

Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

13 Graphing Rational Functions

Learning Objectives

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 4y &= 5 \\ 2x - y &= -10 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

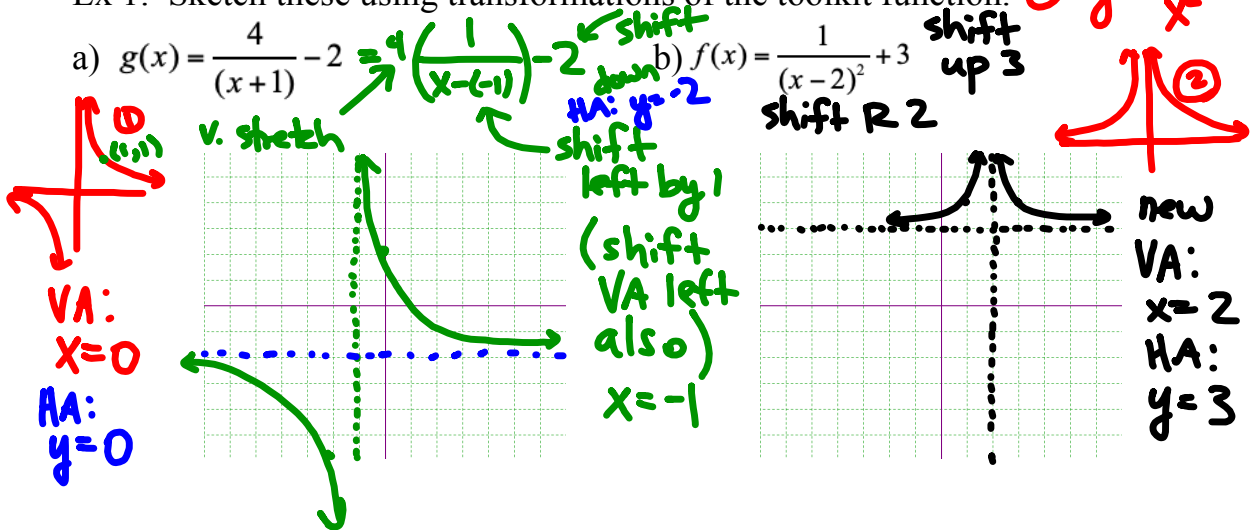
$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1-z^{n+1}}{1-z}$$

- Graph irreducible rational functions with denominators of degree greater than one and numerators having the same or a lesser degree.

In our toolkit of functions, we have two rational functions. ① $y = \frac{1}{x}$ and

Ex 1: Sketch these using transformations of the toolkit function. ② $y = \frac{1}{x^2}$



Not all rational functions can be put in this form. It is helpful to follow the steps in the previous lesson to get a graph of a rational function.

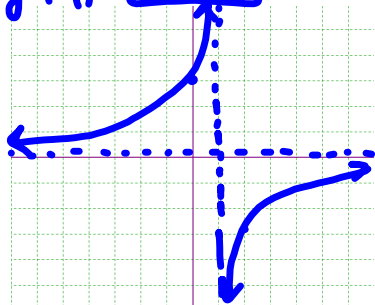
1. Determine the domain and plot vertical asymptotes.
2. Find and plot the x- and y- intercepts.
3. Determine and plot the end-behavior asymptotes.
4. Use a sign-line and the value of other points to complete the graph.

Ex 2: For each of these, determine the x and y-intercepts, vertical and horizontal asymptotes and sketch a graph.

a) $f(x) = \frac{3}{1-x}$

VA: $x=1$
HA: $y=0$

x-int: $0 = \frac{3}{1-x}$ N.S.
no x-int
y-int: $(0, 3)$

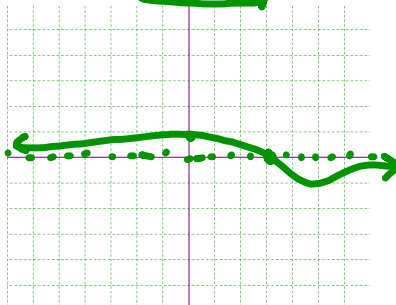


sign line
+ -
 |
 1
 x=2 y = $\frac{3}{1-2}$

b) $g(x) = \frac{3-x}{x^2+4}$

VA: none
HA: $y=0$

x-int: $(3, 0)$
 $0 = 3-x \implies x=3$
y-int: $(0, \frac{3}{4})$ $y = \frac{3}{4}$



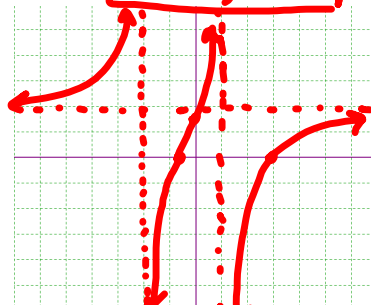
sign line
+ -
 |
 3
 x=4

y-int: $(0, \frac{3}{4})$
 $y = \frac{2(0^2) - 5(0) - 3}{0^2 + 0 - 2}$
 $y = \frac{-3}{-2} = \frac{3}{2}$

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

c) $h(x) = \frac{2x^2 - 5x - 3}{x^2 + x - 2}$

$h(x) = \frac{(2x+1)(x-3)}{(x+2)(x-1)}$
VA: $x=-2, x=1$



HA: $y = \frac{2}{1} = 2$
x-int: set $y=0$

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

sign line
+ - + - +
-2 -1/2 1 3

x = -1000 x = -1 x = 2 x = 1000
-(-) -(-) +(-) +(+)
-(-) +(-) +(+)

Ex 3: Analyze and graph.

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

VA: $x=1, x=-3$

HA: end behavior $y=1$
 is like $\frac{x(x^2)}{x^2(x)} = \frac{x^3}{x^3} = 1$

x-int: $0 = (x-4)(x-2)^2$
 $x=4, 2$

$(4, 0)$ $(2, 0)$

y-int: $y = \frac{(0-4)(-2)^2}{3^2(-1)} = \frac{-16}{-9} = \frac{16}{9}$

$(0, \frac{16}{9})$

