

# Precalculus for Team-Based Inquiry Learning

2024 Development Edition

# Precalculus for Team-Based Inquiry Learning

## 2024 Development Edition

TBIL Fellows

Editors

Steven Clontz

University of South Alabama

Drew Lewis

Contributing Authors

Tonya DeGeorge

Georgia Gwinnett College

Abby Noble

Middle Georgia State University

Kathy Pinzon

Georgia Gwinnett College

Wendy Sheppard

College of Charleston

November 2, 2023

**Website:** [Precalculus for Team-Based Inquiry Learning](#)<sup>1</sup>

©2023 Steven Clontz and Drew Lewis

This work is freely available for noncommercial, educational purposes. For specific licensing information, including the terms for licensing of derivative works, please visit [GitHub.com/TeamBasedInquiryLearning](#)<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup>[teambasedinquirylearning.github.io/precalculus/](https://teambasedinquirylearning.github.io/precalculus/)

<sup>2</sup>[github.com/TeamBasedInquiryLearning/precalculus/blob/main/LICENSE.md](https://github.com/TeamBasedInquiryLearning/precalculus/blob/main/LICENSE.md)

# Contents

# Chapter 1

## 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:

## 1.1 Graphing Quadratic Functions (PR1)

### Objectives

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

### 1.1.1 Activities

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

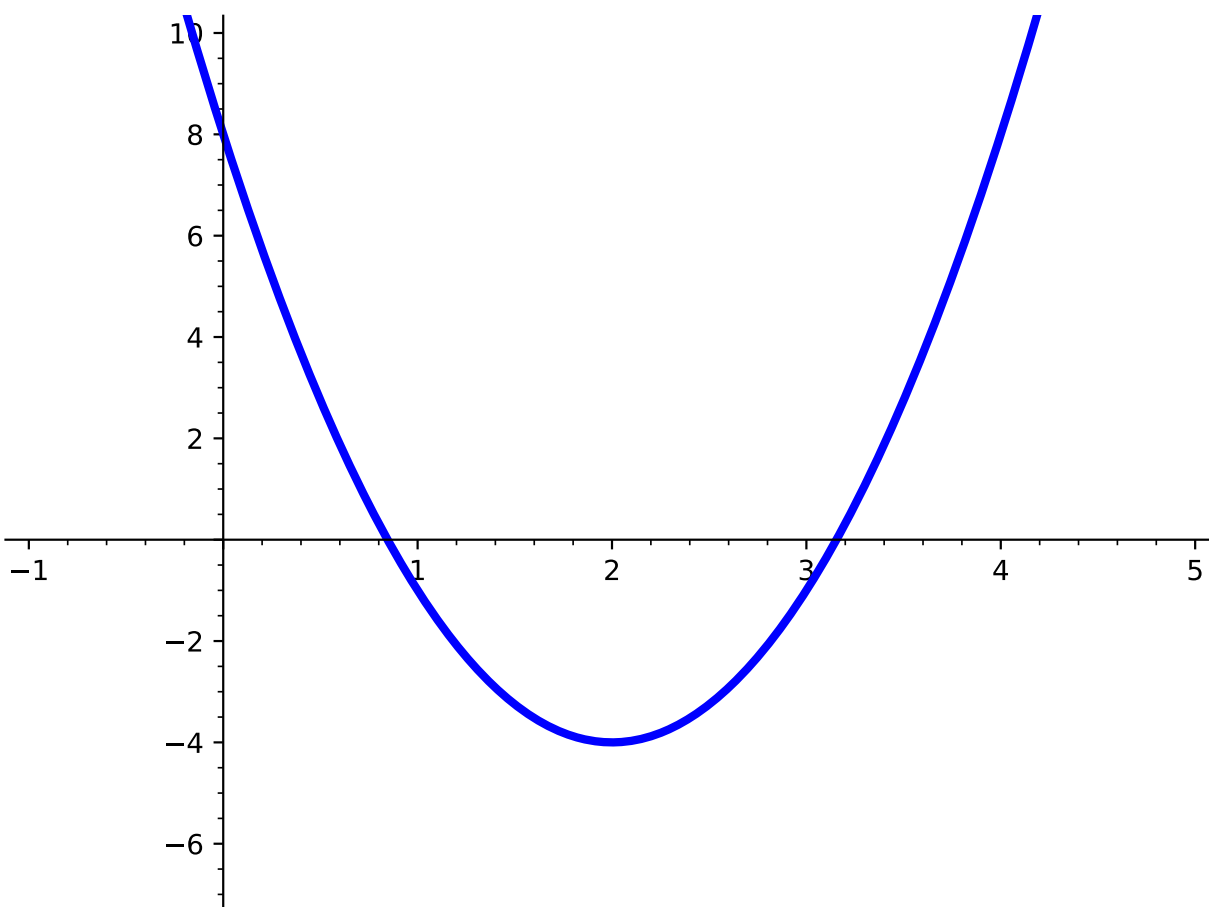


Figure 1.1.2

- (a) How would you describe the behavior of this function? 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 1.1.3**

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

- (b) At which point  $(x, y)$  does the graph reach its maximum or minimum value? How can you tell from the graph that this is the maximum or minimum value?
- (c) Look at the function given and the graph of the function. What do you notice? Is there a faster way to find the maximum or minimum value from the given function?

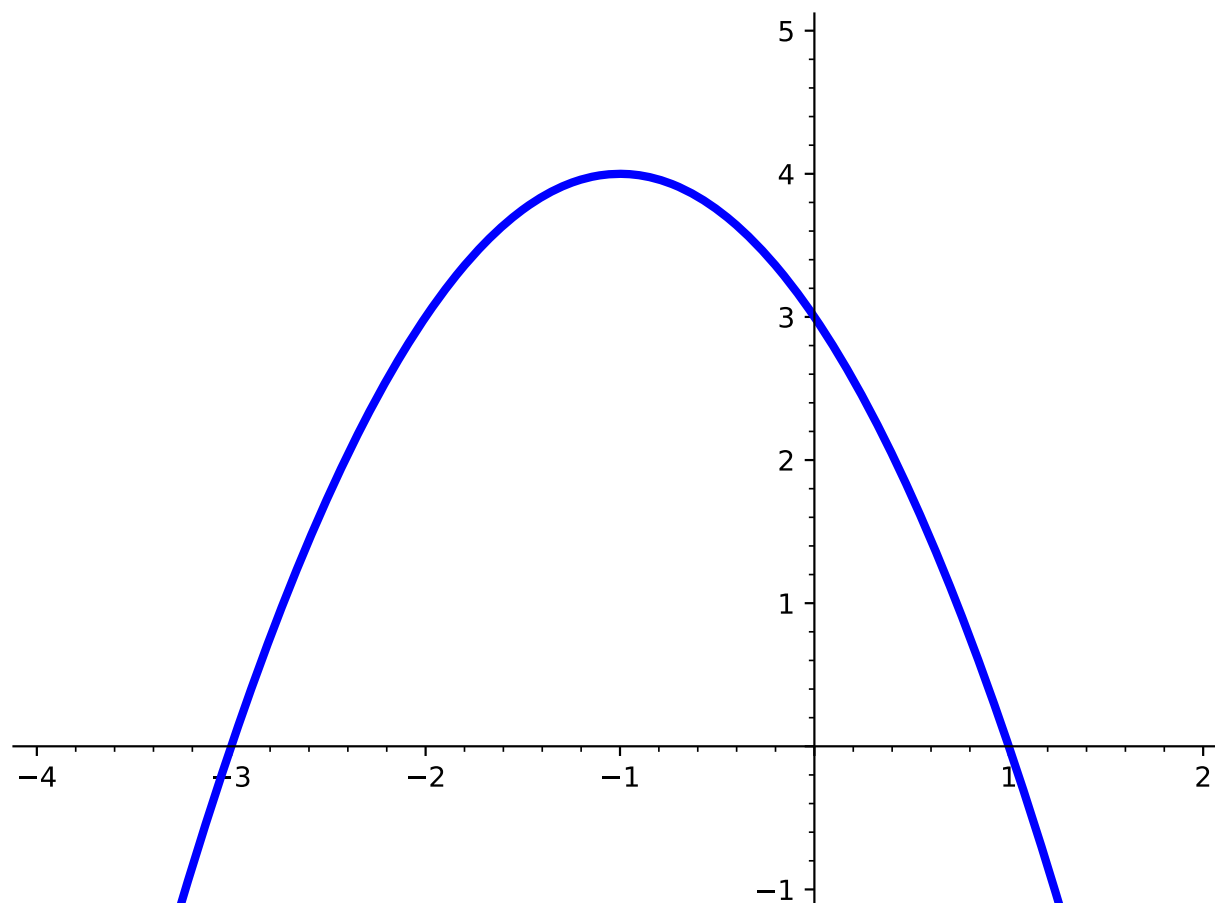
**Definition 1.1.4** The vertex form of a quadratic function is given by  $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$ , where  $(h, k)$  is the vertex of the parabola and  $x = h$  is the axis of symmetry.  $\diamond$

**Activity 1.1.5** Use the given the quadratic function,  $f(x) = 3(x - 2)^2 - 4$ , to answer the following:

- (a) Apply the definition to find the vertex of the parabola and the axis of symmetry.
- (b) Compare what you got in part a with the values you found in the previous activity. What do you notice?

**Definition 1.1.6** 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 1.1.7** Use the graph of the quadratic function to answer the questions below.

**Figure 1.1.8**

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

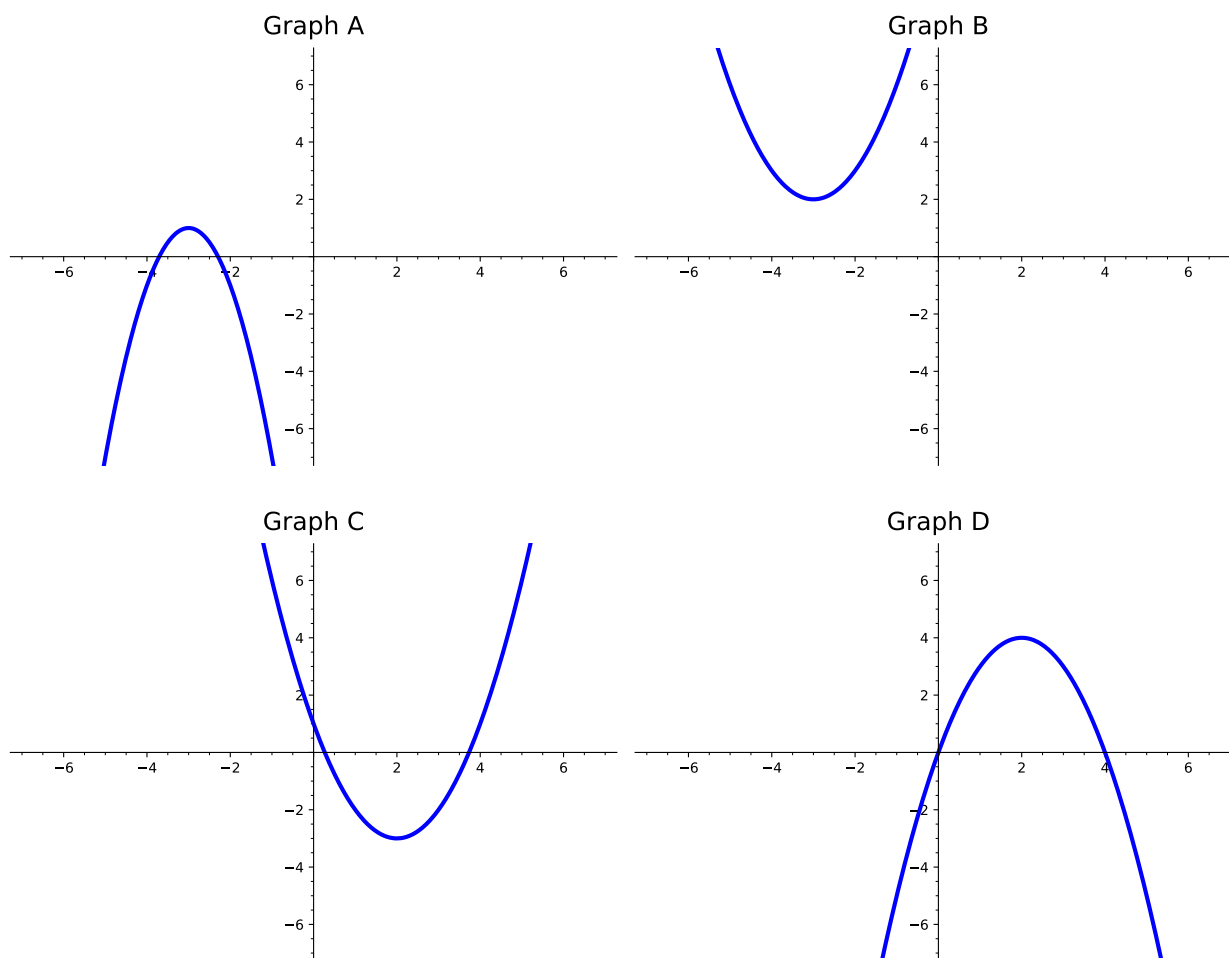
- A.  $f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 3$
- B.  $f(x) = -(x + 1)^2 + 4$
- C.  $f(x) = -x^2 - 2x + 3$
- D.  $f(x) = -(x + 1)^2 + 4$

(b) What is the maximum or minimum value?

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

**Activity 1.1.9** 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 an axis of symmetry of  $x = 2$ ?

A. Graph A

C. Graph C

B. Graph B

D. Graph D

(c) 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

(d) 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 1.1.10** Notice that the maximum or minimum value of the quadratic function is the vertex. How can you determine if the vertex is a maximum or minimum?

**Activity 1.1.11** Sketch the graph of a function  $f(x)$  that meets the following criteria:

1. The function  $f(x)$  has a maximum at 7.
2. The axis of symmetry is at  $x = -2$ .

### 1.1.2 Videos

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

## 1.2 Quadratic Models and Meanings (PR2)

### Objectives

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

### 1.2.1 Activities

Activities go here! Don't forget to put text in `<p>` tags or it won't show up.

**Activity 1.2.1** A water balloon is tossed vertically from a fifth story window. It's height  $h(t)$ , in meters, at a time  $t$ , in seconds, is modeled by the function

$$h(t) = -5t^2 + 20t + 25$$

- (a) Complete the following table.

**Table 1.2.2**

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

- (b) Explain why  $h(t)$  is not a linear function.

- (c) What is the meaning of  $h(0) = 25$ ?

- A. the initial height of the water balloon is 25 meters.
- B. the water balloon reaches a maximum height of 25 meters.
- C. the water balloon hits the ground after 25 seconds.

D. the water balloon travels 25 meters before hitting the ground.

(d) Find the vertex of the quadratic function.

A. (0, 25)

C. (5, 0)

B. (2, 45)

D. (1, 40)

(e) What is the meaning of the vertex?

A. The water balloon reaches a maximum height of 25 meters at the start.

B. After 2 seconds, the water balloon reaches a maximum height of 45 meters.

C. After 5 seconds, the water balloon reaches a maximum height.

D. After 1 second, the water balloon reaches a maximum height of 40 meters.

## 1.2.2 Videos

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

## 1.3 Polynomial Long Division (PR3)

### Objectives

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

### 1.3.1 Activities

**Activity 1.3.1** 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.)

### 1.3.2 Videos

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

## 1.4 Zeroes of Polynomial Functions (PR4)

### Objectives

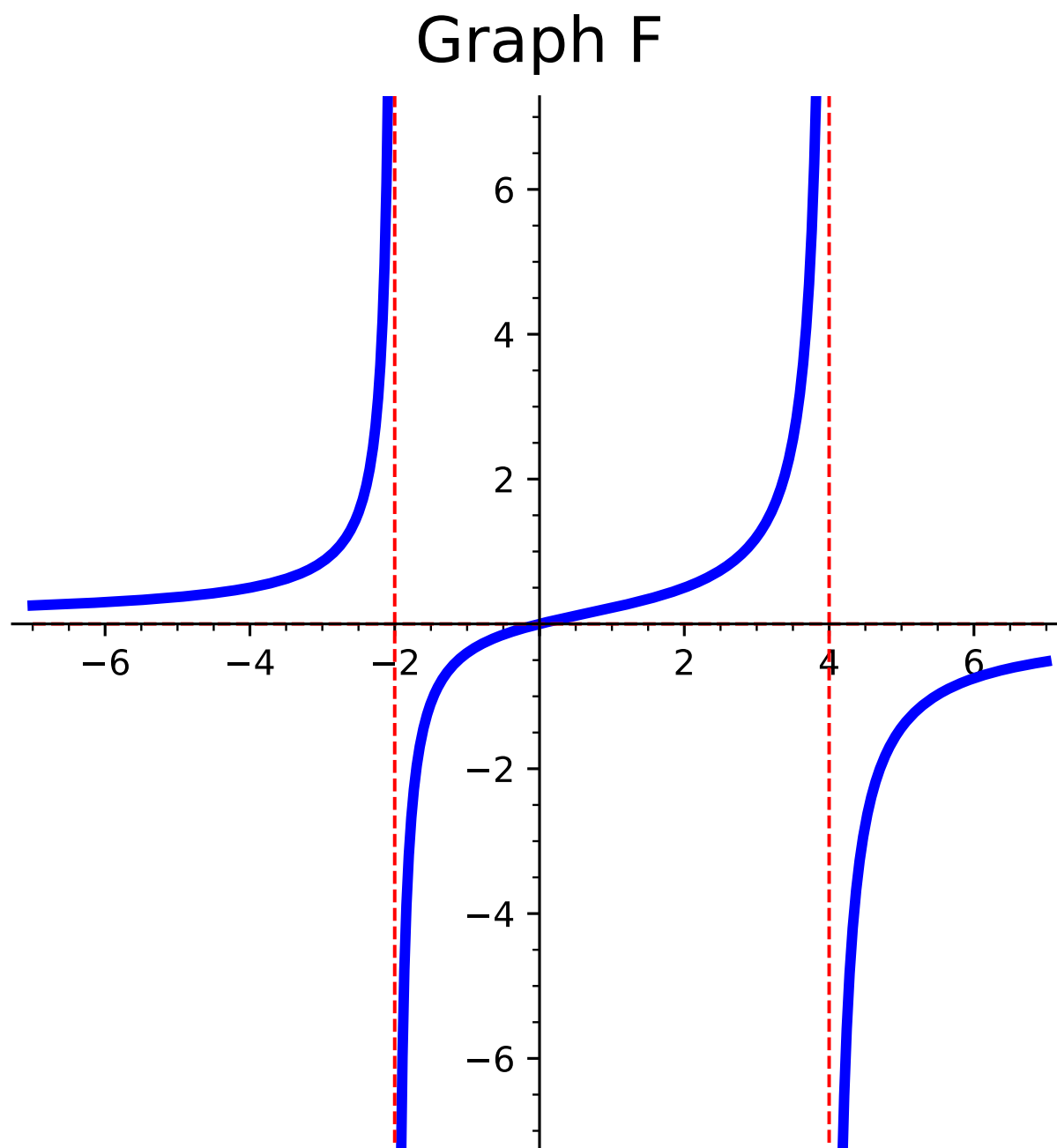
- Determine the zeros of a real polynomial function, write a polynomial function given information about its zeros and their multiplicities, and apply the Factor Theorem and the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra.

### 1.4.1 Activities

**Theorem 1.4.1 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 1.4.2 Fundamental Theorem of Algebra.** *A polynomial function  $f$  of degree  $n > 0$  has at least one zero.*

**Activity 1.4.3** Write the polynomial function in factored form using information from the graph below.

**Figure 1.4.4**

(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 in part (d) 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.

### 1.4.2 Videos

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

## 1.5 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.

### 1.5.1 Activities

Activities go here! Don't forget to put text in <p> tags or it won't show up.

**Activity 1.5.1** Activities may start with an <introduction>.

(a) Then we can ask students to do some <task>s.