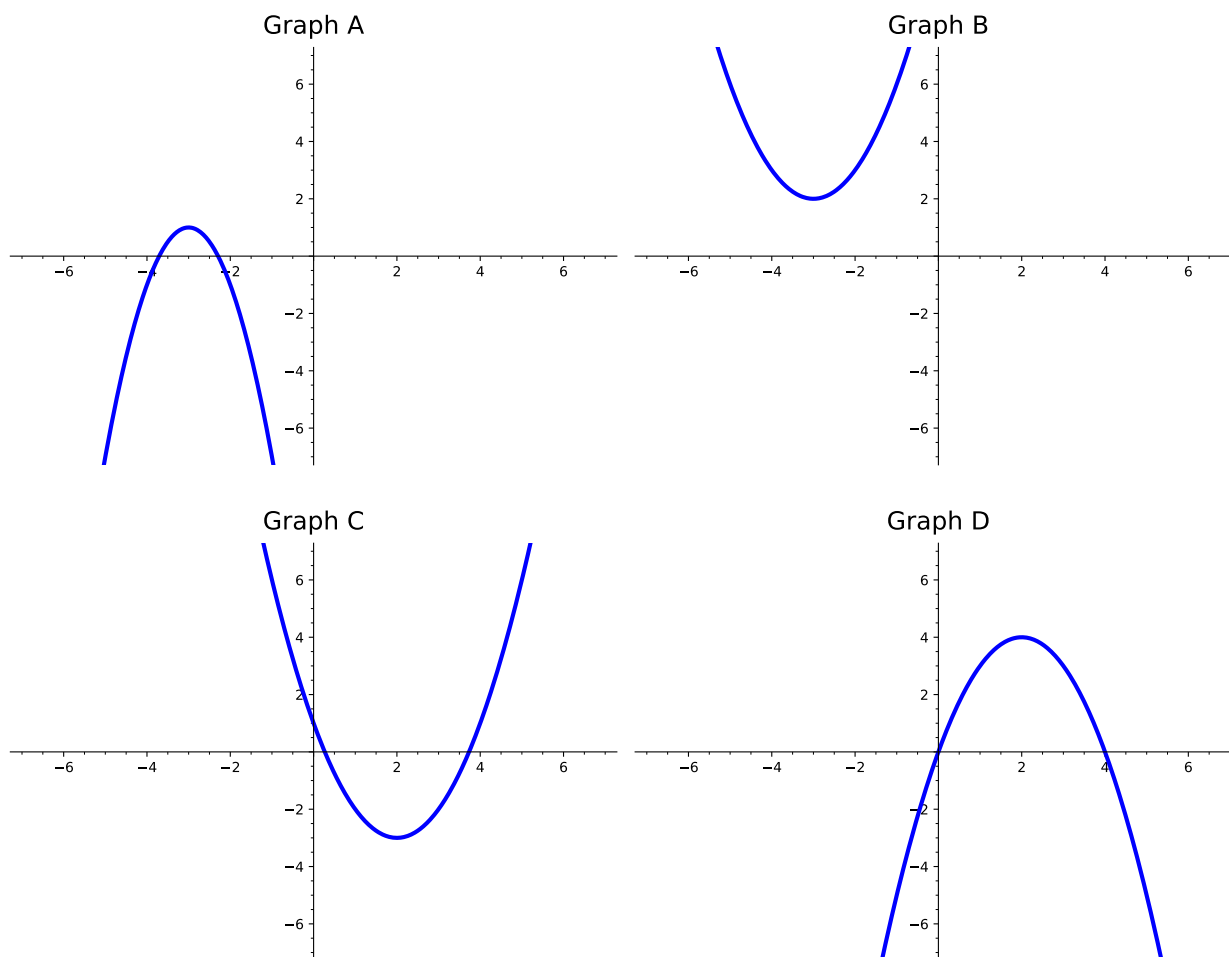
(a) Which of the following quadratic functions could be the graph shown in the figure?

- A. $f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 3$
- B. $f(x) = -(x + 1)^2 + 4$
- C. $f(x) = -x^2 - 2x + 3$
- D. $f(x) = (x + 1)^2 + 4$

(b) What is the maximum or minimum value?

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| A. -1 | C. -3 |
| B. 4 | D. 1 |

Activity 4.1.10 Consider the following four graphs of quadratic functions:



(a) Which of the graphs above have a maximum?

A. Graph A

C. Graph C

B. Graph B

D. Graph D

(b) Which of the graphs above have a minimum?

A. Graph A

C. Graph C

B. Graph B

D. Graph D

(c) Which of the graphs above have an axis of symmetry at $x = 2$?

A. Graph A

C. Graph C

B. Graph B

D. Graph D

(d) Which of the graphs above represents the function $f(x) = -(x - 2)^2 + 4$?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A. Graph A | C. Graph C |
| B. Graph B | D. Graph D |

(e) Which of the graphs above represents the function $f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 1$?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A. Graph A | C. Graph C |
| B. Graph B | D. Graph D |

Remark 4.1.11 Notice that the maximum or minimum value of the quadratic function is the y -value of the vertex. How can you determine if the vertex is a maximum or minimum?

Activity 4.1.12 A function $f(x)$ has a maximum value at 7 and its axis of symmetry at $x = -2$.

- (a) Sketch a graph of a function that meets the criteria for $f(x)$.
- (b) Was your graph the only possible answer? Try to sketch another graph that meets this criteria.

Remark 4.1.13 Other points, such as x - and y -intercepts, may be helpful in sketching a more accurate graph of a quadratic function.

Activity 4.1.14 Consider the following two quadratic functions $f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 20$ and $g(x) = 2x^2 - 8x + 24$ and answer the following questions:

- (a) Applying [Definition 4.1.7](#), what is the vertex and axis of symmetry of $f(x)$?
- | |
|---|
| A. vertex: $(2, -16)$; axis of symmetry: $x = 2$ |
| B. vertex: $(-2, 16)$; axis of symmetry: $x = -2$ |
| C. vertex: $(-2, -16)$; axis of symmetry: $x = -2$ |
| D. vertex: $(2, 16)$; axis of symmetry: $x = 2$ |
- (b) Applying [Definition 4.1.7](#), what is the vertex and axis of symmetry of $g(x)$?
- | |
|---|
| A. vertex: $(2, -16)$; axis of symmetry: $x = 2$ |
| B. vertex: $(-2, 16)$; axis of symmetry: $x = -2$ |
| C. vertex: $(-2, -16)$; axis of symmetry: $x = -2$ |
| D. vertex: $(2, 16)$; axis of symmetry: $x = 2$ |
- (c) What do you notice about $f(x)$ and $g(x)$?
- (d) Now graph both $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ and draw a sketch of each graph on one coordinate plane. How are they similar/different?

4.1.2 Exercises

Exercises available at <https://teambasedinquirylearning.github.io/precalculus/2024/exercises/>

[#/bank/PR1/](#).

4.1.3 Videos

It would be great to include videos down here, like in the Calculus book!

4.2 Quadratic Models and Meanings (PR2)

Objectives

- Use quadratic models to solve an application problem and establish conclusions.

4.2.1 Activities

Observation 4.2.1 Objects launched into the air follow a path that can be described by a quadratic function. We can also use quadratic functions to model area, profit, and population. Knowing the key components of a quadratic function allow us to find maximum profit, the point where an object hits the ground, or how much of an object to make for a minimum cost.

Activity 4.2.2 A water balloon is tossed vertically from a fifth story window. It's height $h(t)$, in feet, at a time t , in seconds, is modeled by the function

$$h(t) = -16t^2 + 40t + 50$$

- (a) Complete the following table. Do all the values have meaning in terms of the model?

Table 4.2.3

t	$h(t)$
0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

- (b) Compute the slope of the line joining $t = 0$ and $t = 1$. Then, compute the slope of the line joining $t = 1$ and $t = 2$. What do you notice about the slopes?
- (c) What is the meaning of $h(0) = 50$?
- the initial height of the water balloon is 50 feet.
 - the water balloon reaches a maximum height of 50 feet.
 - the water balloon hits the ground after 50 seconds.
 - the water balloon travels 50 feet before hitting the ground.

(d) Find the vertex of the quadratic function.

A. $(0, 50)$

C. $(1.25, 75)$

B. $(1, 74)$

D. $(3.4, 0)$

(e) What is the meaning of the vertex?

A. The water balloon reaches a maximum height of 50 feet at the start.

B. After 1 second, the water balloon reaches a maximum height of 74 feet.

C. After 1.25 seconds, the water balloon reaches the maximum height.

D. After 3.5 seconds, the water balloon hits the ground.

Activity 4.2.4 The population of a small city is given by the function $P(t) = -50t^2 + 1200t + 32000$, where t is the number of years after 2015.

(a) When will the population of the city reach a maximum?

A. 2020

C. 2025

B. 2022

D. 2027

(b) Determine when the population of the city is increasing and when it is decreasing.

(c) When will the population of the city reach 36,000 people?

A. 2019

C. 2027

B. 2025

D. 2035

Activity 4.2.5 The unit price of an item affects its supply and demand. That is, if the unit price increases, the demand for the item will usually decrease. For example, an online streaming service currently has 84 million subscribers at a monthly charge of \$6. Market research has suggested that if the owners raise the price to \$8, they would lose 4 million subscribers. Assume that subscriptions are linearly related to the price.

(a) Which of the following represents a linear function which relates the price of the streaming service p to the number of subscribers Q ?

A. $Q(p) = -2p$

C. $Q(p) = -2p - 4$

B. $Q(p) = -2p + 84$

D. $Q(p) = -2p + 96$

(b) Using the fact that Revenue = pQ , which of the following represents the Revenue R in terms of the price p .

A. $R(p) = -2p^2$

C. $R(p) = -2p^2 - 4p$

B. $R(p) = -2p^2 + 84p$

D. $R(p) = -2p^2 + 96p$

(c) What price should the streaming service charge for a monthly subscription to maximize their revenue?

A. \$10

C. \$24

B. \$19.50

D. \$28.25

(d) How many subscribers would the company have at this price?

A. 39.5 million

C. 57 million

B. 48 million

D. 76 million

(e) What is the maximum revenue?

A. 760 million

C. 1152 million

B. 1112 million

D. 1116 million

Activity 4.2.6 The owner of a ranch decides to enclose a rectangular region with 240 feet of fencing. To help the fencing cover more land, he plans to use one side of his barn as part of the enclosed region. What is the maximum area the rancher can enclose?

4.2.2 Exercises

Exercises available at <https://teambasedinquirylearning.github.io/precalculus/2024/exercises/#/bank/PR2/>.

4.2.3 Videos

Coming eventually.....

4.3 Polynomial Long Division (PR3)

Objectives

- Rewrite a rational function as a polynomial plus a proper rational function.

4.3.1 Activities

Activity 4.3.1

(a) Use long division to find the quotient and remainder when 346 is divided by 17.

A. quotient 20, remainder 3

B. quotient 20, remainder 6

C. quotient 6, remainder 20

D. quotient 6, remainder 3

(b) What is the divisor?

A. 3

B. 17

C. 20

D. 6

(c) Now write the answer as a mixed number.

A. $20 + \frac{3}{17}$

B. $20 + \frac{6}{17}$

C. $6 + \frac{20}{17}$

D. $6 + \frac{3}{17}$

(d) How can you check your answer?

Activity 4.3.2 Now use long division to find the quotient and remainder.

(a) Simplify the following rational expression using factoring. $f(x) = \frac{x^2+2x-8}{x+4}$

A. $x + 4$

B. $x - 4$

C. $x - 2$

D. $x + 2$

(b) What is the quotient?

A. $x + 4$

B. $x - 4$

C. $x - 2$

D. $x + 2$

(c) What is the remainder?

A. $x + 4$

B. $x - 4$

C. $x - 2$

D. 0

Activity 4.3.3 Repeat this process, using long division, given $f(x) = \frac{6x^2+5x-10}{2x+3}$.

(a) What is the result when $6x^2$ is divided by $2x$? Place this number at the top left when doing long division.

- A. 3
- B. $3x$
- C. $3x^2$

(b) Next, multiply this result by $2x + 3$ and write this below $6x^2 + 5x - 10$. Be sure to line up like terms in the same column. What is the result?

- A. $6x + 9$
- B. $6x^2 + 9x$
- C. $6x^3 + 9x^2$

(c) Now subtract the like terms by placing them in the corresponding columns.

- A. $6x^2 - x - 19$
- B. $-4x - 10$
- C. $-6x^3 + 5x - 10$
- D. $14x - 10$

(d) Next, divide the first term in the previous result by $2x$. Write the answer at the top beside the first answer. What is the expression at the top now?

- A. $3 - 3x^2$
- B. $3x - 2$
- C. $3x^2 - 3x^2$
- D. $3x + 7$

(e) Multiply this resulting term by $2x + 3$ and write that answer in the proper columns of like terms. What is this result?

- A. $-6x^3 - 9x^2$
- B. $-4x - 6$
- C. $14x + 21$

(f) Subtract the like terms. This is the remainder. What is the remainder?

- A. $-6x^3 - 9x^2 - 4x - 10$
- B. -4
- C. $-18x - 31$

(g) What is the quotient?

A. $3 - 3x^2$

B. $3x - 2$

C. 0

D. $3x + 7$

(h) How can you check your answer? (Hint: Think of regular long division with positive integers.)

Activity 4.3.4 Using long division, find the quotient and remainder for the given rational function. Rewrite the function as a polynomial plus a proper rational function, given $f(x) = \frac{3x^5 - 5x^2 + 2}{x^2 + x - 1}$.

(a) What is the quotient?

(b) What is the remainder?

(c) What is the divisor?

(d) Write the rational function as a polynomial plus a proper rational function.

(e) How can you check your answer? (Hint: Think of regular long division with positive integers.)

Activity 4.3.5 Using long division, find the quotient and remainder for the given rational function, $f(x) = \frac{3x^4 - 5x^2 + 2}{x - 1}$.

(a) What is the quotient?

(b) What is the remainder?

(c) How can you check your answer? (Hint: Think of regular long division with positive integers.)

Activity 4.3.6 Using synthetic division, find the quotient and remainder for the given rational function. $f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 2x - 8}{x + 4}$

(a) Write only the coefficients of the numerator in a row.

(b) Set the denominator equal to zero and solve for x. Place this number out in front, in the far left corner.

(c) Make 3 rows and drop the 1st coefficient down from the top row to the bottom row.

(d) Now multiply the number in the top left corner by the first coefficient and place this number under the 2nd coefficient.

(e) Add the numbers in the 2nd column and write the result in the same column, third row.

- (f) Repeat the process with the resulting number. Multiply this number by the number in the upper left corner. Place it in the 2nd row, third column. Add the numbers in the third column and place this in the third row and column. What number did you get?

- A. 1
- B. -2
- C. 0
- D. -4

How do the numbers in the third row relate to Activity 4.3.2?

Activity 4.3.7 Now use synthetic division, to find the quotient and remainder for the given rational function. $f(x) = \frac{x^3+2x^2-3x+4}{x-2}$

- (a) What is the quotient?

- A. $x^2 - 3$
- B. $x^3 + 2x - 3x + 4$
- C. $x^2 + 4x + 5$
- D. 5

- (b) What is the remainder?

- A. 14
- B. -10
- C. 5
- D. 6

4.3.2 Exercises

Exercises available at <https://teambasedinquirylearning.github.io/precalculus/2024/exercises/#/bank/PR3/>.

4.3.3 Videos

It would be great to include videos down here, like in the Calculus book!

4.4 Zeroes of Polynomial Functions (PR4)

Objectives

- Determine the zeros of a real polynomial function, write a polynomial function given information about its zeros and their multiplicities, and apply the Factor Theorem and the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra.

4.4.1 Activities

Theorem 4.4.1 Factor Theorem. *A number c is a zero of a polynomial function $f(x)$ if and only if $x-c$ is a factor of $f(x)$.*

Theorem 4.4.2 Fundamental Theorem of Algebra. *A polynomial function f of degree $n > 0$ has at least one zero.*

Activity 4.4.3 Write the polynomial function in factored form using information from the graph below.

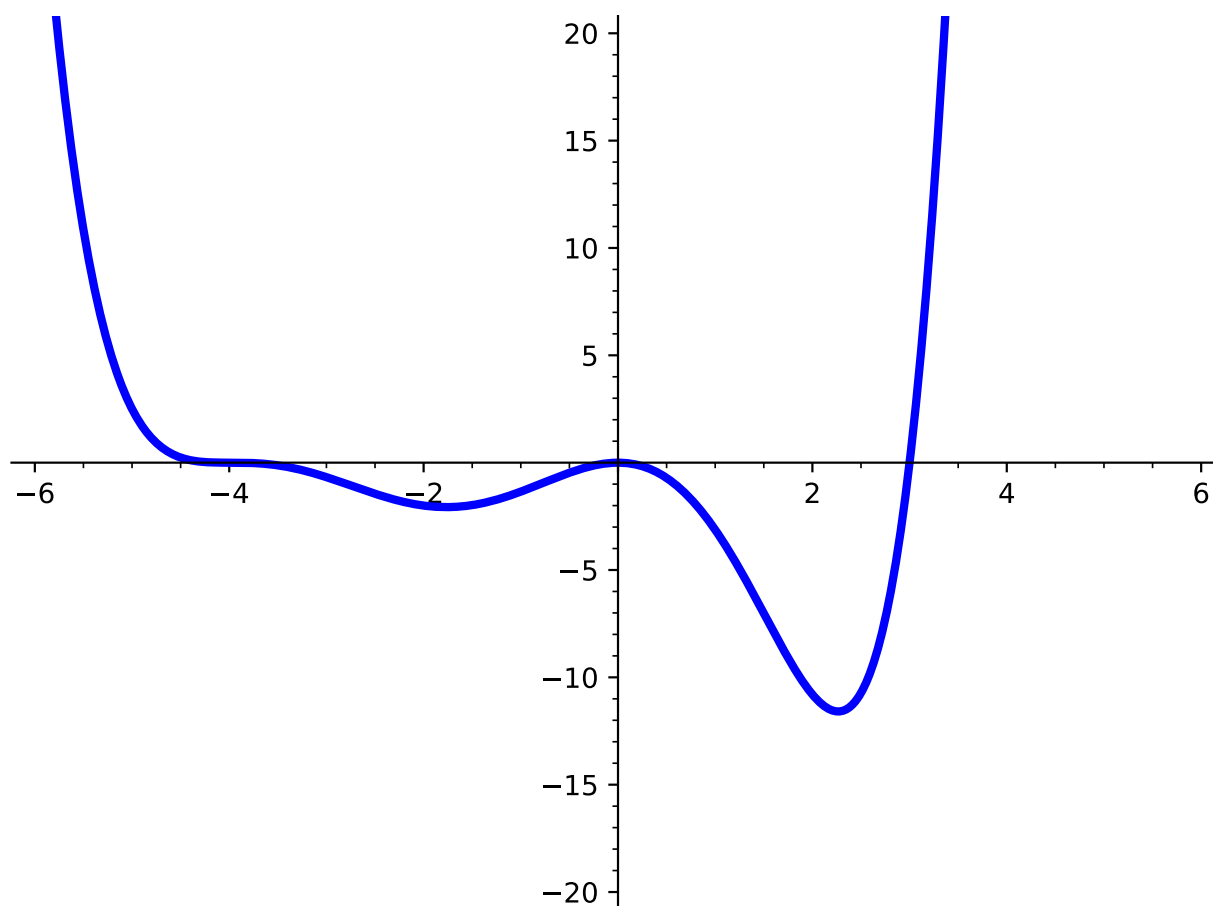


Figure 4.4.4

(a) Using the given graph, what are the real zeros of this function? Select all that apply.

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. -3
- D. 3
- E. 4
- F. -4

(b) What are the least possible multiplicities for each zero?

(c) What is the least degree of the function?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6

(d) Describe the end behavior of the graph.

- A. As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$
- B. As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$
- C. As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$
- D. As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$

(e) Combining the information from the end behavior with the degree of the function, will the leading coefficient be positive or negative?

- A. positive
- B. negative

(f) Given the point $(2, \frac{-54}{5})$ is on the curve, and using the information in parts (a) through (e), write the function for the graph above in factored form.

Activity 4.4.5 Given the function $f(x) = x^6 - 3x^4 - 2x^3$,

(a) Find all the zeros and their corresponding multiplicities.

(b) Write the function $f(x)$ in factored form using linear factors.

Activity 4.4.6 Given the function $f(x) = 2x^4 - 4x^3 + 10x^2 - 16x + 8$,

(a) Find all the zeros and their corresponding multiplicities.

(b) Write the function $f(x)$ in factored form using linear factors.

Activity 4.4.7 The zeros of a function are $x=2$, with multiplicity 1, $x=-1$, with multiplicity 2 and $x=i$.

- (a) Given the information above, find a polynomial function with real coefficients of least degree.

4.4.2 Exercises

Exercises available at <https://teambasedinquirylearning.github.io/precalculus/2024/exercises/#/bank/PR4/>.

4.4.3 Videos

It would be great to include videos down here, like in the Calculus book!

4.5 Graphs of Polynomial Functions (PR5)

Objectives

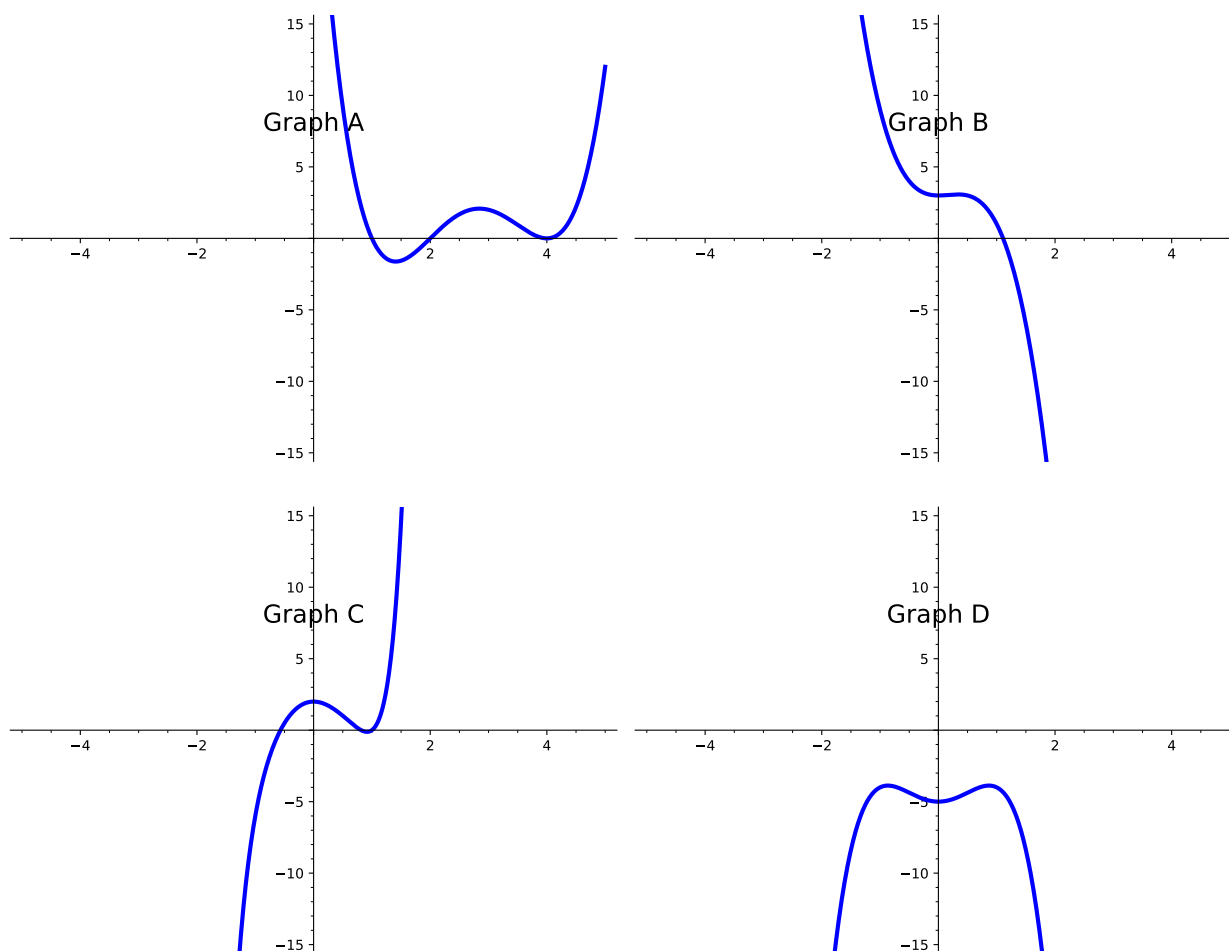
- Find the intercepts, estimated locations of maxima and minima, and end behavior of a polynomial function, and use this information to sketch the graph.

4.5.1 Activities

Remark 4.5.1 Just like with quadratic functions, we should be able to determine key characteristics that will help guide us in creating a sketch of any polynomial function. We can start by finding both x and y -intercepts and then explore other characteristics polynomial functions can have. Recall that the **zeros** of a function are the **x -intercepts** - i.e., the values of x that cross or touch the x -axis. Just like with quadratic functions, we can find the zeros of a function by setting the function equal to 0 and solving for x .

Definition 4.5.2 The **end behavior** of a polynomial function describes the behavior of the graph at the "ends" of the function. In other words, as we move to the right of the graph (as the x values increase), what happens to the y values? Similarly, as we move to the left of the graph (as the x values decrease), what happens to the y values? \diamond

Activity 4.5.3 Use the graphs of the following polynomial functions to answer the questions below.



(a) How would you describe the behavior of Graph A as you approach the ends?

- A. Graph A rises on the left and on the right.
- B. Graph A rises on the left, but falls on the right.
- C. Graph A rises on the right, but falls on the left.
- D. Graph A falls on the left and on the right.

(b) How would you describe the behavior of Graph B as you approach the ends?

- A. Graph B rises on the left and on the right.
- B. Graph B rises on the left, but falls on the right.
- C. Graph B rises on the right, but falls on the left.
- D. Graph B falls on the left and on the right.

(c) How would you describe the behavior of Graph C as you approach the ends?

- A. Graph C rises on the left and on the right.
- B. Graph C rises on the left, but falls on the right.

C. Graph C rises on the right, but falls on the left.

D. Graph C falls on the left and on the right.

(d) How would you describe the behavior of Graph D as you approach the ends?

A. Graph D rises on the left and on the right.

B. Graph D rises on the left, but falls on the right.

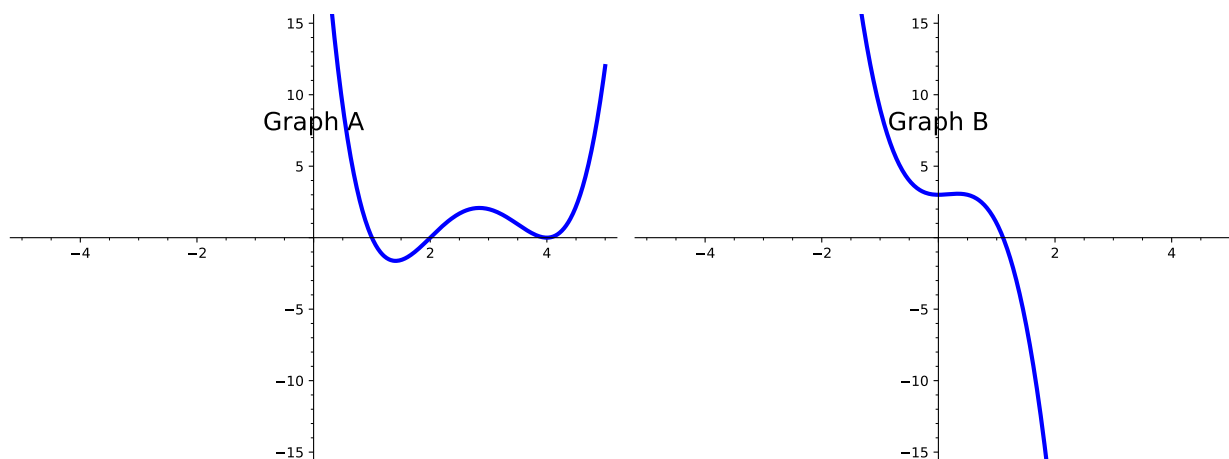
C. Graph D rises on the right, but falls on the left.

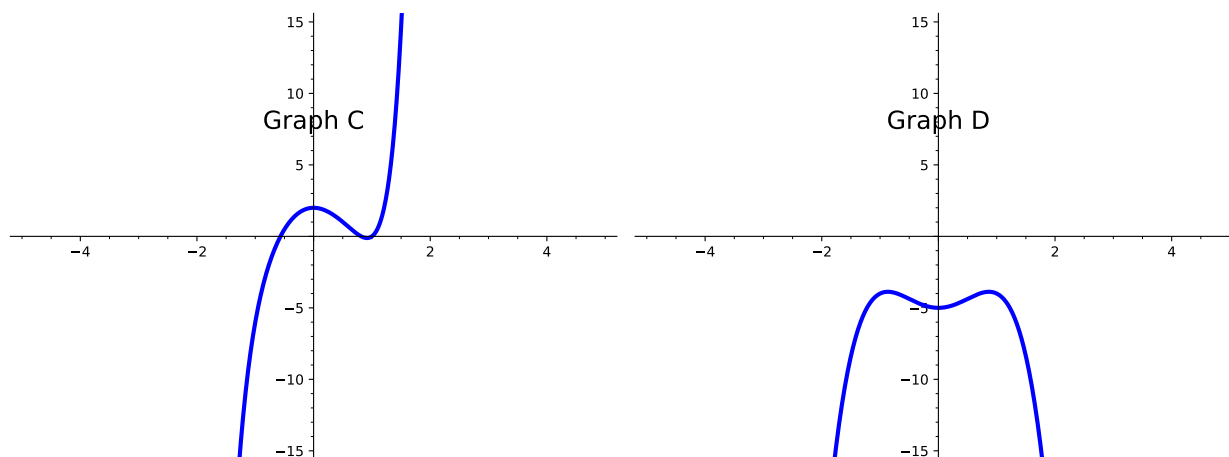
D. Graph D falls on the left and on the right.

Definition 4.5.4 Typically, when given an equation of a polynomial function, we look at the **degree** and **leading coefficient** to help us determine the behavior of the ends. The **degree** is the highest exponential power in the polynomial. The **leading coefficient** is the number written in front of the variable with the highest exponential power. \diamond

Activity 4.5.5 Let's refer back to the graphs in [Activity 4.5.3](#) and look at the equations of those polynomial functions. Let's apply [Definition 4.5.4](#) to see if we can determine how the degree and leading coefficients of those graphs affect their end behavior.

- Graph A: $f(x) = -11x^3 + 32 + 42x^2 + x^4 - 64x$
- Graph B: $g(x) = 2x^2 + 3 - 4x^3$
- Graph C: $h(x) = x^7 + 2x^3 - 5x^2 + 2$
- Graph D: $j(x) = 3x^2 - 2x^4 - 5$





- (a) What is the degree and leading coefficient of Graph A?
- Degree: -64 ; Leading Coefficient: 4
 - Degree: 4 ; Leading Coefficient: 0
 - Degree: 1 ; Leading Coefficient: -64
 - Degree: 4 ; Leading Coefficient: 1
- (b) What is the degree and leading coefficient of Graph B?
- Degree: 3 ; Leading Coefficient: -4
 - Degree: -4 ; Leading Coefficient: 3
 - Degree: 2 ; Leading Coefficient: 3
 - Degree: 3 ; Leading Coefficient: 4
- (c) What is the degree and leading coefficient of Graph C?
- Degree: -5 ; Leading Coefficient: 2
 - Degree: 0 ; Leading Coefficient: 7
 - Degree: -5 ; Leading Coefficient: 3
 - Degree: 7 ; Leading Coefficient: 1
- (d) What is the degree and leading coefficient of Graph D?
- Degree: -2 ; Leading Coefficient: 4
 - Degree: 3 ; Leading Coefficient: 2
 - Degree: -2 ; Leading Coefficient: 4
 - Degree: -5 ; Leading Coefficient: 4
- (e) Notice that Graph A and Graph D have their ends going in the same direction. What conjectures can you make about the relationship between their degrees and leading coefficients with the behavior of their graphs?

- (f) Notice that Graph B and Graph C have their ends going in opposite directions. What conjectures can you make about the relationship between their degrees and leading coefficients with the behavior of their graphs?

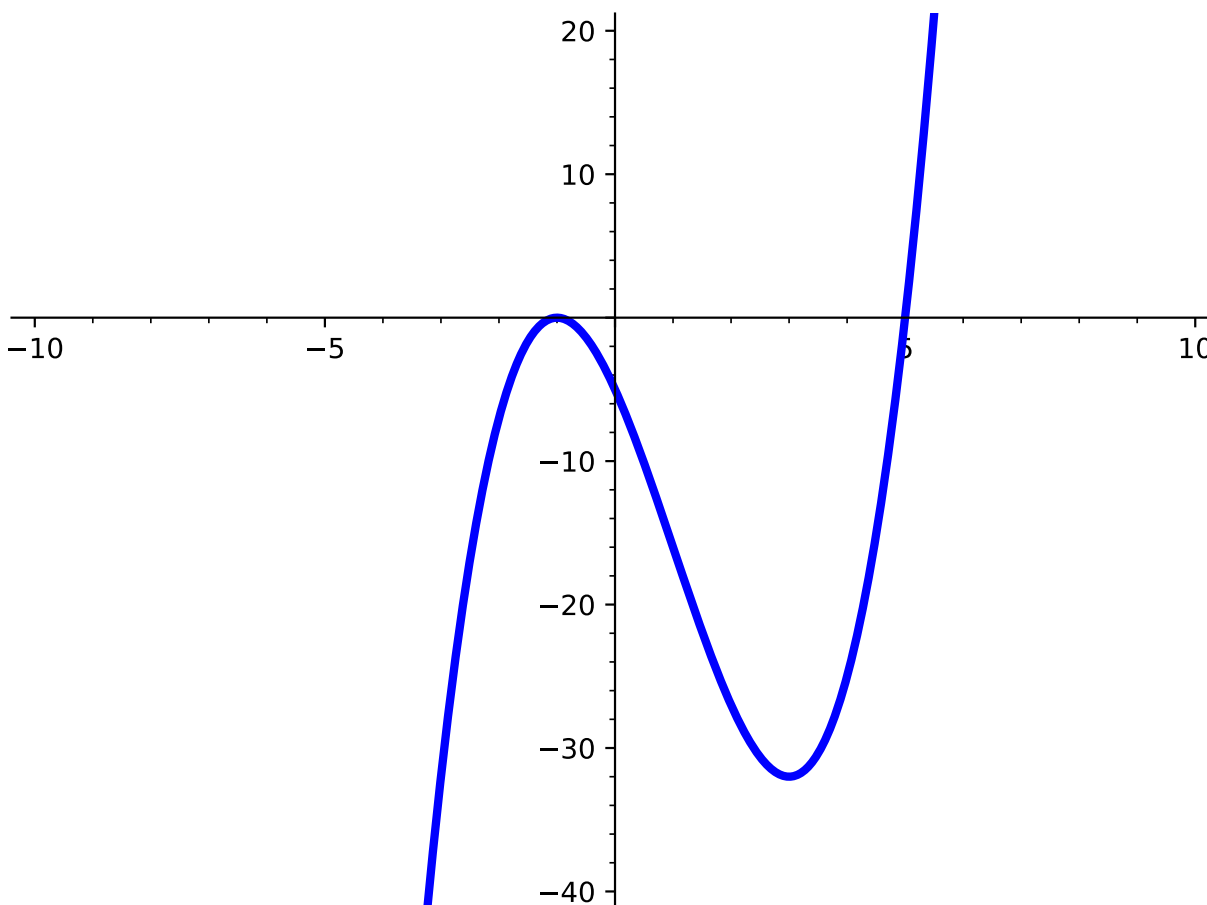
Remark 4.5.6 From [Activity 4.5.5](#), we saw that the degree and leading coefficient of a polynomial function can give us more clues about the behavior of the function. In summary, we know:

- If the degree is even, the ends of the polynomial function will be going in the same direction. If the leading coefficient is positive, both ends will be pointing up. If the leading coefficient is negative, both ends will be pointing down.
- If the degree is odd, the ends of the polynomial function will be going in opposite directions. If the leading coefficient is positive, the left end will fall and the right end will rise. If the leading coefficient is negative, the left end will rise and the right end will fall.

Definition 4.5.7 When describing end behavior, mathematicians typically use **arrow notation**. Just as the name suggests, arrows are used to indicate the behavior of certain values on a graph.

For end behavior, students are often asked to determine the behavior of y -values as x -values either increase or decrease. The statement "As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$ " can be translated to "As x approaches infinity (or as x increases), $f(x)$ (or the y -values) go to negative infinity (i.e., it decreases)." \diamond

Activity 4.5.8 Use the graph of $f(x)$ to answer the questions below.

**Figure 4.5.9**

(a) How would you describe the end behavior of $f(x)$?

- A. $f(x)$ rises on the left and on the right.
- B. $f(x)$ rises on the left, but falls on the right.
- C. $f(x)$ rises on the right, but falls on the left.
- D. $f(x)$ falls on the left and on the right.

(b) How would you describe the end behavior of $f(x)$ using arrow notation?

- A. As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$
As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$
- B. As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$
As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$
- C. As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$
As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$
- D. As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$
As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$

Definition 4.5.10 When graphing polynomial functions, you may notice that these functions have some "hills" and "valleys." These characteristics of the graph are known as the **local maxima** and **local minima** of the graph - similar to what we've already seen with quadratic functions. Unlike quadratic functions, however, a polynomial graph can have many local maxima/minima (quadratic functions only have one). \diamond

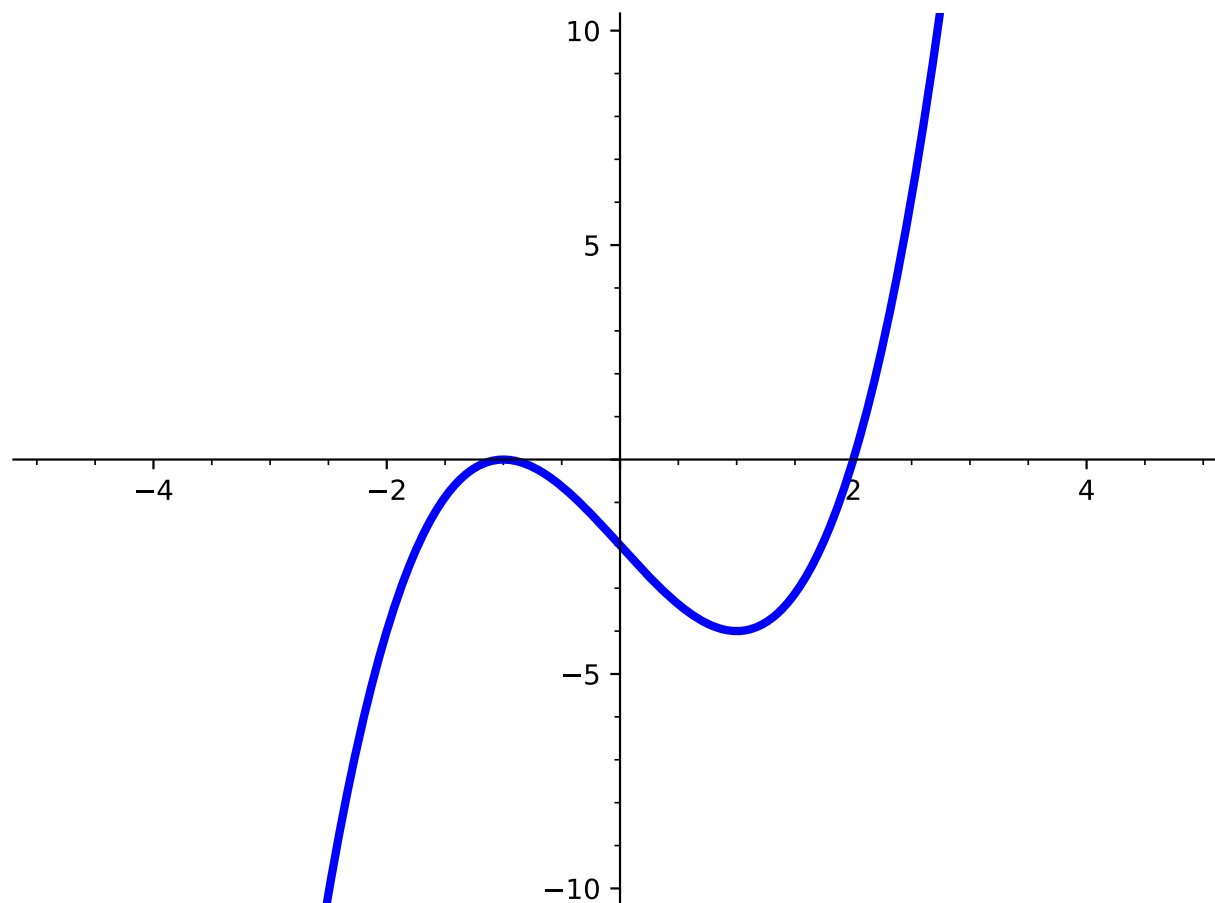
Activity 4.5.11 Sketch the function, $f(x) = (x - 2)(x + 1)(x - 3)^2$, by first finding the given characteristics.

- Find the zeros of $f(x)$.
- Find the multiplicities at each zero.
- Find the y -intercept of $f(x)$.
- Describe the end behavior of $f(x)$.
- Estimate where any local maximums and minimums may occur.

Activity 4.5.12 Sketch the graph of a function $f(x)$ that meets all of the following criteria. Be sure to scale your axes and label any important features of your graph.

- (a) The x -intercepts of $f(x)$ are 0, 2, and 5.
- (b) $f(x)$ has one maximum at 0. $f(x)$ has one minimum at -5 and another at -16 .
- (c) The end behavior of $f(x)$ is given as:
 - As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$
 - As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$

Activity 4.5.13 Now that we know all the different characteristics of polynomials, we should also be able to identify them from a graph. Use the graph below to find the given characteristics.

**Figure 4.5.14**

(a) What are the x -intercept(s) of the polynomial function? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. $(1, 0)$ | C. $(2, 0)$ |
| B. $(-1, 0)$ | D. $(0, -2)$ |

(b) What are the y -intercept(s) of the polynomial function?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. $(1, 0)$ | C. $(2, 0)$ |
| B. $(-1, 0)$ | D. $(0, -2)$ |

(c) How many zeros does this polynomial function have?

- | | |
|------|------|
| A. 0 | C. 2 |
| B. 1 | D. 3 |

(d) At what point is the local minimum located?

- A. $(2, -4)$
- B. $(-1, 0)$
- C. $(-2, 0)$
- D. $(1, -4)$
- E. $(2, 0)$

(e) At what point is the local maximum located?

- A. $(2, -4)$
- B. $(-1, 0)$
- C. $(-2, 0)$
- D. $(1, -4)$
- E. $(2, 0)$

(f) How do you describe the behavior of the polynomial function as $x \rightarrow \infty$?

- A. the y -values go to negative infinity
- B. $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$
- C. the y -values go to positive infinity
- D. $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$

(g) How do you describe the behavior of the polynomial function as $x \rightarrow -\infty$?

- A. the y -values go to negative infinity
- B. $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$
- C. the y -values go to positive infinity
- D. $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$

Activity 4.5.15 Use the given function, $f(x) = (x + 1)^2(x - 5)$, to answer the following questions.

(a) What are the zeros of $f(x)$?

- A. $-1, -5$
- B. $-1, 5$
- C. $1, -5$
- D. $1, 5$

(b) What are the multiplicities at each zero?

- A. At $x = -1$, the multiplicity is even.
At $x = 5$, the multiplicity is even.
- B. At $x = -1$, the multiplicity is even.
At $x = 5$, the multiplicity is odd.
- C. At $x = -1$, the multiplicity is odd.
At $x = 5$, the multiplicity is even.
- D. At $x = -1$, the multiplicity is odd.
At $x = 5$, the multiplicity is odd.

(c) What is the end behavior of $f(x)$?

- A. $f(x)$ rises on the left and on the right.
- B. $f(x)$ rises on the left, but falls on the right.

- C. $f(x)$ rises on the right, but falls on the left.
 - D. $f(x)$ falls on the left and on the right.
- (d) Using what you know about the zeros, multiplicities, and end behavior, where on the graph can we estimate the local maxima and minima to be?
- (e) Now look at the graph of $f(x)$. At which zero does a local maximum or local minimum occur? Explain how you know.

Remark 4.5.16 We can estimate where these local maxima and minima occur by looking at other characteristics, such as multiplicities and end behavior.

From [Activity 4.5.15](#), we saw that when the function touches the x -axis at a zero, then that zero could be either a local maximum or a local minimum of the graph. When the function crosses the x -axis, however, the local maximum or local minimum occurs between the zeros.

4.5.2 Exercises

Exercises available at <https://teambasedinquirylearning.github.io/precalculus/2024/exercises/#/bank/PR5/>.

4.5.3 Videos

It would be great to include videos down here, like in the Calculus book!

4.6 Properties and Graphs of Rational Functions (PR6)

Objectives

- Find the domain and range, vertical and horizontal asymptotes, and intercepts of a rational function and use this information to sketch the graph.

4.6.1 Activities

Definition 4.6.1 A function r is **rational** provided that it is possible to write r as the ratio of two polynomials, p and q . That is, r is rational provided that for some polynomial functions p and q , we have

$$r(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}.$$

◇

Observation 4.6.2 Rational functions occur in many applications, so our goal in this lesson is to learn about their properties and be able to graph them. In particular we want to investigate the domain, end behavior, and zeros of rational functions.

Activity 4.6.3 Consider the rational function

$$r(x) = \frac{x^2 - 3x + 2}{x^2 - 4x + 3}.$$

- (a) Find $r(1)$, $r(2)$, $r(3)$, and $r(4)$.
- (b) Label each of these four points as giving us information about the DOMAIN of $r(x)$, information about the ZEROES of $r(x)$, or NEITHER.

Definition 4.6.4 Let p and q be polynomial functions so that $r(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$ is a rational function. The **domain** of r is the set of all real numbers except those for which $q(x) = 0$.

◇

Activity 4.6.5 Let's investigate the domain of $r(x)$ more closely. We will be using the same function from the previous activity:

$$r(x) = \frac{x^2 - 3x + 2}{x^2 - 4x + 3}.$$

- (a) Rewrite $r(x)$ by factoring the numerator and denominator, but do not try to simplify any further. What do you notice about the relationship between the values that are not in the domain and how the function is now written?
- (b) The function was not defined for $x = 3$. Make a table for values of $r(x)$ near $x = 3$.

Table 4.6.6

x	$r(x)$
2	
2.9	
2.99	
2.999	
3	undefined
3.001	
3.01	
3.1	

- (c) Which of the following describe the behavior of the graph near $x = 3$?
 - A. As $x \rightarrow 3$, $r(x)$ approaches a finite number
 - B. As $x \rightarrow 3$ from the left, $r(x) \rightarrow \infty$
 - C. As $x \rightarrow 3$ from the left, $r(x) \rightarrow -\infty$
 - D. As $x \rightarrow 3$ from the right, $r(x) \rightarrow \infty$
 - E. As $x \rightarrow 3$ from the right, $r(x) \rightarrow -\infty$
- (d) The function was also not defined for $x = 1$. Make a table for values of $r(x)$ near $x = 1$.

Table 4.6.7

x	$r(x)$
0	
0.9	
0.99	
0.999	
1	undefined
1.001	
1.01	
1.1	

(e) Which of the following describe the behavior of the graph near $x = 1$?

- A. As $x \rightarrow 1$, $r(x)$ approaches a finite number
- B. As $x \rightarrow 1$ from the left, $r(x) \rightarrow \infty$
- C. As $x \rightarrow 1$ from the left, $r(x) \rightarrow -\infty$
- D. As $x \rightarrow 1$ from the right, $r(x) \rightarrow \infty$
- E. As $x \rightarrow 1$ from the right, $r(x) \rightarrow -\infty$

(f) The function is behaving differently near $x = 1$ than it is near $x = 3$. Can you see anything in the factored form of $r(x)$ that may help you account for the difference?

Remark 4.6.8 Features of a rational function. Let $r(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$ be a rational function.

- If $p(a) = 0$ and $q(a) \neq 0$, then $r(a) = 0$, so r has a **zero** at $x = a$.
- If $q(a) = 0$ and $p(a) \neq 0$, then $r(a)$ is undefined and r has a **vertical asymptote** at $x = a$.
- If $p(a) = 0$ and $q(a) = 0$ and we can show that there is a finite number L such that $r(x) \rightarrow L$, then $r(a)$ is not defined and r has a **hole** at the point (a, L) .

Activity 4.6.9 Another property of rational functions we want to explore is the end behavior. This means we want to explore what happens to a given rational function $r(x)$ when x goes toward positive infinity or negative infinity.

(a) Consider the rational function $r(x) = \frac{1}{x^3}$. Plug in some very large positive numbers for x to see what $r(x)$ is tending toward. Which of the following best describes the behavior of the graph as x approaches positive infinity?

- A. As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $r(x) \rightarrow \infty$.
- B. As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $r(x) \rightarrow -\infty$.
- C. As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $r(x) \rightarrow 0$.
- D. As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $r(x) \rightarrow 1$.

- (b) Now let's look at $r(x)$ as x tends toward negative infinity. Plug in some very large negative numbers for x to see what $r(x)$ is tending toward. Which of the following best describes the behavior of the graph as x approaches negative infinity?

- A. As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $r(x) \rightarrow \infty$.
- B. As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $r(x) \rightarrow -\infty$.
- C. As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $r(x) \rightarrow 0$.
- D. As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $r(x) \rightarrow 1$.

Observation 4.6.10 We can generalize what we have just found to any function of the form $\frac{1}{x^n}$, where $n > 0$. Since x^n increases without bound as $x \rightarrow \infty$, we find that $\frac{1}{x^n}$ will tend to 0. In fact, the numerator can be any constant and the function will still tend to 0!

Similarly, as $x \rightarrow -\infty$, we find that $\frac{1}{x^n}$ will tend to 0 too.

Activity 4.6.11 Consider the rational function $r(x) = \frac{3x^2-5x+1}{7x^2+2x-11}$.

Observe that the largest power of x that's present in $r(x)$ is x^2 . In addition, because of the dominant terms of $3x^2$ in the numerator and $7x^2$ in the denominator, both the numerator and denominator of r increase without bound as x increases without bound.

- (a) In order to understand the end behavior of r , we will start by writing the function in a different algebraic form.

Multiply the numerator and denominator of r by $\frac{1}{x^2}$. Then distribute and simplify as much as possible in both the numerator and denominator to write r in a different algebraic form. Which of the following is that new form?

- A. $\frac{3x^4 - 5x^3 + x^2}{7x^4 + 2x^3 - 11x^2}$
- B. $\frac{3 - \frac{5}{x} + \frac{1}{x^2}}{7 + \frac{2}{x} - \frac{11}{x^2}}$
- C. $\frac{\frac{3x^2}{x^2} - \frac{5x}{x^2} + \frac{1}{x^2}}{\frac{7x^2}{x^2} + \frac{2x}{x^2} - \frac{11}{x^2}}$

D. another wrong answer?

- (b) Now determine the end behavior of each piece of the numerator and each piece of the denominator. Hint: Use [Observation 4.6.10](#) to help!
- (c) Simplify your work from the previous step. Which of the following best describes the end behavior of $r(x)$?

- A. As $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$, $r(x)$ goes to 0.
- B. As $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$, $r(x)$ goes to $\frac{3}{7}$.
- C. As $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$, $r(x)$ goes to ∞ .
- D. As $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$, $r(x)$ goes to $-\infty$.

Observation 4.6.12 If the end behavior of a function tends toward a specific value a , then we say that the function has a **horizontal asymptote** at $y = a$.

Activity 4.6.13 Find the horizontal asymptote (if one exists) of the following rational functions. Follow the same method we used in [Activity 4.6.11](#).

(a) $f(x) = \frac{4x^3 - 3x^2 + 6}{9x^3 + 7x - 5}$

- A. $y = 0$
- B. $y = \frac{4}{9}$
- C. $y = -\frac{3}{7}$
- D. $y = -\frac{6}{5}$
- E. There is no horizontal asymptote.

(b) $g(x) = \frac{4x^3 - 3x^2 + 6}{9x^5 + 7x - 5}$

- A. $y = 0$
- B. $y = \frac{4}{9}$
- C. $y = -\frac{3}{7}$
- D. $y = -\frac{6}{5}$
- E. There is no horizontal asymptote.

(c) $h(x) = \frac{4x^5 - 3x^2 + 6}{9x^3 + 7x - 5}$

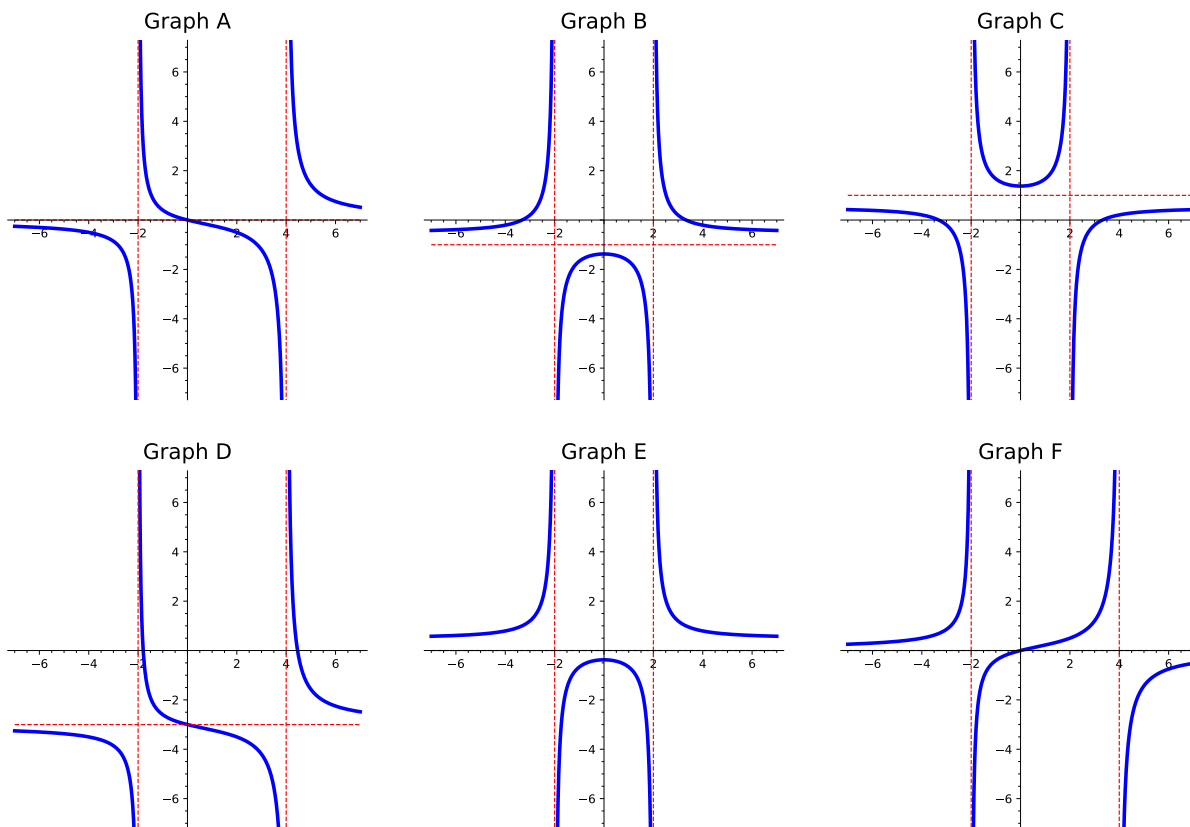
- A. $y = 0$
- B. $y = \frac{4}{9}$
- C. $y = -\frac{3}{7}$
- D. $y = -\frac{6}{5}$
- E. There is no horizontal asymptote.

Activity 4.6.14 Some patterns have emerged from the previous problem. Fill in the rest of the sentences below to describe how to find horizontal asymptotes of rational functions.

- (a) If the degree of the numerator is the same as the degree of the denominator, then...
- (b) If the degree of the numerator is less than the degree of the denominator, then...

(c) If the degree of the numerator is greater than the degree of the denominator, then...

Activity 4.6.15 Consider the following six graphs of rational functions:



(a) Which of the graphs above represents the function $f(x) = \frac{2x}{x^2-2x-8}$?

(b) Which of the graphs above represents the function $g(x) = \frac{x^2+3}{2x^2-8}$?

Activity 4.6.16 MATCHING ACTIVITY INCLUDING GRAPHS WITH HOLES

(a) QUESTIONS HERE!

Activity 4.6.17

(a) Find the roots of the rational function $f(x) = \frac{-(x-1)(x-4)}{2(x+3)^2(x-1)}$.

(b) Find the y -intercept of $y = \frac{-(x-1)(x-4)}{2(x+3)^2(x-1)}$.

(c) Find any horizontal asymptotes of $y = \frac{-(x-1)(x-4)}{2(x+3)^2(x-1)}$.

(d) Find any vertical asymptotes of $y = \frac{-(x-1)(x-4)}{2(x+3)^2(x-1)}$.

(e) Find any holes of $y = \frac{-(x-1)(x-4)}{2(x+3)^2(x-1)}$.

(f) Sketch $y = \frac{-(x-1)(x-4)}{2(x+3)^2(x-1)}$.

Activity 4.6.18 EXTENSION ACTIVITY ABOUT HOLES

(a) QUESTIONS HERE!

4.6.2 Exercises

Exercises available at <https://teambasedinquirylearning.github.io/precalculus/2024/exercises/#/bank/PR6/>.

4.6.3 Videos

It would be great to include videos down here, like in the Calculus book!

Colophon

This book was authored in PreTeXt.