

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.

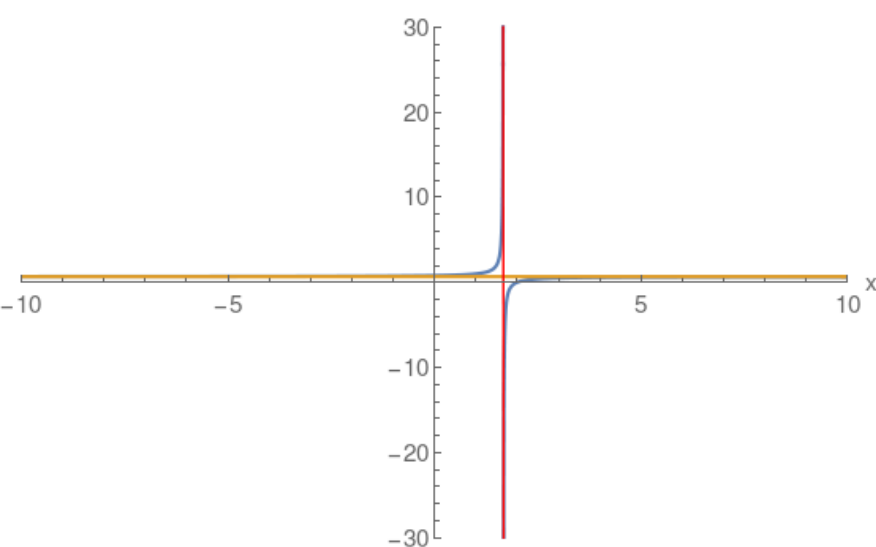
Note: Blue curve the actual Rational function.

Red and Gold asymptotes.

Example: Horizontal Asymptote

$$\frac{2x-4}{3x-5}$$

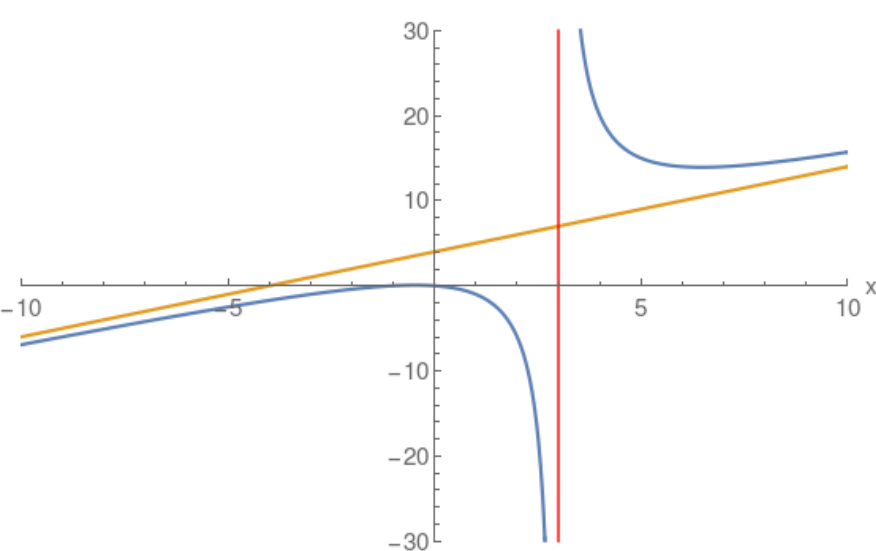
$$\begin{array}{r} + \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \\ \hline 3x-5 \quad (2)x \quad + (-4) \\ \left(\frac{2x}{1}\right) + \left(\frac{-10}{3}\right) \\ + \left(\frac{-2}{3}\right) \end{array}$$



Example: Oblique Linear Asymptote

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

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



Example: Multiple Vertical Asymptotes

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

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

