

**1. System of Linear Equations**

Three points uniquely determine a degree 2 polynomial. Given the three points  $\{(x_1, y_1) = (-1, 2), (x_2, y_2) = (1, -2), (x_3, y_3) = (2, 5)\}$  we wish to find the unique polynomial  $p(x) = a_2x^2 + a_1x + a_0$  such that  $p(x_i) = y_i$ . In this question we will find  $p(x)$  by solving a system of linear equations:

(a) Write out an equation in terms of  $a_0, a_1, a_2$  for  $p(-1)$ , or the polynomial  $p(x)$  evaluated at  $x = -1$ .

(b) Write out an equation in terms of  $a_0, a_1, a_2$  for  $p(1)$ , or the polynomial  $p(x)$  evaluated at  $x = 1$ .

(c) Write out an equation in terms of  $a_0, a_1, a_2$  for  $p(2)$ , or the polynomial  $p(x)$  evaluated at  $x = 2$ .

(d) Solve the system of linear equations from parts (a)-(c) to determine the values of  $a_0, a_1, a_2$ .