

Rational Polynomials: Graphing and Asymptotes

Find the intercepts, if there are any.

Step 1: Set the numerator to 0 to solve for horizontal intercepts.

Step 2: Set the x to 0 to solve for vertical intercept.

Step 3: Set the denominator to 0 to solve for vertical asymptotes.

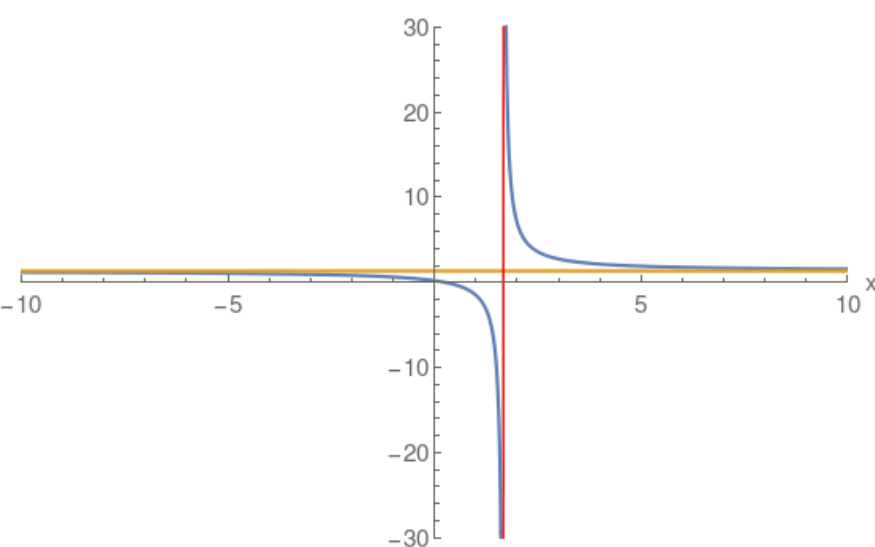
Step 4: Perform a long division to find the quotient which specifies the oblique asymptote.

Note: Blue curve the actual Rational function.
Red and Gold asymptotes.

Example: Horizontal Asymptote

$$\frac{4x-1}{3x-5}$$

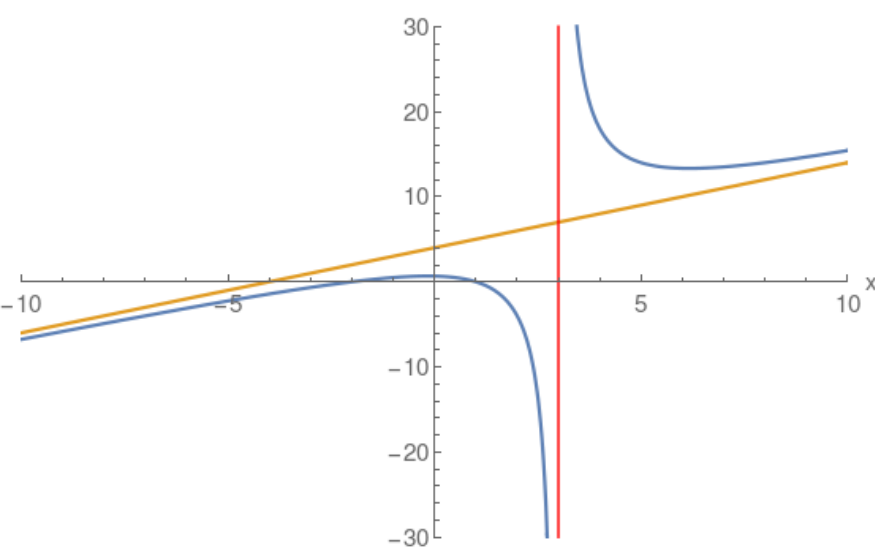
$$\begin{array}{r} + \left(\frac{4}{3}\right) \\ \hline 3x-5 \quad (4)x \quad + (-1) \\ \underline{(4x)} \\ + \left(-\frac{20}{3}\right) \\ \underline{+ \left(\frac{17}{3}\right)} \end{array}$$



Example: Oblique Linear Asymptote

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

$$\begin{array}{r} + \left(x\right) + \left(4\right) \\ \hline x-3 \quad (1)x^2 + (1)x \\ \underline{(x^2)} \\ + (-3x) \\ \underline{+ (4)x} \\ \underline{+ (-2)} \\ \underline{+ (-12)} \\ \underline{+ (10)} \end{array}$$



Example: Multiple Vertical Asymptotes

$$\frac{x+3}{x(x+1)}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} + \left(0\right) \\ \hline \\ \underline{+ (3)} \end{array}$$

