

Section 3.1 – Polynomial Functions and Models

Classifying Polynomials:

- Recall: a **polynomial in one variable** is an expression of the form $a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0$, where the a_i 's are real number **coefficients**. For nonzero a_n , the expression is said to be of n th degree (the highest power is n), the **leading term** is $a_n x^n$ and the **leading coefficient** is a_n
- Examples of polynomials that are common



- $zw = wz$
- $(zw)s = z(ws)$
- $1z = z$