

Practice 9-3: Notes Day 17 Rational Functions and Their Graphs

Rational Function $f(x)$ is a function that has a polynomial Function in the numerator (top) and denominator (bottom)

$$f(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \quad \text{ex) } f(x) = \frac{x^2-1}{x^2+x-1}$$

A point of discontinuity can be an asymptote or a hole.

* it means the graph is NOT continuous at $x=a$

Vertical Asymptotes & Holes:

1st: Factor top + bottom of the fraction

2nd: set the factors on the bottom = to zero and solve for x. * If NOT Factorable \rightarrow then solve by quadratic formula

3rd: If one of the factors on the bottom cancelled with a Formula factor on the top, that value will be a Hole, otherwise it will be a vertical asymptote.

*If no value makes the denominator zero, then there are no points of discontinuity.

Find any points of discontinuity for each rational function.

1. $y = \frac{(x+3)}{(x-4)(x+3)}$
 $x-4=0$ $x+3=0$
 $+4$ $+4$
 $x=4$ $x=-3$
V.A. Hole

2. $y = \frac{(x-2)}{x^2-4}$
 $(x+2)(x-2)$
 $x+2=0$ $x-2=0$
 -2 -2
V.A. $x=-2$ Hole $x=2$

3. $y = \frac{(x-3)(x+1)}{(x-2)}$
 $x-2=0$
 $x=2$

4. $y = \frac{3x(x+2)}{x(x+2)}$
 $x=0$
 $x+2=0$
 -2 -2
 $x=-2$

5. $y = \frac{2}{(x+1)}$
 $x+1=0$
 $x=-1$

6. $y = \frac{4x}{x^3-9x}$
 $x(x^2-9)$
 $x(x+3)(x-3)$
 $x=0$ $x=-3$ $x=3$

Describe the vertical asymptotes and holes for the graph of each rational function.

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

$x+2=0$ $x-2=0$
 $x=-2$ V.A.
 $x=2$ Hole

23. $y = -\frac{x}{x(x-1)}$

$x=0$ Hole
 $x-1=0$
 $x=1$ V.A.

24. $y = \frac{5-x}{x^2-1}$

$(x+1)(x-1)$
 $x=-1, x=1$
 V.A.
 NO Holes - nothing canceled

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

$x+2=0$
 $x=-2$
 V.A.

26. $y = \frac{x^2-4}{x^2+4}$

sum of 2 squares
 NO POINTS OF DISCONTINUITY

27. $y = \frac{x+3}{x^2-9}$

28. $y = \frac{x^2-25}{x-4}$

29. $y = \frac{(x-2)(2x+3)}{(5x+4)(x-3)}$

30. $y = \frac{15x^2-7x-2}{x^2-4}$

$5x+4=0$ $x-3=0$
 -4 -4 $x=3$
 $5x=-4$
 $x=-4/5$ Both V.A.'s

* degree = highest exponent

A rational function will have at most 1 horizontal asymptote.

Rules for Horizontal Asymptotes:

1. If the degree of the top is greater than the bottom then there is NO horizontal asymptote.

(ex) $y = \frac{x^2-x-2}{x-2}$ top degree 2
 bottom degree 1
 H.A. = NONE!

Leading coefficient is the # in front of the highest degree

Leading coefficient OF top

2. If the degree of the top = bottom

$$y = \frac{\text{Leading coefficient of top}}{\text{Leading coefficient of bottom}}$$

(ex) $y = \frac{2x^2 - 1}{5x^2 + 6}$ (degree 2) / (degree 2)

H.A.: $y = \frac{2}{5}$

3. If the degree of the top is less than the bottom

then H.A.: $y = 0$

(ex) $y = \frac{x}{x^2 + 1}$ (degree 1) / (degree 2)

Find the horizontal asymptote of the graph of each rational function.

7. $y = \frac{2}{x-6}$ degree 0 / degree 1
0 < 1

H.A.: $y = 0$

8. $y = \frac{k+2}{k-4}$ degree 1 / degree 1

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

9. $y = \frac{(x+3)}{2(x+4)}$ $\frac{1x+3}{2x+8}$ deg. 1 / deg. 1

$y = \frac{1}{2}$

10. $y = \frac{2x^2+3}{x^2-6}$ degree 2 / degree 2

$y = \frac{2}{1}$
 $y = 2$

11. $y = \frac{3x-12}{x^2-2}$ deg. 1 / deg. 2
1 < 2

$y = 0$

12. $y = \frac{3x^3-4x+2}{2x^3+3}$

$y = \frac{3}{2}$

Sketch the graph of each rational function.

13. $y = \frac{3}{x-2}$

14. $y = \frac{3}{(x-2)(x+2)}$ deg. 0 / deg. 2
 x^2
 $y = 0$

15. $y = \frac{x}{x(x-6)}$

16. $y = \frac{2x}{x-6}$

17. $y = \frac{x^2-1}{x^2-4}$

18. $y = \frac{2x^2+10x+12}{x^2-9}$

19. $y = \frac{x}{x^2+4}$

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

21. $y = \frac{x+3}{x+1}$