

1. (5 points) Let  $f(x) = -4x^2 + 4x + 3$ .

(a) Find the vertex and axis of symmetry.

We complete the square:

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

$$f(x) = -4\left(x^2 - x + \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^2\right) + 3 - (-4) \cdot \frac{1}{4}$$

$$f(x) = -4\left(x - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\right)^2 + 3 + 1$$

$$f(x) = -4\left(x - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\right)^2 + 4$$

Thus the vertex is at  $\left(\frac{1}{2}, 4\right)$  and the axis of symmetry is  $x = \frac{1}{2}$

(b) Find the  $x$ -intercepts and  $y$ -intercepts of  $f(x)$ .

To find the  $x$ -intercepts, notice that if  $-4x^2 + 4x + 3 = 0$ , then  $4x^2 - 4x - 3 = 0$

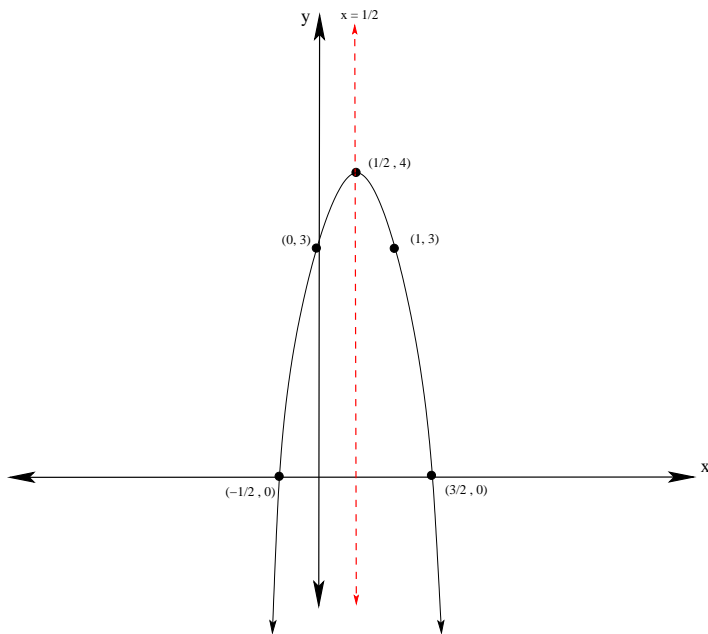
This factors as  $(2x - 3)(2x + 1) = 0$ , so the  $x$ -intercepts occur when  $x = \frac{3}{2}$  and  $x = -\frac{1}{2}$

Therefore, the  $x$ -intercepts are  $\left(\frac{3}{2}, 0\right)$  and  $\left(-\frac{1}{2}, 0\right)$

The  $y$ -intercept occurs when  $f(0) = 3$ , or at the point  $(0, 3)$

Notice that, using symmetry,  $(1, 3)$  is another point on the graph.

(c) Graph  $f(x)$  on the axes provided, labeling all key features of the graph.



2. (5 points) Let  $f(x) = (x + 1)(x - 2)^2(x - 3)^2$

- (a) Find the leading term of  $f(x)$  and use it to determine the end behavior of the graph of  $f(x)$ .

Collecting the highest order of terms from the product above, we see that the leading term is  $x \cdot x^2 \cdot x^2 = x^5$

Therefore, the graph approaches  $-\infty$  on the left and it approaches  $+\infty$  on the right.

- (b) Find the zeros of  $f(x)$ . Also find the multiplicity of each zero and state whether the graph crosses or touches the  $x$ -axis at each zero.

Since the polynomial is in factored form, we can read off the zeros:

$x = -1$  has multiplicity 1, so the graph crosses the  $x$ -axis there.

$x = 2$  has multiplicity 2, so the graph touches the  $x$ -axis and turns around.

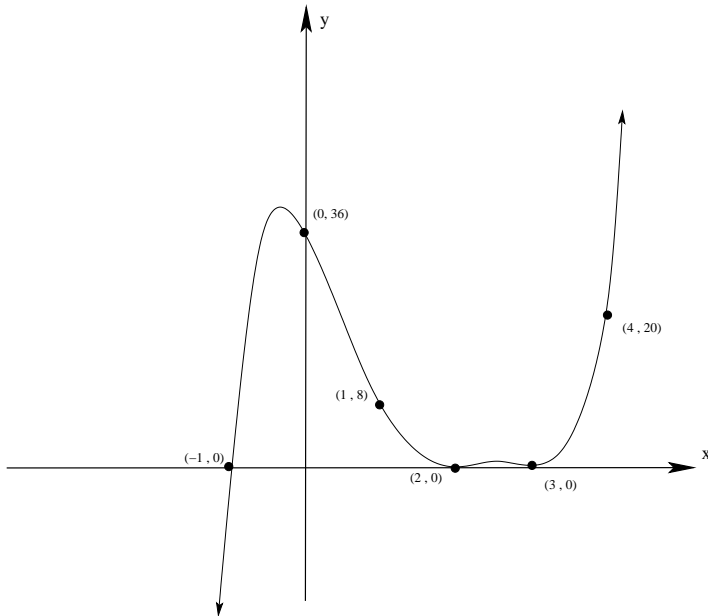
$x = 3$  also has multiplicity 2, so the graph touches the  $x$ -axis and turns around.

- (c) Find the  $y$ -intercept of  $f(x)$  and at least one additional point on the graph of  $f(x)$ .

The  $y$ -intercept occurs at  $f(0) = (0 + 1)(0 - 2)^2(0 - 3)^2 = (1)(4)(9) = 36$

Other points:  $f(1) = (2)(-1)^2(-2)^2 = 2(1)(4) = 8$  and  $f(4) = (5)(2)^2(1)^2 = 20$

- (d) Graph  $f(x)$  on the axes provided, labeling all key features of the graph.



3. (5 points) Let  $g(x) = 3x^3 + 2x^2 - 13x + 4$

(a) Use the Rational Root Theorem to list all possible rational zeros for  $g(x)$ .

$$a_0 = -4, \text{ so } p = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4$$

$$a_n = 3, \text{ so } q = \pm 1, \pm 3$$

Then the possible rational roots are:  $\frac{p}{q} = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4, \pm \frac{1}{3}, \pm \frac{2}{3}, \pm \frac{4}{3}$

(b) Use synthetic division to show that  $\frac{1}{3}$  is a zero of  $g(x)$ .

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} \frac{1}{3} & 3 & 2 & -13 & 4 \\ & & 1 & 1 & -4 \\ \hline & 3 & 3 & -12 & 0 \end{array}$$

(c) Find **all** solutions to the equation  $g(x) = 0$ .

$$\text{From above, we see that } g(x) = (x - \frac{1}{3})(3x^2 + 3x - 12) = 3(x - \frac{1}{3})(x^2 + x - 4)$$

Then we look at  $x^2 + x - 4 = 0$  to find the remaining zeros. Applying the quadratic formula,

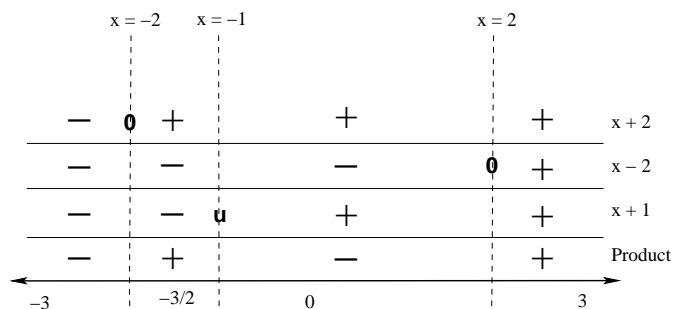
$$x = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1 - 4(1)(-4)}}{2(1)} = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{17}}{2}$$

Thus the solutions are  $x = \frac{1}{3}$ ,  $x = -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{17}}{2}$ , and  $x = -\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{17}}{2}$ .

4. (5 points) Find all solutions to the inequality  $\frac{x^2 - 4}{x + 1} \geq 0$ . Graph your solution on a number line. Also give the solution in interval notation.

First, we factor this expression, obtaining  $\frac{(x-2)(x+2)}{x+1} \geq 0$

The key values for this inequality are  $x = 2$ ,  $x = -2$ , and  $x = -1$ . We now make a sign chart:



From this, we see that the solution set is:



Or, in interval notation,  $[-2, -1) \cup [2, \infty)$ .