

## Lesson 13

## Graphing Rational Functions

Ex.1

(a) Sketch a graph for

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= \frac{4x^2 + 8x - 12}{x^2 - 6x + 5} \\&= \frac{4(x^2 + 2x - 3)}{(x-5)(x-1)} \\&= \frac{4(x+3)(x-1)}{(x-5)(x-1)} \\&= \frac{4(x+3)}{x-5}\end{aligned}$$

Zeros:  $x = -3$ y-int:  $f(0) = -\frac{12}{5}$ Hole: at  $x = 1$ ,  
 $y = \frac{4(4)}{4} = -4$ VA:  $x = 5$ HA:  $y = 4$ 

SA: DNE

Point where  $f(x)$ 

crosses HA:

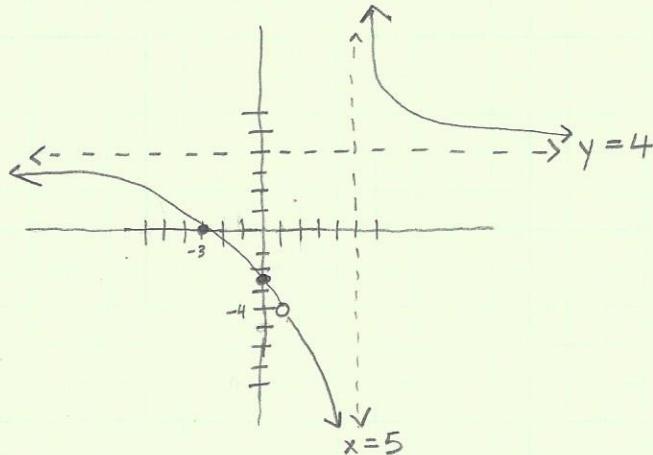
$$4 = \frac{4(x+3)}{x-5}$$

$$4x - 20 = 4x + 12$$

$$\cancel{-20} = \cancel{12}$$

DNE

Plot found information:



Note: • The function will "hug" the asymptotes.

- We only cross the x-axis at the zeros.
- Never cross VA.
- Plug in x-values as necessary to get a better idea of  $f(x)$ .

(b) Use the graph to find the following:

(Exclude holes and VA, (only exclude HA if not crossed))

Domain: Travel from left to right and exclude any x-values where the function is not defined.

- $(-\infty, 1) \cup (1, 5) \cup (5, \infty)$

Range: Travel from bottom to top and exclude any y-values where the function is not defined.

- $(-\infty, -4) \cup (-4, 4) \cup (4, \infty)$

Intervals where  $f(x)$  is decreasing: ( $\searrow$  - an arrow should be travelling downward along the function, or rather, as the x-values increase, the  $f(x)$  or y-values decrease)

- $(-\infty, 1) \cup (1, 5) \cup (5, \infty)$

Intervals where  $f(x)$  is increasing: ( $\nearrow$  - an arrow should be travelling upward along the function, or rather, as the x-values increase, the  $f(x)$  or y-values increase)

- DNE

Intervals where  $f(x) > 0$  (graph is above x-axis):  $(-\infty, -3) \cup (5, \infty)$ Intervals where  $f(x) < 0$  (graph is below x-axis):  $(-3, 1) \cup (1, 5)$

Note: For some functions, we can't find the range or increasing/decreasing intervals without using calculus, so you won't be asked to find them.

Ex. 2 (a) Sketch a graph of

$$f(x) = \frac{-2x^2 + 10x - 12}{x^2 + x}$$

$$= \frac{-2(x^2 - 5x + 6)}{x(x+1)}$$

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

Zeros:  $x=2, x=3$   
y-int: DNE (division by 0)

Holes: DNE

VA:  $x=0, x=-1$

HA:  $y=-2$

SA: DNE

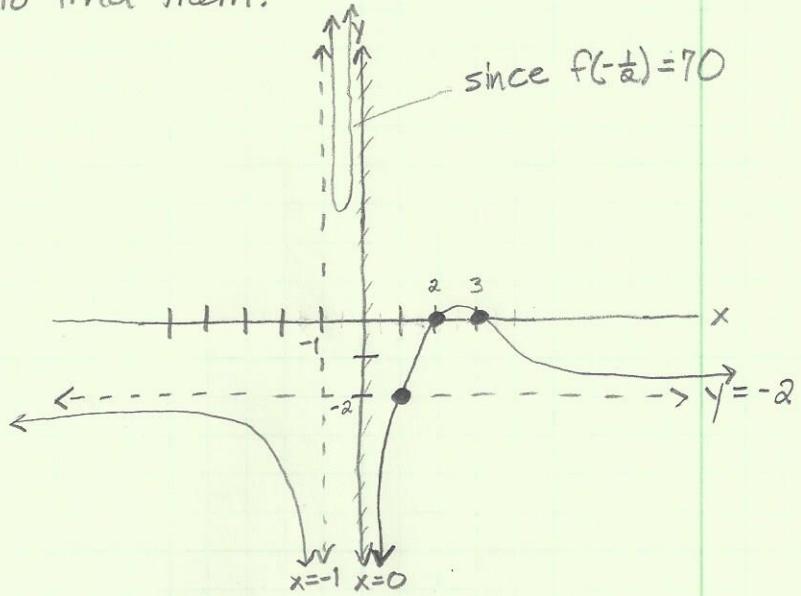
Point at which  $f(x)$  crosses HA:

$$-2 = \frac{-2x^2 + 10x - 12}{x^2 + x}$$

$$-2x^2 - 2x = -2x^2 + 10x - 12$$

$$-12x = -12$$

$$x=1 \quad (1, -2)$$



(b) Domain:  $(-\infty, -1) \cup (-1, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$

$$f(x) > 0: (-1, 0) \cup (2, 3)$$

$$f(x) < 0: (-\infty, -1) \cup (0, 2) \cup (3, \infty)$$

Ex. 3 (a) Sketch a graph of

$$f(x) = \frac{x^3 + 1}{x^2 - 9}$$

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

Zeros:  $x=-1$ ,  $x=\frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1-4}}{2}$   
y-int:  $f(0) = -\frac{1}{9}$

Holes: DNE

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

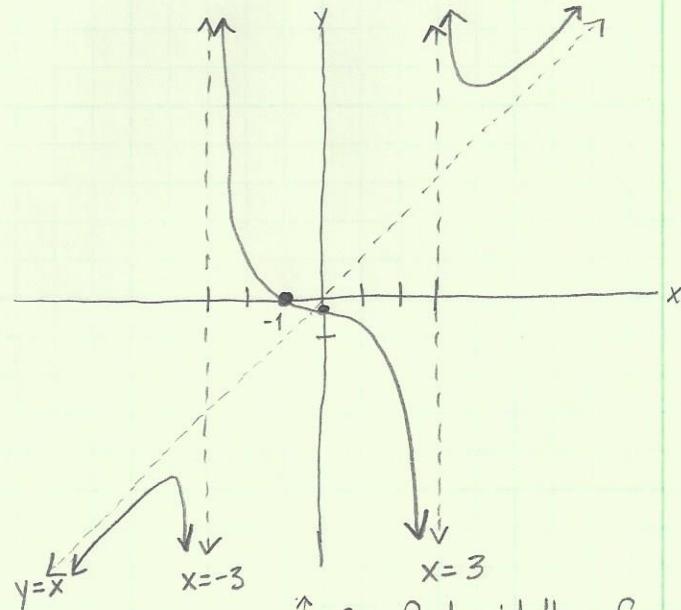
HA: DNE

$$\begin{aligned} SA: \quad & x \\ & \frac{x^2 - 9}{x^2 - 9} \cdot \frac{x^3 + 0x^2 + 0x + 1}{x^3 - 9x} \\ & - \frac{(x^3 - 9x)}{9x + 1} \end{aligned}$$

$$f(x) = x + \frac{9x+1}{x^2-9}$$

$$y=x$$

Point where  $f(x)$  crosses  
HA: DNE



Can find middle of graph  
by calculating  $f(-2)$  and  $f(2)$

(b) Domain:  $(-\infty, -3) \cup (-3, 3) \cup (3, \infty)$

Range:  $(-\infty, \infty)$

$$f(x) > 0: (-3, -1) \cup (3, \infty)$$

$$f(x) < 0: (-\infty, -3) \cup (-1, 3)$$

Ex. 4 (a) Sketch a graph of

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

Zeros:  $x = -3$

y-int:  $f(0) = \frac{1}{3}$

Holes: DNE

VA:  $x = \frac{3}{2}$

HA:  $y = 0$

SA: DNE

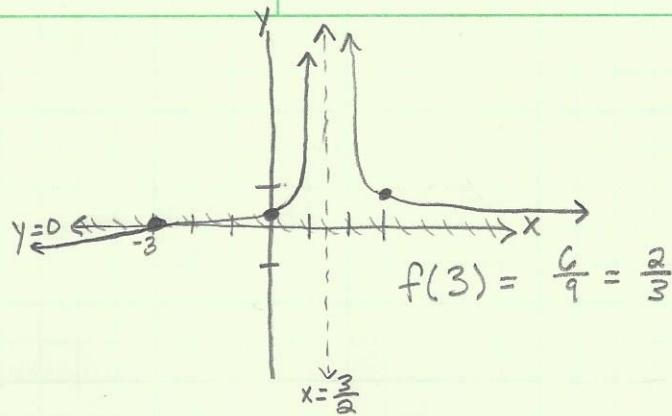
Point at which  
 $f(x)$  crosses HA:

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

$$0 = x+3$$

$$x = -3$$

$$(-3, 0)$$



$$f(3) = \frac{6}{9} = \frac{2}{3}$$

Ex. 5 (a) Sketch a graph of

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zeros:  $x = 1, x = -1$  ← hole!

y-int:  $f(0) = 2$

Holes:  $\bullet$   $x = -1$

$$y = \frac{4(-1+1)(-1-1)}{-1-2} = 0$$

VA:  $x = 2$

HA: DNE

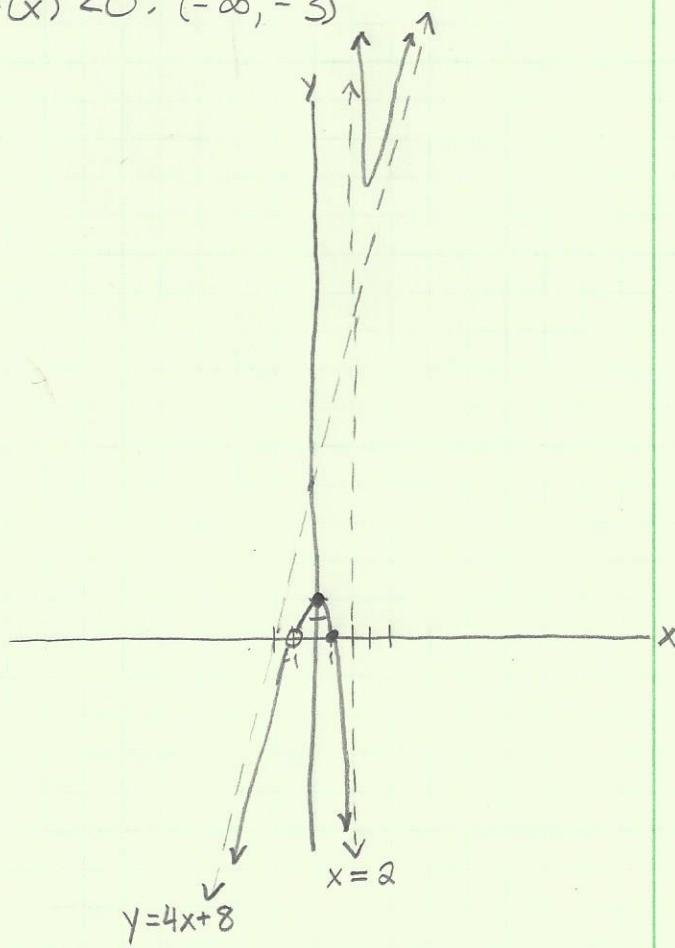
SA:

$$\begin{aligned} & x-2 \sqrt{4x^2 + 0x - 4} \\ & \underline{- (4x^2 - 8x)} \downarrow \\ & \underline{8x - 4} \\ & \underline{- (8x - 16)} \end{aligned}$$

$$f(x) = 4x + 8 + \frac{16}{x-2}$$

$$\boxed{y = 4x + 8}$$

Point where  $f(x)$   
crosses HA: DNE



(b) Domain:  $(-\infty, -1) \cup (-1, 2) \cup (2, \infty)$

$$f(x) > 0: (-1, 1) \cup (2, \infty)$$

$$f(x) < 0: (-\infty, -1) \cup (1, 2)$$