

## 14.2 (Some) Key Features of Polynomial Functions

### Polynomials

Have various terms that are  $\#x^{\#}$  & possibly a constant.

$$7x^5 + 2x^2 - 3$$

$\uparrow$  leading term (because it has the highest exponent on the variable)  
 $\uparrow$  constant  
 leading coefficient: 7      degree: 5 (highest power)

### Key Features of Polynomials

leading coefficient tells you how the right side of graph ends

$\rightarrow$  positive  $\rightarrow$  right goes up  
 $\rightarrow$  negative  $\rightarrow$  right goes down

degree tells you the max # of x-int & how left side ends

$\rightarrow$  even  $\rightarrow$  left is same as right  
 $\rightarrow$  odd  $\rightarrow$  left is opposite as right

constant is the y-int

Ex #1 With the knowledge you have, make a rough sketch of the following:

a)  $f(x) = 2x^3 - 5x^2 - 4x + 12$

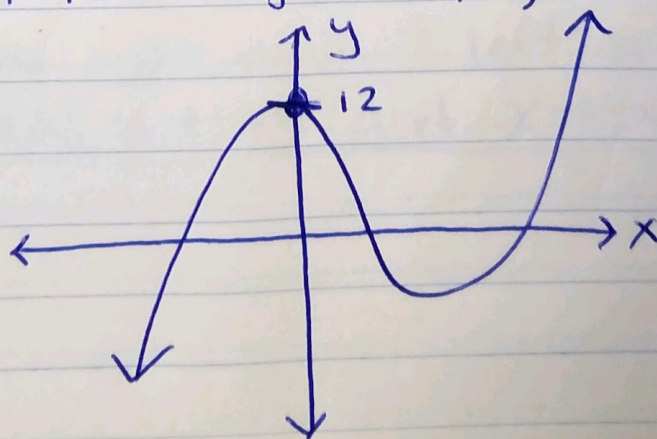
leading coeff: 2      right side up

degree: 3

left (opposite) down & max of 3 x-int

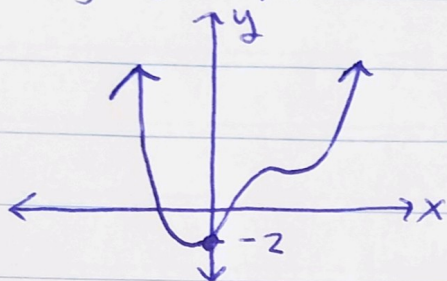
constant: 12

y-int (0, 12)

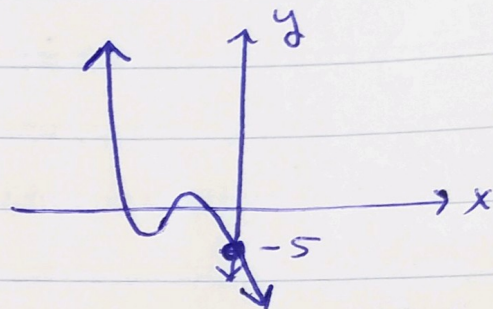


b)  $f(x) = |x^4 + x^2 - 3x - 2$

right goes up, max 4 x-int & left goes up, y-int (0, -2)



c)  $f(x) = -x^3 + x^2 - 4x - 5$



### End Behavior

A way to write how the graph ends on the left/right.

- $x \rightarrow \infty$  "as  $x$  approaches  $\infty$ " right side of graph
- $x \rightarrow -\infty$  "as  $x$  approaches  $-\infty$ " left side of graph
- $y \rightarrow \infty$  "y approaches  $\infty$ " goes up
- $y \rightarrow -\infty$  "y approaches  $-\infty$ " goes down

Ex #2 Describe the end behavior:

a)  $f(x) = |x^6 - 2x^3 + 3x^2 + 2$

know: right goes up & left goes up

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

b)  $f(x) = -\frac{2}{3}x^3 - 8x^2 - 2x + 7$

know: right down & left up

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