

Topic: Rational Functions

- Definition
- zeros, holes, vertical Asymptotes
- horizontal and slant Asymptotes

★ Handout WS 1

★ Handout last test Study Guide

Definition - A rational function $R(x)$ is of the form

$$R(x) = \frac{P(x)}{q(x)}$$

where $P(x)$ and $q(x)$ are polynomials, with $q(x) \neq 0$.

Examples:

rational

$$y = \frac{x-1}{x+3}$$

$$y = \frac{3}{(x+1)^2}$$

$$y = x^2 - 3$$

Not rational

$$y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$$

$$y = \frac{1}{3+e^x}$$

holes, zeros and vertical Asymptotes: $R(x) = \frac{P(x)}{q(x)}$

- **holes** happen at values of x that make $P(x) = 0$ and $q(x) = 0$
(and cancel so no zero in the denominator)
- **Zeros** happen at values of x where $P(x) = 0$ and $q(x) \neq 0$
- **Vertical Asymptotes** happen at values of x where $q(x) = 0$ and $P(x) \neq 0$

x. Find any holes, zeros, and vertical Asymptotes:

$$y = \frac{3(\cancel{x-2})}{(\cancel{x-2})(x+3)}$$

holes: $(2, \frac{3}{5})$

Zeros: None

VA: $x = -3$

$$y = \frac{(x-1)(x+1)}{(x+3)(x-2)}$$

None

$x = 1, -1$

$x = -3, x = 2$

$$y = \frac{-2(\cancel{x+5})}{(\cancel{x+5})}$$

$(-5, 0)$

None

None

$$y = \frac{-2(\cancel{x+5})}{(x+5)^2}$$

None

None

$x = -5$

Horizontal and Slant Asymptotes $R(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$ (Only One!)

• If degree $P <$ degree Q then Horizontal asymptote at $y = 0$
 (as $x \rightarrow \infty, y \rightarrow 0$ and as $x \rightarrow -\infty, y \rightarrow 0$)

• If degree $P =$ degree Q then Horizontal asymptote at

$$y = \frac{\text{leading coef } P}{\text{leading coef } Q}$$

• If degree $P =$ degree $Q + 1$ then Slant Asymptote at

$$y = \text{quotient of } P(x)/Q(x)$$

Examples: Find any slant or horizontal Asymptote for

$$y = \frac{3(x-2)}{(x-2)(x+3)}$$

degree $P:$

1

degree $Q:$

2

HA/SA:

HA $y = 0$

$$y = \frac{(4x-1)(x+1)}{(x+3)(7x-2)}$$

2

2

HA $y = \frac{4}{7}$

$$y = \frac{-2(x+5)^2}{(x+5)}$$

2

1

SA $y = -2(x+5)$

$$y = \frac{(x+3)^2(x-1)}{(x+2)}$$

3

1

None

Topic: Rational Functions

- End behavior
- Graphs with unique zeros and asymptotes

★ Handout WS 2

End behavior $R(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$

- horizontal Asymptote - clear
- No horizontal Asymptote look at

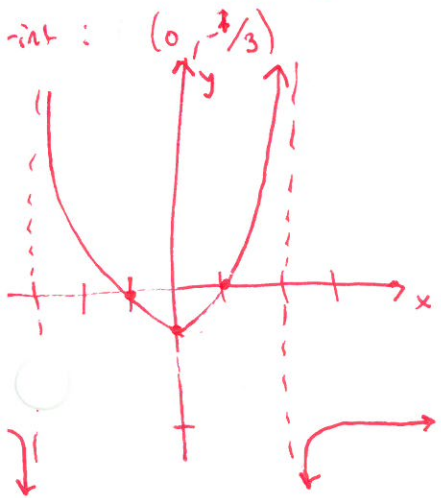
$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} R(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} R(x)$

Ex.

$y = \frac{-2(x-1)(x+1)}{(x+3)(x-2)}$

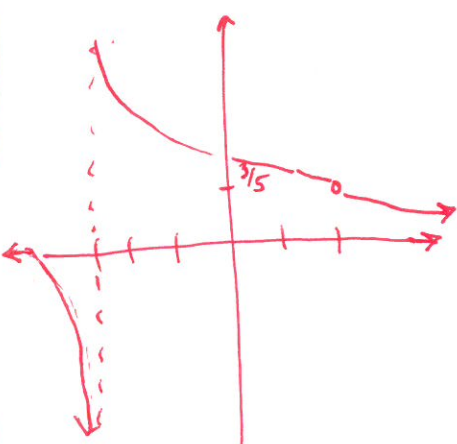
- holes: none
 zeros: $x = 1, -1$
 VA: $x = -3, x = 2$
 H/A: $y = -2$

end behavior: $y = -2$



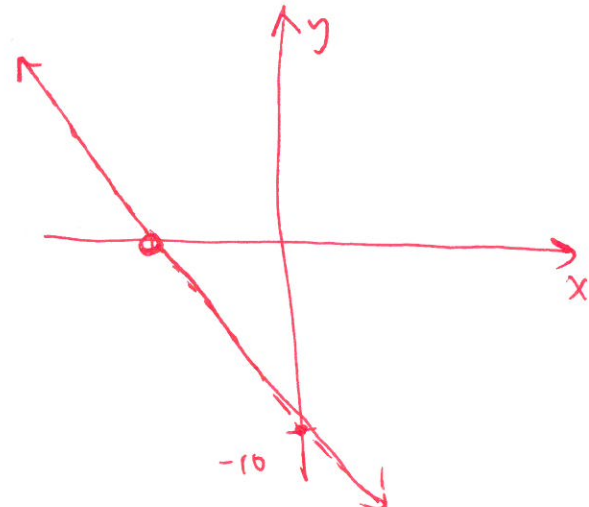
$y = \frac{3(x-2)}{(x-2)(x+3)}$

- holes: $(2, \frac{3}{5})$
 None
 $x = -3$
 $y = 0$
 $y = 0$
 int: $(0, 1)$



$y = \frac{-2(x+5)^2}{x+5}$

- holes: $(-5, 0)$
 None
 None
 $y = -2x - 10$
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y = -\infty$ $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} y = \infty$
 int: $(0, -10)$



Topic: Rational Functions

Graphs with zeros/asymptotes papers > \star Handout WS3

Example:

$$y = \frac{2(x-1)(x+2)^2}{(x-3)^2(x+5)}$$

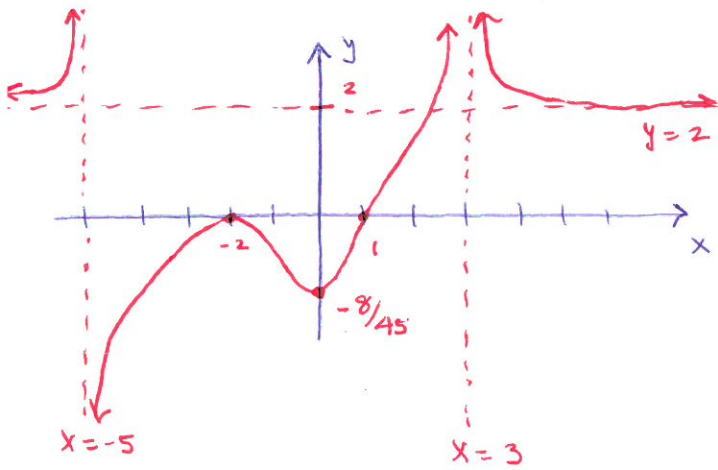
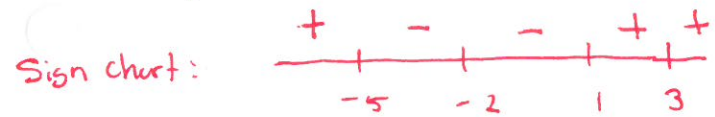
y-int: $(0, -\frac{8}{45})$
 Holes: None

Zeros: mult

1	-2	
1	2	

VA: $x=3$ $x=-5$

HA/SA: $y=2$
 End behavior



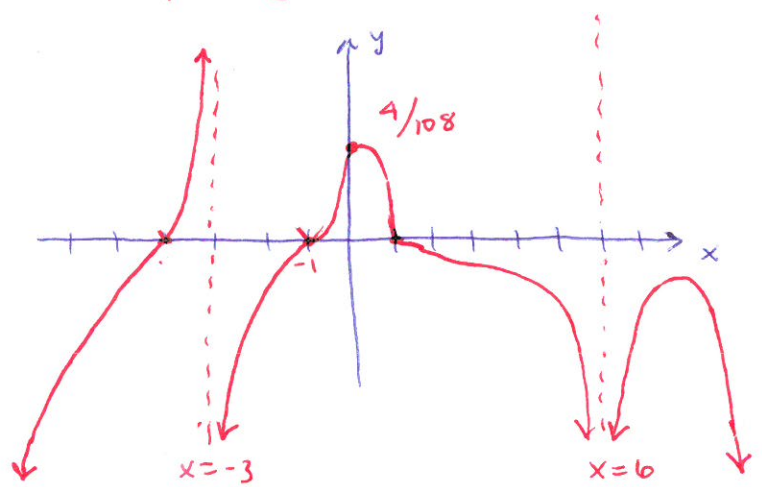
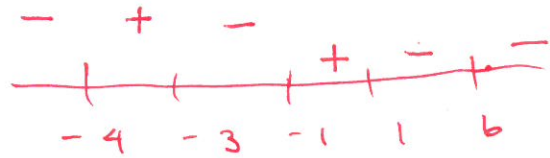
$$y = \frac{(1-x)^3(x+4)(x+1)}{(6-x)^2(x+3)}$$

$(0, \frac{4}{108})$
 None

1	-4	-1
3	1	1

$x=6$ $x=-3$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y = -\infty$ $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} y = -\infty$



$$y = \frac{x^2+1}{x-2}$$

Sign chart



y-int: $(0, -\frac{1}{2})$

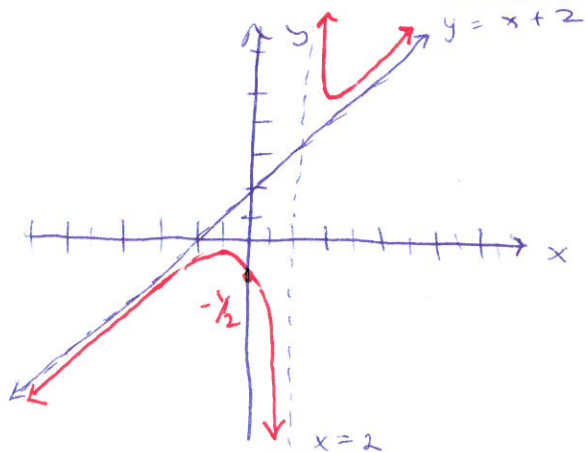
Zeros: None
 Holes: None

VA: $x=2$

HA/SA = $x-2$

$$\begin{array}{r} x+2 \\ x^2+1 \\ \underline{x^2-2x} \\ 2x+1 \end{array}$$

$y = x+2$



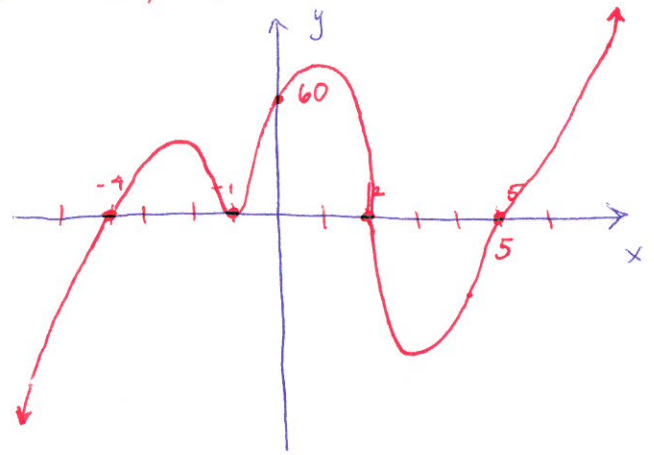
Topic: Polynomial and Rational function Review

Ex. $f(x) = \frac{-3}{8}(2-x)^3(x+1)^2(x+4)(x-5)$

Lead Term: $\frac{3}{8}x^7$ End Behavior:

Zeros	-4	-1	2	5
mult	1	2	3	1

y-int: (0, 60)

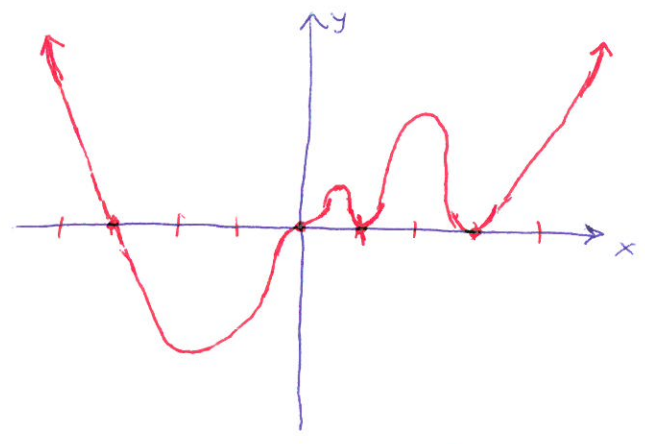


$f(x) = (3-x)^2(x)^5(1-2x)^2(x+3)$

Lead Term: $4x^{10}$ End behavior:

Zeros	-3	0	1	3
mult	1	5	2	2

y-int: (0, 0)



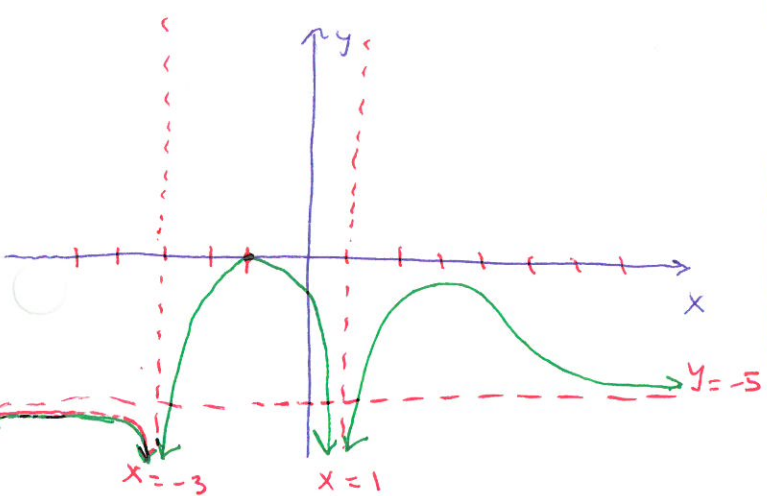
$R(x) = \frac{-5(x-2)^3(x+1)^2}{(x-2)(x+3)^2(x-1)^2}$

y-int: (0, -20/9) hole: (2, 0)

Zeros: $x = -1$

VA: $x = -3$ $x = 1$

HA/SA/End behavior: $y = -5$



$R(x) = \frac{(3-x)(4+x)(x+1)^2}{(x-1)^3(x+2)^2(x-5)}$

y-int: (0, 12/20) hole: None

Zeros: $x = 3, x = -4, -1$

VA: $x = 1, -2, 5$

HA/SA/End behavior: $y = 0$

