

SECTION 4.6: LIMITS AT INFINITY AND ASYMPTOTES (DAY 1)

1. Three Principles (a is a constant)

- If a is a constant, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} ax = \pm\infty$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0$
- If $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} f(x) = a$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} g(x) = \pm\infty$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = 0$

So $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} ax^2 = \pm\infty$ and

$\dots \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} = 0$

2. Use the Principles above to evaluate the limits below.

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-x}{3x - 5x^2} \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{x^2}}{\frac{1}{x^2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{-1}{x}}{\frac{3}{x} - 5} = \frac{0}{-5} = 0$

* Rational Functions
be have in predictable ways

$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{\text{polynomial}}{\text{polynomial}}$ ← divide by highest degree in denominator.

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^2 - x}{3x - 5x^2} \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{x^2}}{\frac{1}{x^2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2 - \frac{1}{x}}{\frac{3}{x} - 5} = \frac{2}{-5} = -\frac{2}{5}$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^3 - x}{3x - 5x^2} \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{x^2}}{\frac{1}{x^2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x - \frac{1}{x}}{\frac{3}{x} - 5} = \infty$

(d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x + \sin(x)}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 3 + \frac{\sin(x)}{x} = 3$

(e) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{2x + 1}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1}} \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{\frac{1}{x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{2 + \frac{1}{x}}{-\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x^2}}} = -2$

(f) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2e^x + 1}{1 - 3e^x} \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{e^x}}{\frac{1}{e^x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2 + \frac{1}{e^x}}{\frac{1}{e^x} - 3} = \frac{2}{-3} = -\frac{2}{3}$

3. Limits at Infinity and Horizontal Asymptotes: If $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$, then $y = L$ is a horizontal asymptote for $f(x)$.

4. Find all asymptotes of $f(x) = \frac{x}{3-x}$ and justify your answers.

V.a.: $x=3$

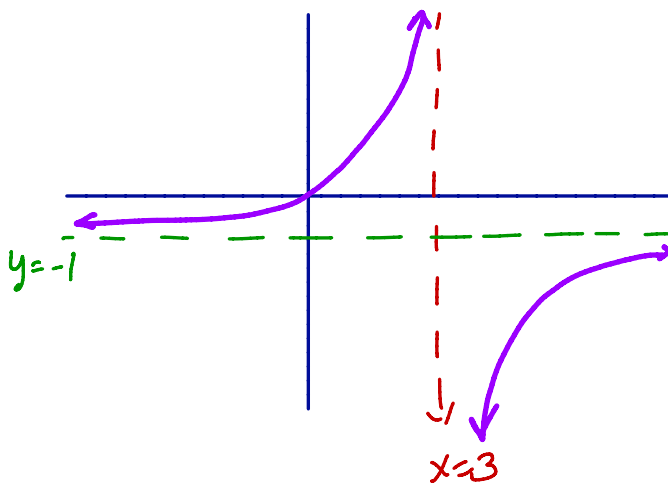
justification:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{x}{3-x} = -\infty$$

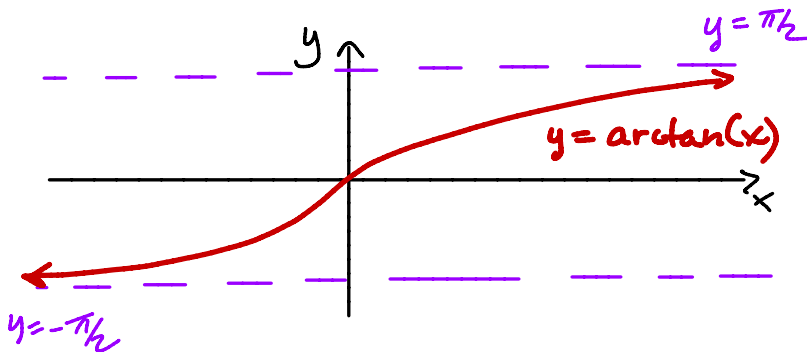
h.a.: $y=-1$

justification:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{3-x} = -1$$



5. Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \tan^{-1}(x) = -\pi/2$



6. Given $f(x) = \frac{2x+1}{x^2+6x+5}$, $f'(x) = \frac{-2(x^2+x-2)}{(x^2+6x+5)^2}$, $f''(x) = \frac{2(2x^3+3x^2-12x-29)}{(x^2+6x+5)^3}$. (Hint: $f''(x) = 0$ when $x = 2.7034$..) Identify important features of $f(x)$ like: asymptotes, local extrema, inflection points, and make a rough sketch.

Asymptotes:

h.a.: $y=0$

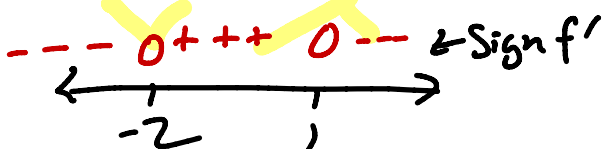
$$x^2 + 6x + 5 = (x+5)(x+1)$$

v.a. $x=-1, x=-5$

extrema:

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

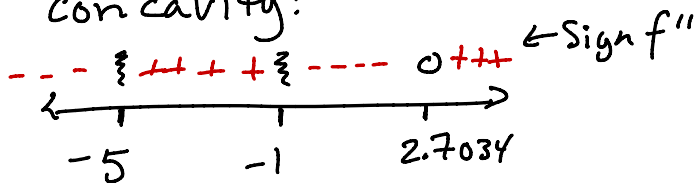
$$f' = 0 \text{ when } x = -2, x = 1$$



local min @ $x=-2$

local max @ $x=1$

concavity:



inflection point at $x=2.7034$

(not at $x=-5$ or -1 b/c not in domain)

