Magnet Precalculus CD
Semester 1 Notes

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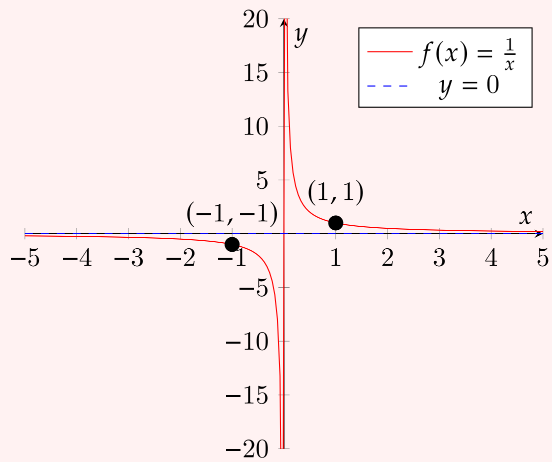
Contents

Chapter 1

1.1 The Reciprocal Function

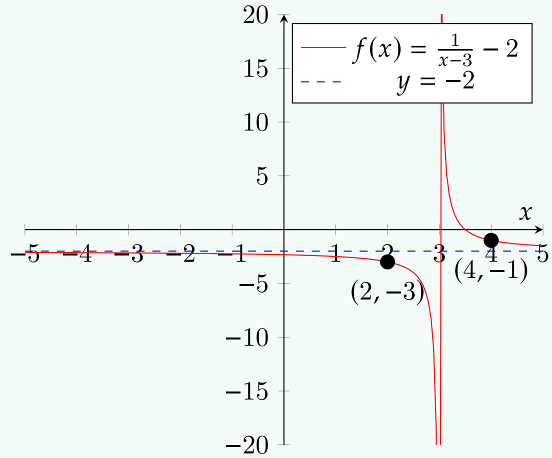
Definition 1.1.1: Reciprocal function

Any function where an expression is being divided by x. The parent reciprocal function is $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, and the standard form of a reciprocal function is $f(x) = \frac{a}{x+h} + k$



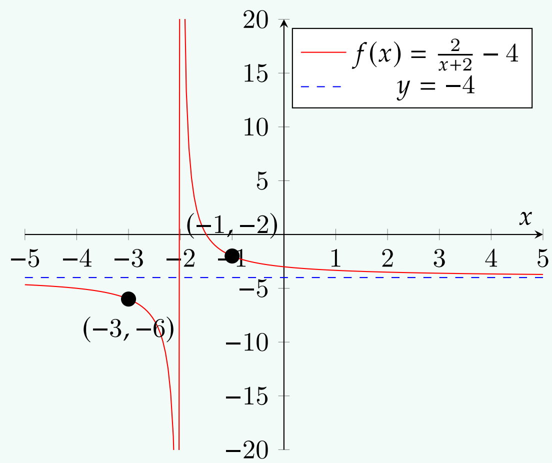
Reciprocal functions always have 2 or more asymptotes: 1 or more vertical asymptote, and a horizontal **or** slant asymptote. Should a remain a constant, the horizontal asymptote is at $y = k$, and the vertical asymptotes are at $x = n$, where n is all values of x that make the expression on the denominator equal 0.

Example 1.1.1 (Translation 3 units right and 2 units down)



Here, $h = 3$, so the function is translated 3 units right, so the vertical asymptote is at $x = 3$. Similarly, $k = -2$, so the function is translated 2 units down, so the horizontal asymptote is at $y = -2$.

Example 1.1.2 (Translation 2 units left and 4 units down)



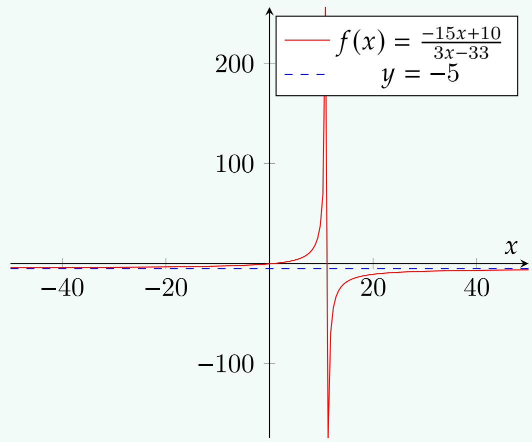
Here, $h = -2$, so the function is translated 2 units left, so the vertical asymptote is at $x = -2$. Similarly, $k = -4$, so the function is translated 4 units down, so the horizontal asymptote is at $y = -4$.

Note:-

There are a few special cases for the horizontal asymptote where a is a polynomial rather than a constant.
Should the degree in the numerator be less than in the denominator, the horizontal asymptote will be at $y = 0$
Should the degree in the numerator be equal to that in the denominator, the horizontal asymptote will be at $y = n$, where n is the quotient of the leading coefficients of the numerator and denominator.
Should the degree in the numerator be greater than in the denominator, there is not a horizontal asymptote, but a slant asymptote. The slant asymptote will be at $y = n$, where n is the result of long-dividing the numerator and denominator and excluding the remainder.

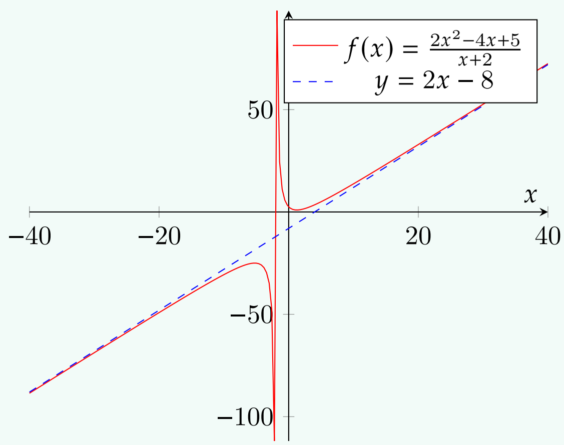
Example 1.1.3 (Equal degree polynomials)

Given the function $f(x) = \frac{-15x+10}{3x-33}$, we can divide 6 by 3 to find that the horizontal asymptote of $f(x)$ is at $y = -5$.



Example 1.1.4 (Greater degree numerator)

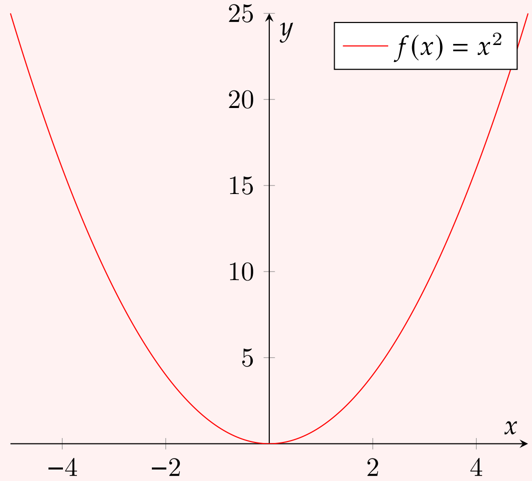
Given the function $f(x) = \frac{2x^2-4x+5}{x+2}$, we can do long division to find that $\frac{2x^2-4x+5}{x+2} = 2x - 8 + \frac{21}{x+2}$. From this, we can derive that the slant asymptote of $f(x)$ is $y = 2x - 8$.



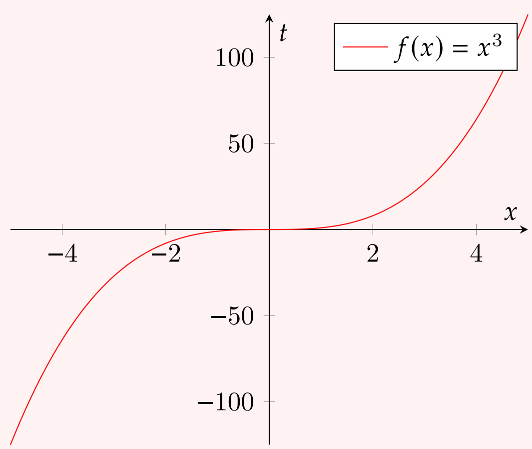
1.2 The Polynomial Function

Definition 1.2.1: The Polynomial Function

Any function where $f(x)$ is a polynomial. Quadratic functions are a type of polynomial function.



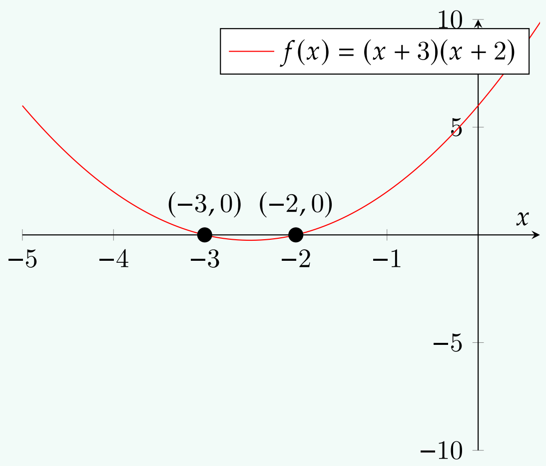
As are cubic functions.



The zeros of $f(x)$ are its x-intercepts, and the multiplicity of those zeros tells us what effect they have on the graph.

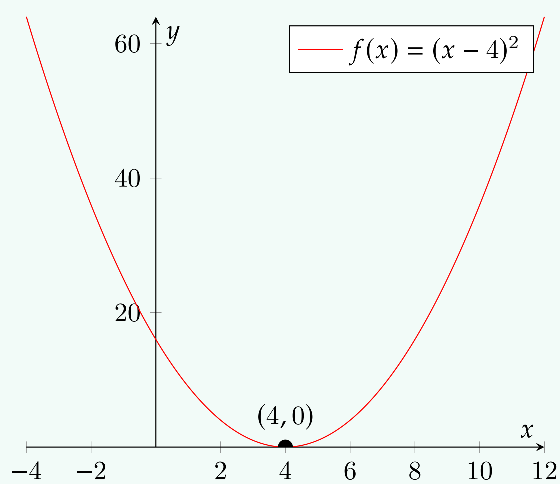
- **Multiplicity 1:** Mere x-intercept
- **Even multiplicity:** Relative maximum/minimum
- **Odd multiplicity >1:** Inflection point

Example 1.2.1 (Multiplicity 1 zero)
The function $f(x) = (x+3)(x+2)$ has 2 zeros, both of which have a multiplicity of 1. Thus, they will serve as two x-intercepts.



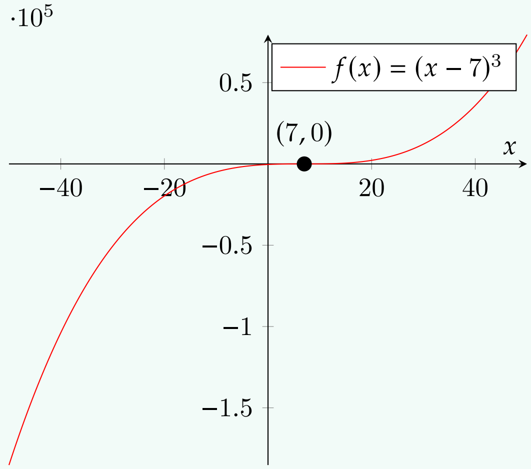
Example 1.2.2 (Even multiplicity zero)

The function $f(x) = (x-4)^2$ has 1 zero which has a multiplicity of 2. Thus, it will serve as a relative minimum.



Example 1.2.3 (Odd multiplicity zero)

The function $f(x) = (x-7)^3$ has 2 zeros, one of which has a multiplicity of 3, which will serve as an inflection point.



The end behavior of polynomial functions is predictable. For even degrees, $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = \infty$; $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = \infty$, and for odd degrees, $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = \infty$; $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = -\infty$. Of course, if the leading coefficient is negative, then the limits have their signs inverted.

1.3 The Trigonometric Identities

The angle sum identities are as follows:

- $\sin(\alpha \pm \beta) = \sin(\alpha)\cos(\beta) \pm \sin(\beta)\cos(\alpha)$
- $\cos(\alpha \pm \beta) = \cos(\alpha)\cos(\beta) \mp \sin(\alpha) sin(\beta)$
- $\tan(\alpha \pm \beta) = \frac{\tan(\alpha) \pm \tan(\beta)}{1 \mp \tan(\alpha)\tan(\beta)}$

These "double" identities can be derived from the sum identities:

- $\sin(2\theta) = 2\sin(\theta)\cos(\theta)$
- $\cos(2\theta) = cos^2(\theta) - \sin^2(\theta) = 2\cos^2(\theta) - 1 = 1 - 2\sin^2(\theta)$
- $\tan(2\theta) = \frac{2\tan(\theta)}{1-\tan^2(\theta)}$

There are also half-angle identities:

- $\sin(\frac{\theta}{2}) = \pm\sqrt{\frac{1-\cos(\theta)}{2}}$
- $\cos(\frac{\theta}{2}) = \pm\sqrt{\frac{1+\cos(\theta)}{2}}$
- $\tan(\frac{\theta}{2}) = \pm\sqrt{\frac{1-\cos(\theta)}{1+\cos(\theta)}} = \frac{1-\cos(\theta)}{\sin(\theta)} = \frac{\sin(\theta)}{1+\cos(\theta)}$

Some other crucial identities:

- $\sin^2(\theta) + \cos^2(\theta) = 1$
- $\sec^2(\theta) = 1 + \tan^2(\theta)$
- $\csc^2(\theta) = 1 + \cot^2(\theta)$