Example 1

Consider the function

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2 + 1}.$$

- What is the graph of this function?
- What happens to the numerator if x becomes larger and larger?
- What happens to the denominator if x becomes larger and larger?
- What happens if x becomes larger and larger in the negative values?

Example 5

The function $f(x) = \frac{x^2-1}{x^2+1}$ has $y = 1$ as a HA. ← $\lim_{x\to\infty}$ or $\lim_{x\to-\infty}$??

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{x^2-1}{x^2+1} = \frac{\infty}{\infty} \text{ (not defined).}$$

$$\frac{x^2-1}{x^2+1} = \frac{\cancel{x^2}(1-1/x^2)}{\cancel{x^2}(1+1/x^2)} = \frac{1-1/x^2}{1+1/x^2}$$

x	$1/x^2$
1	1
2	1/4
10	1/100
100	1/10000
↓	↓
∞	0

x	$-1/x^2$
1	-1
2	$-1/4$
10	$-1/100$
100	$-1/10000$
↓	↓
∞	0

So, $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} = 0$ & $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{-1}{x^2} = 0$.

By the sum rule

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} (1 - 1/x^2) = 1 - 0 = 1$$

& $$\lim_{x\to\infty} (1 + 1/x^2) = 1 + 0 = 1 \neq 0$$

So, by the quotient rule

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{1-1/x^2}{1+1/x^2} = \frac{\lim 1-1/x^2}{\lim 1+1/x^2} = \frac{1}{1} = 1.$$

Example 8

Using the preceding rule, compute

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3\boxed{x^2} - x - 2}{5x^2 + 4x + 1}. \qquad \frac{\infty}{\infty}$$

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

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

$$= \frac{3 - 1/x - 2/x^2}{5 + 4/x + 1/x^2}$$

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} (3 - 1/x - 2/x^2) = 3 - 0 - 2\cdot 0$$
$$= 3$$

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} (5 + 4/x + 1/x^2) = 5 + 4\cdot 0 + 0$$
$$= 5$$

So, (quotient rule)

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3 - 1/x - 2/x^2}{5 + 4/x + 1/x^2} = \frac{3}{5}.$$

Example 9

Find the horizontal and vertical asymptotes of

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

$\lim_{x\to\infty}$ $\lim_{x\to-\infty}$.

VA. Denom. is zero if $3x-5=0$

if $x = 5/3$

Replace $x = 5/3$ in $f(x)$

$\Rightarrow f(5/3) = \frac{\sqrt{2\cdot 25/9 + 1}}{0} = \frac{\sqrt{59/3}}{0}$

$\approx 7.7/0$

Here, we have a V.A. at $= \pm\infty$

$x = 5/3$.

H.A. limit at ∞.

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\sqrt{2x^2+1}}{3x-5} = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\sqrt{x^2(2+1/x^2)}}{x(3-5/x)}$$

$x \to \infty$, so
$x > 0$, $\sqrt{x^2} = x$

$$= \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\cancel{x}\sqrt{2+1/x^2}}{\cancel{x}(3-5/x)}$$

$$= \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\sqrt{2+1/x^2}}{3-5/x}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{2+0}}{3-0} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$$

so,
$y = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$ is a HA.

- **lim at $-\infty$.**

$x \to -\infty$, $x < 0$
$\sqrt{x^2} = -x$

$$\lim_{x \to -\infty} \frac{\sqrt{x^2(2 + 1/x^2)}}{x(3 - 5/x)} = \lim_{x \to -\infty} \frac{(-\cancel{x})\sqrt{2 + 1/x^2}}{\cancel{x}(3 - 5/x)}$$

$$= \lim_{x \to -\infty} -\frac{\sqrt{2 + 1/x^2}}{3 - 5/x}$$

$$= -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}.$$

So, $y = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$ is a HA.

Example 10

Compute $\lim_{x\to\infty}(\sqrt{x^2+1}-x)$.

$\infty - \infty$.

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

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+1}+x}$$

$$= 1/\sqrt{x^2(1+1/x^2)} + x$$

$\boxed{\begin{matrix} x \to \infty \\ x > 0 \end{matrix}}$

$$= 1/x\sqrt{1+1/x^2} + x$$

$$= 1/x\left(\sqrt{1+1/x^2}+1\right)$$

So,

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \sqrt{x^2+1} - x = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{1}{x\left(\sqrt{1+1/x^2}+1\right)}$$

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0, \quad \lim_{x\to\infty}\left(\sqrt{1+1/x^2}+1\right) = 2$$

So, overall,

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \sqrt{x^2+1} - x = 0\cdot\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 0$$

Example 12

It is wrong to do

$$\lim_{x\to\infty}(x^2-x)=\lim_{x\to\infty}x^2-\lim_{x\to\infty}x=\infty-\infty$$

because $\infty-\infty$ is not defined, like $0/0$.

$$x^2-x=x(x-1)$$

We know that $\lim_{x\to\infty} x = \infty$

Applying the 1st rule, $\lim_{x\to\infty}(x-1)=\infty$

So, from the third rule,

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} x(x-1)=\infty\cdot\infty=\infty$$

Example 15.

$y' = 24x^2 - 42x + 18.$

$y' = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = \frac{3}{4}$ or $x = 1$

$y'' = 48x - 42$

- $f''(3/4) < 0$, local max.
- $f''(1) > 0$, local min.

Example 16

With the guideline, sketch the graph of the function

$$f(x) = \frac{2x^2}{x^2 - 1}.$$

① $\operatorname{Dom} f = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 1\}$.

② • y-intercept: $f(0) = 0$

• x-intercept: $\dfrac{2x^2}{x^2-1} = 0 \iff x = 0$

③ $f(-x) = \dfrac{2(-x)^2}{(-x)^2-1} = \dfrac{2x^2}{x^2-1} = f(x) \rightarrow$ even.

④ HA. • $\displaystyle\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{2x^2}{x^2-1} = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{2\cancel{x^2}}{\cancel{x^2}(1-1/x^2)}$

$$= \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{2}{1-1/x^2}$$

$$= 2$$

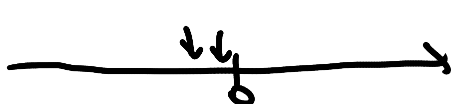
• $\displaystyle\lim_{x\to-\infty} \frac{2x^2}{x^2-1} = 2$

VA. We have ÷ by 0 when $x = \pm 1$.

• $x \to 1^-$ (x approaches 1 from the left).

x	x^2-1
0.9	-0.19
0.99	-0.0199
$\vdots$	$\downarrow$
	0^-

$$\lim_{x\to1^-} \frac{2x^2}{x^2-1} = \frac{2}{0^-} = -\infty$$



- $\underline{x \to 1^+}$

x	x^2-1
1.1	0.21
1.01	0.0201
1.001	0.002001
$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$
1^+	0^+

$$\lim_{x \to 1^+} \frac{2x^2}{x^2-1} = \frac{2}{0^+} = +\infty$$

- $\underline{x \to -1^-}$ $\quad \lim_{x \to -1^-} \frac{2x^2}{x^2-1} = \frac{2}{0^+} = +\infty$

- $\underline{x \to -1^+}$ $\quad \lim_{x \to -1^+} \frac{2x^2}{x^2-1} = \frac{2}{0^-} = -\infty$

⑤ $f'(x) = \dfrac{-4x}{(x^2-1)^2}$ $\qquad f'(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 0.$

x		-1		0		1	
-4	$-$	$-$	$-$	$-$	$-$	$-$	$-$
x	$-$	$-$	$-$	0	$+$	$+$	$+$
$1/(x^2-1)^2$	$+$	$\nexists$	$+$	$+$	$+$	$\nexists$	$+$
f'	$+$	$\nexists$	$+$	0	$-$	$\nexists$	$-$

- $f' \nearrow$ on $(-\infty, 0)$
- $f' \searrow$ on $(0, \infty)$

⑥ $f' > 0$ when $-1 \le x < 0$ &

$f' < 0$ when $0 < x < 1$.

So, $x = 0$ is a local max.

& $f(0) = 0$.

7 We have $f''(x) = \dfrac{4(3x^2+1)}{(x-1)^3(x+1)^3}$

$f''(x) = 0 \iff 3x^2 + 1 = 0 \iff x^2 = \frac{-1}{3}$

impossible

So, no zero.

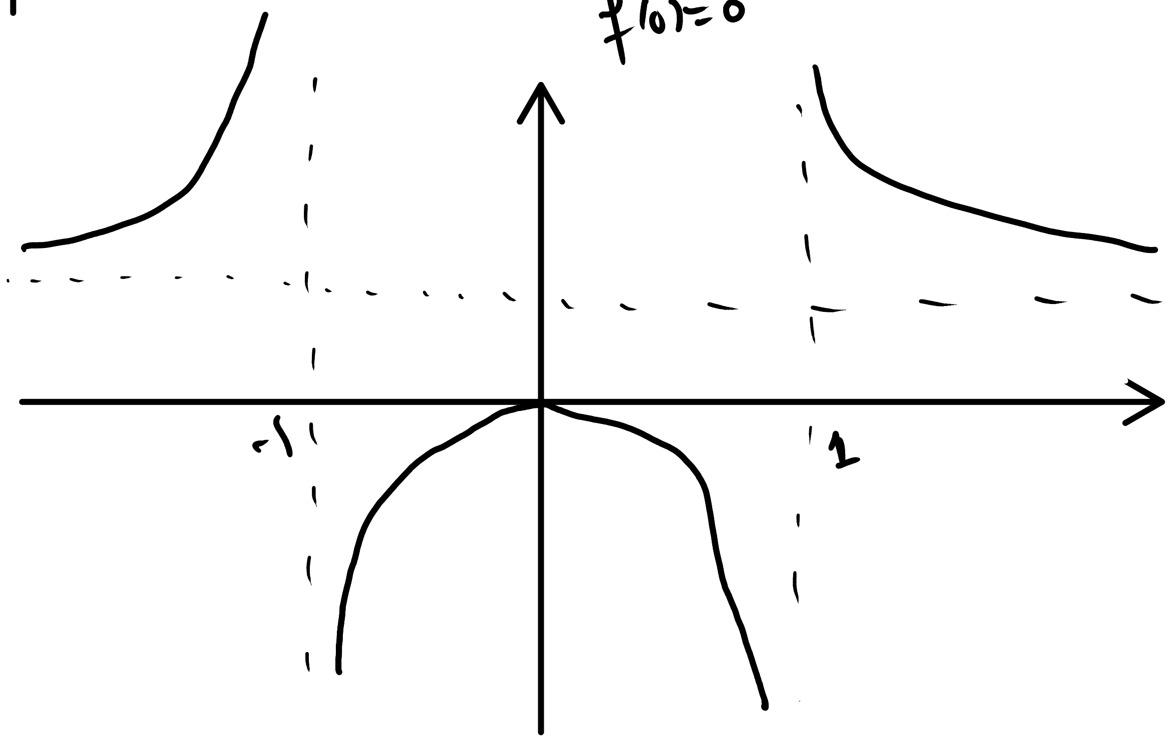
But f'' $\nexists$ if $x = 1$ & $x = -1$.

x		-1		1	
$4(3x^2+1)$	$+$	$+$	$+$	$+$	$+$
$1/(x-1)^3$	$-$	$-$	$-$	$\nexists$	$+$
$1/(x+1)^3$	$-$	$\nexists$	$+$	$+$	$+$
$f''(x)$	$+$	$\nexists$	$-$	$\nexists$	$+$

- f is $\cup$ (upward) on $(-\infty, -1)$ & $(1, \infty)$
- f is $\cap$ (downward) on $(-1, 1)$.

8 Sketch.

x		-1		0		1	
f'	$+$	$\nexists$	$+$	0	$-$	$\nexists$	$-$
f''	$+$	$\nexists$	$-$	$-$	$-$	$\nexists$	$+$
f	$\nearrow$	VA	$\nearrow$	loc. max. $f(0)=0$	$\searrow$	VA	$\searrow$



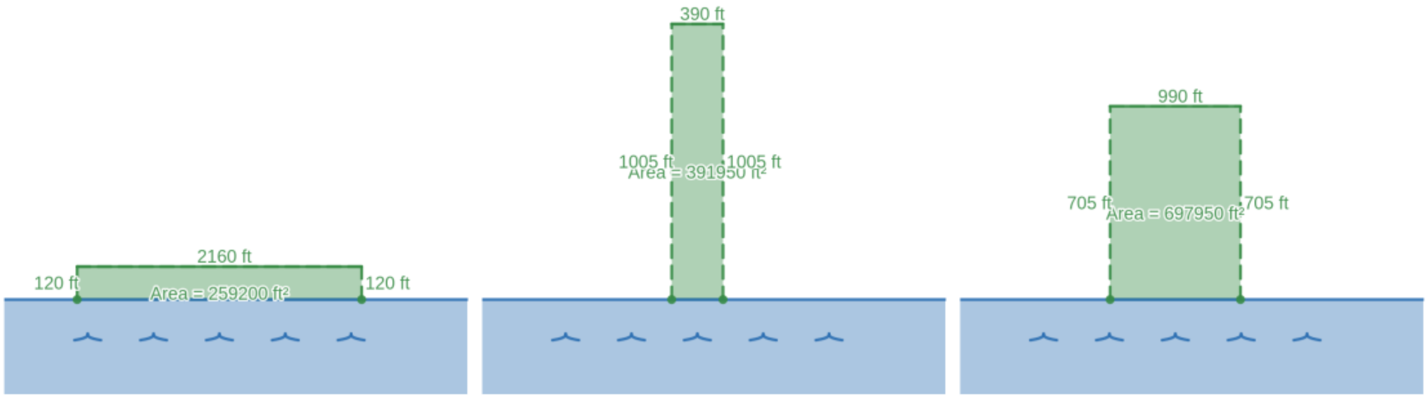
Example 17

With the guideline, sketch the graph of the function

$$f(x) = \frac{\cos x}{2 + \sin x}.$$

Example 18

A farmer has 2400 ft of fencing and wants to fence off a rectangular field that borders a straight river. He needs no fence along the river. What are the dimensions of the field that has the largest area? Field problem



(g) Small Height (h) Big Height (i) Good Height

Figure: Some examples