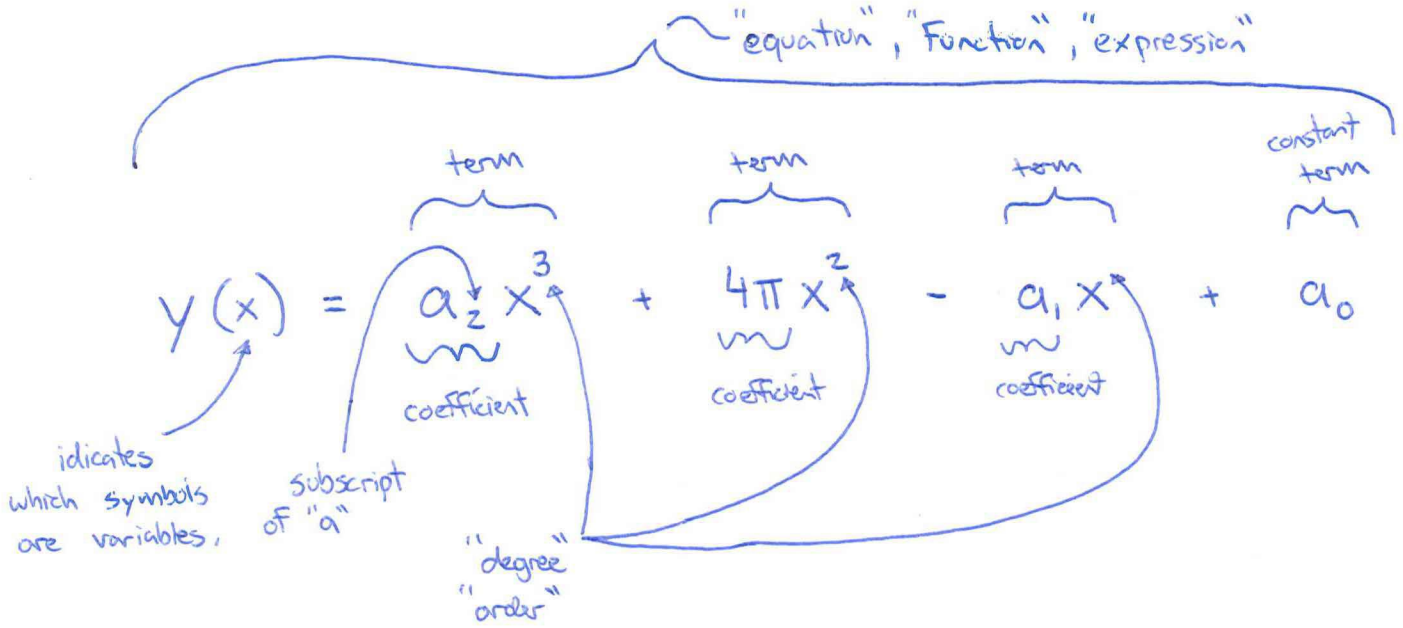
Vocabulary of an "equation" or "function"



polynomials

$$y(x) = a \sin(fx + \phi) + b$$

frequency

D.C. offset.

"coefficient"
"amplitude"

phase

trigonometry

$$y(t) = a e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

time constant

initial value

exponentials