Algebraic Expressions

An algebraic expression is an expression made up of **variables** and **constants** along with mathematical operators.

An algebraic expression is a sum of terms, which are considered to be building blocks for expressions.

A **term** is a product of **variables** and **constants**. A term can be an algebraic expression in itself.

Examples of a term – 3 which is just a constant.

– $2x$, which is the product of constant '2' and the variable 'x'

– $4xy$, which is the product of the constant '4' and the variables 'x' and 'y'.

– $5x^2y$, which is the product of 5, x, x and y.

The constant in each term is referred to as the **coefficient**.

Example of an algebraic expression – $3x^2y+4xy+5x+6$ – which is the sum of four terms – $3x^2y$, $4xy$, $5x$ and 6

An algebraic expression can have **any number of terms**. The **coefficient** in each term can be **any real number**. There can be **any number of variables** in an algebraic expression. The **exponent** on the variables, however, must be **rational numbers.**

Polynomial

An algebraic expression can have exponents that are **rational numbers.** However, a **polynomial** is an algebraic expression in which the exponent on any variable is a **whole number.**

$5x^3+3x+1$ is an example of a polynomial. It is an algebraic expression as well

$2x+3\sqrt{x}$ is an algebraic expression, but not a polynomial. – since the exponent on x is 1/2 which is not a whole number.

Degree of a Polynomial

For a polynomial in one variable – the **highest exponent** on the **variable** in a polynomial is the **degree** of the polynomial.

Example: The degree of the polynomial x^2+2x+3 is 2, as the highest power of *x* in the given expression is x^2.

TYPES OF POLYNOMIALS

Polynomials can be classified based on

a) Number of terms

b) Degree of the polynomial.

Types of polynomials based on the number of terms

a) **Monomial** – A polynomial with just one term. Example – $2x$, $6x^2$, $9xy$

b) **Binomial** – A polynomial with two terms. Example – $4x^2+x$, $5x+4$

a) **Trinomial** – A polynomial with three terms. Example – x^2+3x+4

Types of Polynomials based on Degree

Linear Polynomial

A polynomial whose degree is one is called a ***linear polynomial***.

For example, $2x+1$ is a linear polynomial.

Quadratic Polynomial

A polynomial of degree two is called a ***quadratic polynomial***.

For example, $3x^2+8x+5$ is a quadratic polynomial.

Cubic Polynomial

A polynomial of degree three is called a ***cubic polynomial***.

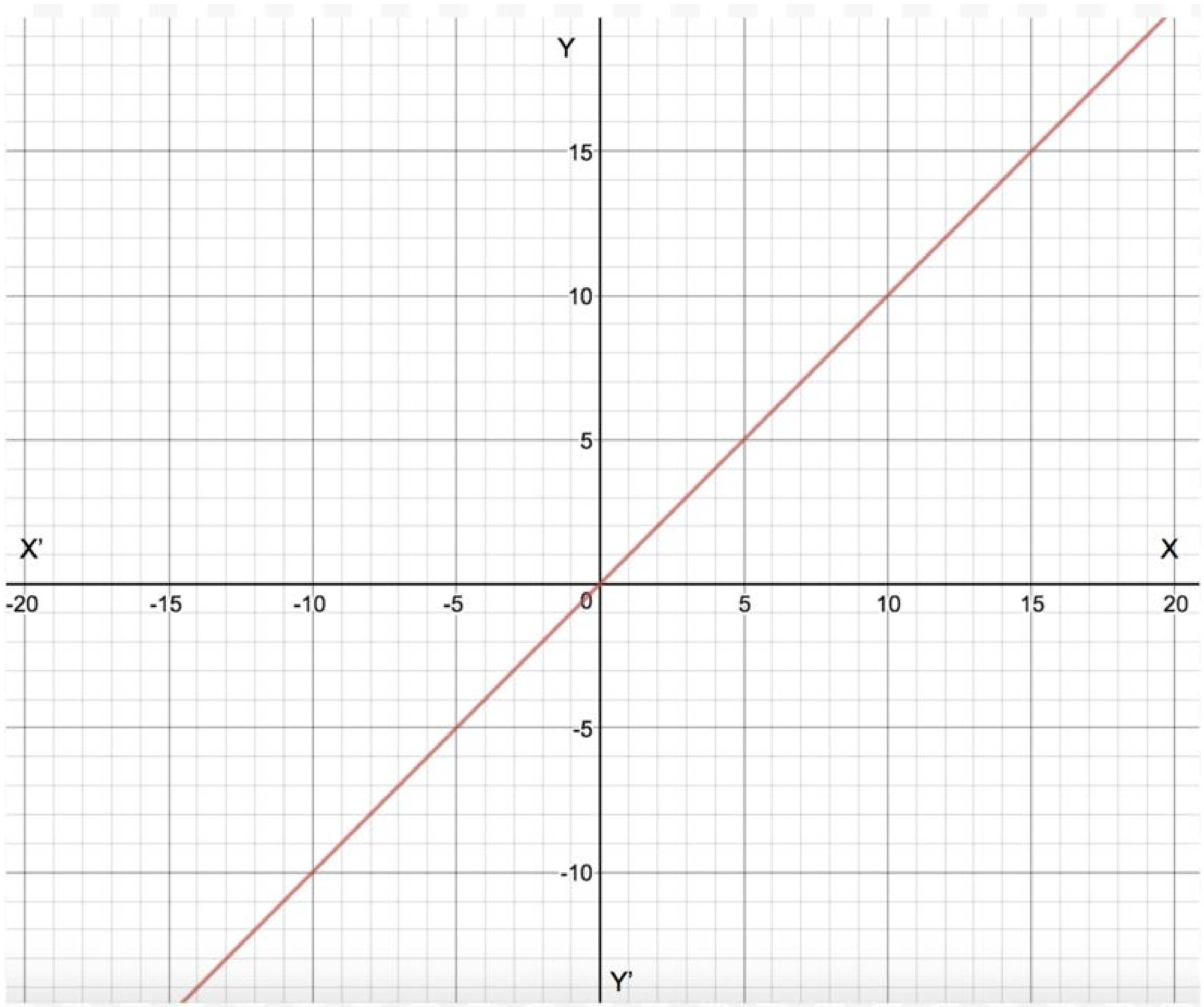
For example, $2x^3+5x^2+9x+15$ is a cubic polynomial.

Graphical Representations

Representing Equations on a Graph

Any equation can be represented as a graph on the Cartesian plane, where each point on the graph represents the x and y coordinates of the point that satisfies the equation. An equation can be seen as a constraint placed on the x and y coordinates of a point, and any point that satisfies that constraint will lie on the curve

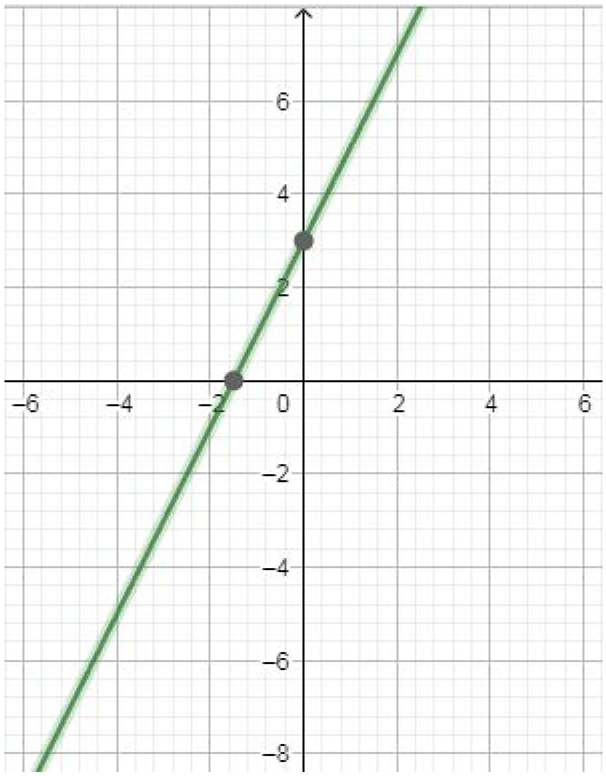
For example, the equation y = x, on a graph, will be a straight line that joins all the points which have their x coordinate equal to their y coordinate. Example – (1,1), (2,2) and so on.



Visualization of a Polynomial

Geometrical Representation of a Linear Polynomial

The graph of a linear polynomial is a straight line. It cuts the X-axis at exactly one point.



Linear graph

Geometrical Representation of a Quadratic Polynomial

- The graph of a quadratic polynomial is a parabola.
- It looks like a U which either opens upwards or opens downwards depending on the value of a in ax^2+bx+c.
- If a is positive then parabola opens upwards and if a is negative then it opens downwards.
- It can cut the x-axis at 0, 1 or two points.

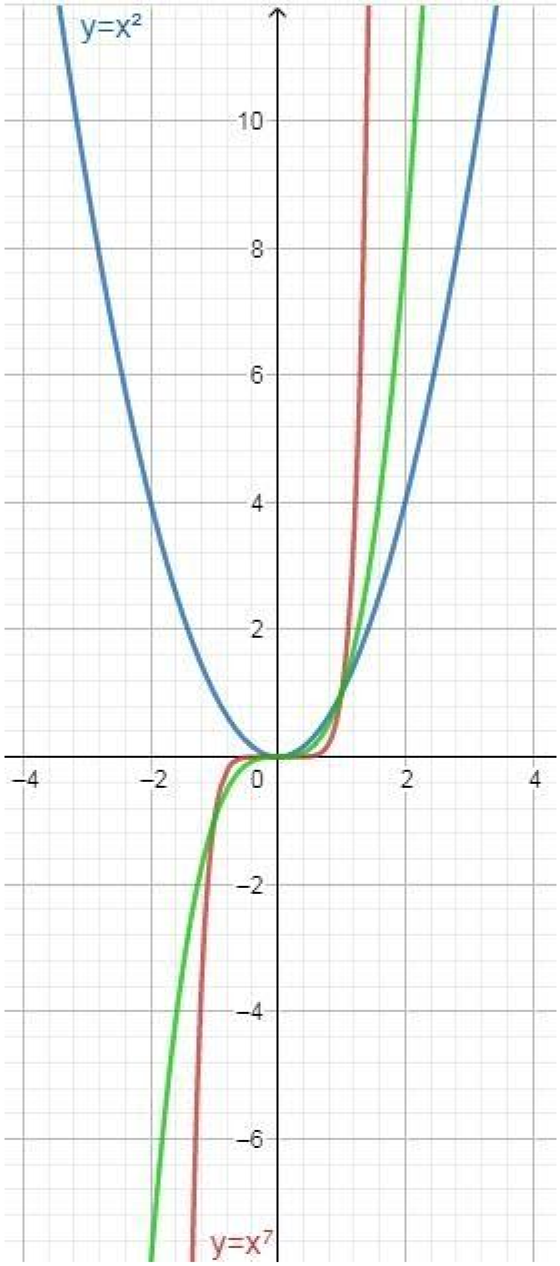
Graph of a polynomial which cuts the x-axis in two distinct points ($a>0$)
Graph of a Quadratic polynomial which touches the x-axis at one point ($a>0$)
Graph of a Quadratic polynomial that doesn't touch the x-axis ($a<0$)

Graph of the polynomial x^n

For a polynomial of the form $y=x^n$ where *n* is a whole number:

- as n increases, the graph becomes steeper or draws closer to the **Y**-axis.
- If n is odd, the graph lies in the first and third quadrants

- If n is even, the graph lies in the first and second quadrants.
- The graph of $y=-x^n$ is the reflection of the graph of $y=x^n$ on the x-axis



Graph of polynomials with different degrees.

Zeroes of a Polynomial

A zero of a polynomial **p(x)** is the value of x for which the value of p(x) is 0. If k is a zero of p(x), then **p(k)=0.**

For example, consider a polynomial $p(x)=x^2-3x+2$.

When $x=1$, the value of $p(x)$ will be equal to

$p(1)=1^2-3\times1+2$

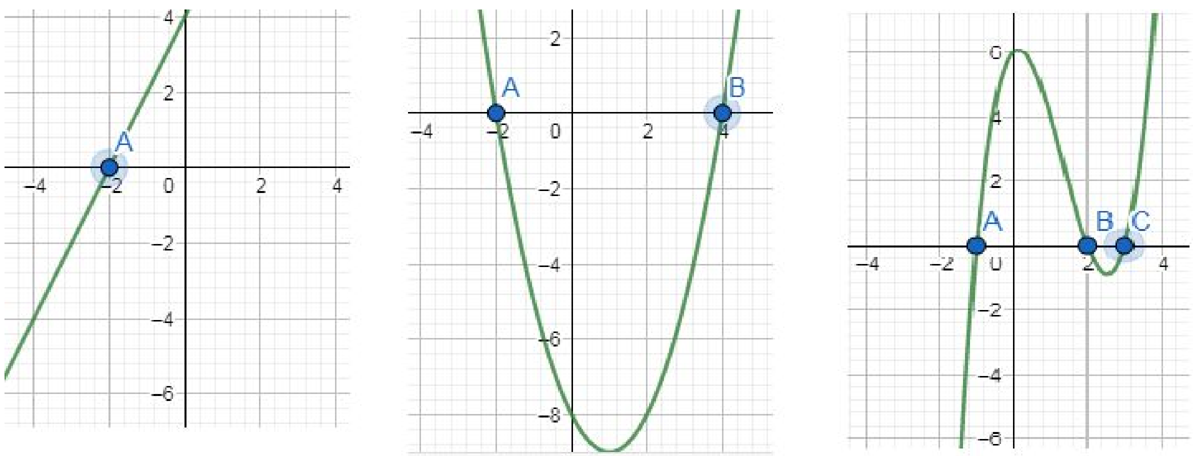
$=1-3+2$

$=0$

Since $p(x)=0$ at $x=1$, we say that 1 is a zero of the polynomial x^2-3x+2

Geometrical Meaning of Zeros of a Polynomial

Geometrically, zeros of a polynomial are the points where its graph cuts the x-axis.



(i) One zero (ii) Two zeros (iii) Three zeros

Here A, B and C correspond to the zeros of the polynomial represented by the graphs.

Number of Zeros

In general a polynomial of degree n has at most n zeros.

1. A linear polynomial has one zero,
2. A quadratic polynomial has at most two zeros.
3. A cubic polynomial has at most 3 zeros.

Factorization of Polynomials

The factorisation of Quadratic Polynomials

Quadratic polynomials can be factorized by splitting the middle term.

For example, consider the polynomial $2x^2-5x+3$

Splitting the middle term.

The middle term in the polynomial $2x^2-5x+3$ is -5. This must be expressed as a sum of two terms such that the product of their coefficients is equal to the product of 2 and 3 (coefficient of x^2 and the constant term)

-5 can be expressed as $(-2)+(-3)$, as $-2\times-3=6=2\times3$

Thus, $2x^2-5x+3=2x^2-2x-3x+3$

Now, identify the common factors in individual groups

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

Taking $(x-1)$ as the common factor, this can be expressed as

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

Relationship between Zeroes and Coefficients

Relationship between Zeroes and Coefficients of a Polynomial

If α and β are the roots of a quadratic polynomial ax^2+bx+c, then,

$\alpha + \beta = -b/a$

Sum of zeroes = = -coefficient of x /coefficient of x^2

$\alpha\beta = c/a$

product of zeroes = = constant term / coefficient of x^2

If α,β and γ are the roots of a cubic polynomial ax^3+bx^2+cx+d, then

$\alpha+\beta+\gamma = -b/a$

$\alpha\beta +\beta\gamma +\gamma\alpha = ca$

αβγ = -da

Division Algorithm

Division Algorithm for a Polynomial

To divide one polynomial by another, follow the steps given below.

Step 1: arrange the terms of the dividend and the divisor in the decreasing order of their degrees.

Step 2: To obtain the first term of the quotient, divide the highest degree term of the dividend by the highest degree term of the divisor Then carry out the division process.

Step 3: The remainder from the previous division becomes the dividend for the next step. Repeat this process until the degree of the remainder is less than the degree of the divisor.

$$
\begin{array}{r|l}
 & x - 2 \\
\hline
-x^2 + x - 1 & -x^3 + 3x^2 - 3x + 5 \\
 & -x^3 + x^2 - x \\
 & + \quad - \quad + \\
\hline
 & 2x^2 - 2x + 5 \\
 & 2x^2 - 2x + 2 \\
 & - \quad + \quad - \\
\hline
 & 3
\end{array}
$$

Algebraic Identities

1. $(a+b)^2=a^2+2ab+b^2$

2. $(a-b)^2=a^2-2ab+b^2$

3. $(x+a)(x+b)=x^2+(a+b)x+ab$

4. $a^2-b^2=(a+b)(a-b)$

5. $a^3-b^3=(a-b)(a^2+ab+b^2)$

6. $a^3+b^3=(a+b)(a^2-ab+b^2)$

7. $(a+b)^3=a^3+3a^2b+3ab^2+b^3$

8. $(a-b)^3=a^3-3a^2b+3ab^2-b^3$