CURVE SKETCHING (II): CUSPS, VERTICAL TANGENTS, AND ASYMPTOTES

Throughout this page, assume y = f(x) and f is an **elementary function** (not piecewise and not implicit). **ASYMPTOTES:** $[k, c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}]$

- y = k is a **horizontal asymptote** of $f \iff \begin{bmatrix} \lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = k & \text{OR} & \lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x) = k \end{bmatrix}$
- x = k is a vertical asymptote of $f \iff \begin{bmatrix} \lim_{x \to k^+} f(x) = \pm \infty & \text{OR} & \lim_{x \to k^-} f(x) = \pm \infty \end{bmatrix}$
- $y = c_1 x + c_2$ is a slant asymptote of $f \iff \left[\lim_{x \to \infty} [f(x) (c_1 x + c_2)] = 0 \quad \text{OR} \quad \lim_{x \to -\infty} [f(x) (c_1 x + c_2)] = 0\right]$
- A function can have zero, one, or two horizontal or slant asymptotes.
- A function can have infinitely many vertical asymptotes (e.g. $f(x) = \tan x$)
- A function never touches or crosses a vertical asymptote, but this is not necessarily true for horizontal asymptotes.

<u>HILLS & VALLEYS:</u> $\left[-\infty < x_L < c < x_R < \infty \right]$

CUSPS:

•
$$f$$
 has a cusp at $x = c \iff \begin{bmatrix} \lim_{x \to c^-} f'(x) = -\infty \text{ AND } \lim_{x \to c^+} f'(x) = +\infty \end{bmatrix}$ OR $\begin{bmatrix} \lim_{x \to c^-} f'(x) = +\infty \text{ AND } \lim_{x \to c^+} f'(x) = -\infty \end{bmatrix}$
• f has an up-cusp at $x = c \iff$ the tables near $x = c$ are $\frac{x \quad x_L \quad c \quad x_R}{f'(x) + DNE \quad -}$ AND $\frac{x \quad x_L \quad c \quad x_R}{f''(x) + DNE \quad +}$
• f has a down-cusp at $x = c \iff$ the tables near $x = c$ are $\frac{x \quad x_L \quad c \quad x_R}{f'(x) \quad - DNE \quad +}$ AND $\frac{x \quad x_L \quad c \quad x_R}{f''(x) \quad - DNE \quad +}$ AND $\frac{x \quad x_L \quad c \quad x_R}{f''(x) \quad - DNE \quad -}$

<u>VERTICAL TANGENTS:</u> $\left[-\infty < x_L < c < x_R < \infty \right]$

- f has a vertical tangent at $x = c \iff \left[\lim_{x \to c^-} f'(x) = \lim_{x \to c^+} f'(x) = +\infty\right]$ OR $\left[\lim_{x \to c^-} f'(x) = \lim_{x \to c^+} f'(x) = -\infty\right]$ • Occurs at $x = c \iff$ the tables **near** x = c are $\begin{array}{c|c} x & x_L & c & x_R \\ \hline f'(x) & - & DNE & - \end{array}$ AND c DNE xf''(x)slope concavity x_L cx x_L x_R DNEf''(x)• Occurs at $x = c \iff$ the tables **near** x = c are f'(x)+AND DNEslope concavity
- Vertical tangents are also inflection points.

RELATIVE EXTREMA:

- Relative (local) maxima of f occur at either hills, up-cusps, or corners.
- Relative (local) minima of f occur at either valleys, down-cusps, or corners.

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EXAMPLE: Let $f(x) = \frac{x(x-1)(x-2)^2(x-3)}{(x-1)(x-2)^2(x-3)^3(x+4)^{5/3}\sqrt[5]{x+5}}$. Find all horizontal & vertical asymptotes. Since f is a **rational function**, notice f is undefined when the **denominator** is zero which is when $x \in \{1, 2, 3, -4, -5\}$ Now, use the definition to determine if a vertical asymptote really occurs at each of these suspected x-values: $\lim_{x \to 0^{-}} f(x) \stackrel{NS}{=} \frac{(0)(-1)(4)(-3)}{(-1)(4)(-27)(4)^{5/3}(1)} = 0 \qquad \lim_{x \to 0^{+}} f(x) = \stackrel{NS}{=} \frac{(0)(-1)(4)(-3)}{(-1)(4)(-27)(4)^{5/3}(1)} = 0$ Since $\lim_{x \to 0^{-}} f(x) \neq \pm \infty$ and $\lim_{x \to 0^{+}} f(x) \neq \pm \infty$, x = 0 is NOT a vertical asymptote. $\lim_{x \to 1} f(x) \stackrel{NS}{=} \frac{0}{0} \implies \text{Rewrite/simplify function} \implies \text{cancel the } (x-1) \text{ terms on top \& bottom of } f(x)$ Hence, $\lim_{x \to 1} \frac{x(x-2)^2(x-3)}{(x-2)^2(x-3)^3(x+4)^{5/3}\sqrt[5]{x+5}} \stackrel{NS}{=} \frac{(1)(1)(-2)}{(1)(-8)(5)^{5/3}\sqrt[5]{6}} \neq \pm \infty$ Since $\lim_{x \to 1} f(x) = \lim_{x \to 1^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \to 1^+} f(x) \neq \pm \infty$, x = 1 is NOT a vertical asymptote. $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x) \stackrel{NS}{=} \frac{0}{0} \implies \text{Rewrite/simplify function} \implies \text{cancel the } (x-2)^2 \text{ terms on top \& bottom of } f(x)$ Hence, $\lim_{x \to 2} \frac{x(x-1)(x-3)}{(x-1)(x-3)^3(x+4)^{5/3}\sqrt[5]{x+5}} \stackrel{NS}{=} \frac{(2)(1)(-1)}{(1)(-1)(6)^{5/3}\sqrt[5]{7}} \neq \pm \infty$ Since $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x) = \lim_{x \to 2^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \to 2^+} f(x) \neq \pm \infty$, x = 2 is NOT a vertical asymptote. $\lim_{x \to 3^{-}} f(x) \stackrel{NS}{=} \frac{6}{(2)(7)^{5/3} \sqrt[5]{8}} \left[\lim_{x \to 3^{-}} \frac{x-3}{(x-3)^3} \right] = (+) \lim_{x \to 3^{-}} \frac{1}{(x-3)^2} \stackrel{CV}{=} (+) \lim_{u \to 0^{-}} \frac{1}{u^2} \stackrel{S.1}{=} (+)(+\infty) \stackrel{E.4}{=} +\infty$ Since $\lim_{x \to 2^{-}} f(x) = +\infty$, x = 3 is a vertical asymptote $\lim_{x \to (-4)^{-}} f(x) \stackrel{NS}{=} -\frac{4}{49} \left[\lim_{x \to (-4)^{-}} \frac{1}{(x+4)^{5/3}} \right] \stackrel{CV}{=} -\frac{4}{49} \lim_{u \to 0^{-}} \frac{1}{u^{5/3}} \stackrel{S.1}{=} (-)(-\infty) \stackrel{E.4}{=} +\infty$ Since $\lim_{x \to (-4)^{-}} f(x) = +\infty, x = -4$ is a vertical asymptote. $\lim_{x \to (-5)^{-}} f(x) \stackrel{NS}{=} \frac{5}{64} \left[\lim_{x \to (-5)^{-}} \frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{x+5}} \right] \stackrel{CV}{=} \frac{5}{64} \lim_{u \to 0^{-}} \frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{u}} \stackrel{S.1}{=} (+)(-\infty) \stackrel{E.4}{=} -\infty$ $\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = -\infty, \ x = -5 \text{ is a vertical asymptote.}$ Since Thus, | f has **vertical asymptotes** at $x \in \{3, -4, -5\}$ $\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{x}{(x-3)^2 (x+4)^{5/3} \sqrt[5]{x+5}} = \lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{x^2}{x(x-3)^2 (x+4)^{5/3} \sqrt[5]{x+5}} = \lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{\left(\frac{x}{x-3}\right)^2}{x(x+4)^{5/3} \sqrt[5]{x+5}}$ $\overset{L.3}{=} \lim_{x \to \infty} \left(\frac{x}{x-3}\right)^2 \lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{1}{x(x+4)^{5/3} \sqrt[5]{x+5}} = \lim_{x \to \infty} \left(\frac{1}{1-\frac{3}{x}}\right)^2 \lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{1}{x(x+4)^{5/3} \sqrt[5]{x+5}} = \left(\frac{1}{1-0}\right)^2 \lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{1}{x(x+4)^{5/3} \sqrt[5]{x+5}} = \left(\frac{1}{1-0}\right$ $\underset{=}{\overset{L.3}{=}} \left[\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{1}{x} \right] \left[\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{1}{(x+4)^{5/3}} \right] \left[\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{x+5}} \right] \overset{CV}{=} \left[\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{1}{x} \right] \left[\lim_{u \to \infty} \frac{1}{u^{5/3}} \right] \left[\lim_{w \to \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{m}} \right] = (0)(0)(0) = 0$ Here's the above two change of variable $u = x + 4 \iff x = u - 4$ which means $x \to \infty \iff (u - 4) \to \infty \iff u \to (\infty + 4) \iff u \to \infty$ $w = x + 5 \iff x = w - 5 \text{ which means } x \to \infty \iff (w - 5) \to \infty \iff w \to (\infty + 5) \stackrel{E.2}{\iff} w \to \infty$ Similarly, $\lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \to -\infty} \frac{x}{(x - 3)^2 (x + 4)^{5/3} \sqrt[5]{x + 5}} = 0$ Thus, f has a **horizontal asymptote** at y = 0**EXAMPLE:** Let $h(x) = \frac{x^2 + 1}{x} = x + \frac{1}{x}$. Find all asymptotes. h is undefined when $x = 0 \implies x = 0$ is suspected to be a vertical asymptote. Find out using the definition: $\lim_{x \to 0^{-}} h(x) = \lim_{x \to 0^{-}} \left[x + \frac{1}{x} \right] = \lim_{x \to 0^{-}} x + \lim_{x \to 0^{-}} \frac{1}{x} = 0 + (-\infty) = -\infty$ Since one of the 1-sided limits of f is infinite, h has a vertical asymptote at x = 0 $\lim_{x \to -\infty} h(x) = -\infty \text{ and } \lim_{x \to \infty} h(x) = \infty \implies \boxed{h \text{ has NO horizontal asymptotes}}$ $\lim_{x \to \infty} [h(x) - x] = \lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0 \text{ and } \lim_{x \to -\infty} [h(x) - x] = \lim_{x \to -\infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0 \implies \boxed{h \text{ has a slant asymptote } y = x}$

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EXAMPLE: Let $f(x) = 4 + \sqrt[3]{(x-8)^2}$

(a) Identify the **domain** of f.

 $Dom(f) = Dom\left(4 + \sqrt[3]{x} - \sqrt[3]{(x-8)^2}\right) = Dom(4) \cap Dom\left(\sqrt[3]{x}\right) \cap Dom\left(\sqrt[3]{(x-8)^2}\right) = \mathbb{R} \cap \mathbb{R} \cap \mathbb{R} = \boxed{\mathbb{R} = (-\infty, \infty)}$ (b) Identify all horizontal & vertical asymptotes of f.

 $Dom(f) = \mathbb{R} \implies f \text{ is undefined nowhere } \implies \text{ no vertical asymptotes occur.}$ $\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \to \infty} \left[4 + \sqrt[3]{x} - \sqrt[3]{(x-8)^2} \right] = (4+\infty) - \infty = \infty - \infty \text{ which is an indeterminant form (meaning inconclusive)}$ but notice as x gets more & more **positive**, $x < (x-8)^2 \implies \sqrt[3]{x} < \sqrt[3]{(x-8)^2}.$

Hence, the 3rd term dominates the others as $x \to \infty \implies \lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = -\infty \implies$ no horizontal asymptote occurs.

$$\lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \to -\infty} \left[4 + \sqrt[3]{x} - \sqrt[3]{(x-8)^2} \right] = (4-\infty) - \infty = -\infty - \infty = -\infty \implies \text{no horizontal asymptote occurs.}$$

Find all aritical numbers of f which lie in the interior of its domain \implies int $(\text{Dem}(f)) = \text{int}((-\infty, \infty)) = (-\infty, \infty)$

(c) Find all **critical numbers** of f which lie in the **interior** of its **domain** \implies int $(\text{Dom}(f)) = \text{int}((-\infty,\infty)) = (-\infty,\infty)$ $f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left[4 + x^{1/3} - (x-8)^{2/3} \right] = \frac{1}{2} x^{-2/3} = \frac{2}{dx} (x-8)^{-1/3} = \frac{1}{dx} = -\frac{2}{dx}$

$$f'(x) \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0 \implies \frac{1}{3\sqrt[3]{x^2}} - \frac{2}{3\sqrt[3]{x-8}} = 0 \implies \sqrt[3]{x-8} - 2\sqrt[3]{x^2} = 0 \implies x-8 = 8x^2 \implies 8x^2 - x+8 = 0 \implies \text{NO SOLN}$$
Now, consider where $f'(x)$ is undefined yet $f(x)$ is defined: Division by zero occurs at $x \in \{0, 8\}$

Now, consider where f'(x) is undefined yet f(x) is defined: Division by zero occurs at $x \in \{0, 8\}$

Thus, the critical numbers of f are $x \in \{0, 8\}$

(d) Identify all relative minima, relative maxima as well as the interval(s) where f increases and decreases.

In order to identify all this, **build the slope table** for f: $\begin{bmatrix} blue = critical \#, red = vertical asymptote (VA) \end{bmatrix}$

Relative extrema & vertical asymptotes separate intervals of increasing/decreasing:

f increases over $(-\infty, 8)$ OR $(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, 8)$, f decreases over $(8, \infty)$

(e) Find all **CFIP's** (candidates for inflection point) of f which lie in the **interior** of its **domain**.

$$f''(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{1}{3} x^{-2/3} - \frac{2}{3} (x-8)^{-1/3} \right] = -\frac{2}{9} x^{-5/3} + \frac{2}{9} (x-8)^{-4/3} = -\frac{2}{9\sqrt[3]{x^5}} + \frac{2}{9\sqrt[3]{(x-8)^4}}$$
$$f''(x) \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0 \implies -\frac{2}{9\sqrt[3]{x^5}} + \frac{2}{9\sqrt[3]{(x-8)^4}} = 0 \implies -\sqrt[3]{(x-8)^4} + \sqrt[3]{x^5} = 0 \implies x^5 = (x-8)^4 \implies x \approx 3.3937$$

Now, consider where f''(x) is undefined: Division by zero occurs at $x \in \{0, 8\}$ and they're NOT vertical asymptotes. Thus, the CFIP's of f are $x \in \{0, 3.3937, 8\}$

(f) Identify all inflection points as well as the interval(s) where f is concave up and concave down.

In order to identify all this, **build the concavity table** for f: blue = CFIP, red = vertical asymptote (VA)

x	-1	0	1	3.3937	7	8	9		
f''(x)	+	DNE	-	0	+	DNE	+	\Rightarrow	f has inflection points at $x \in \{0, 3.3937\}$
concavity	U	*	\cap	*	U	*	U		

Inflection points & vertical asymptotes separate intervals of concave up/concave down:

f is concave up (smiles) over $(-\infty, -1) \cup (3.3937, \infty)$, f is concave down (frowns) over (0, 3.3937)

(g) Identify all **vertical tangents** and **cusps** of f.

Notice $x \in \{0, 8\}$ are both critical numbers and CFIP's.

Interpreting the 3rd rows of both tables implies that f has a **vertical tangent** at x = 0 and f has a **cusp** at x = 8

(h) Sketch the graph of f.

First, plot all vertical & horizontal asymptotes as dashed lines.

Then, plot the following points: hills, valleys, cusps, vertical tangents, inflection points.

Finally, complete the curve sketch using the guidance of the **third rows** of the **slope** & **concavity tables** of f.

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EXAMPLE: Let $g(t) = \frac{1}{t^2 - t} = \frac{1}{t(t - 1)}$ (a) Identify the **domain** of g. $Dom(g) = Dom\left(\frac{1}{t^2 - t}\right) \stackrel{DM.Q}{=} Dom(1) \setminus \{t \in \mathbb{R} : t^2 - t = 0\} \stackrel{DM.1}{=} \boxed{\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0, 1\} = (-\infty, 0) \cup (0, 1) \cup (1, \infty)}$ (b) Identify all **horizontal & vertical asymptotes** of g. $Dom(g) = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0, 1\} \implies g$ **may** have **vertical asymptotes** at t = 0 and t = 1. Use the definition to find out for sure: $\lim_{t \to 0^+} g(t) = \lim_{t \to 0^+} \frac{1}{t(t - 1)} \stackrel{L.3}{=} \left[\lim_{t \to 0^+} \frac{1}{t}\right] \left[\lim_{t \to 0^+} \frac{1}{t - 1}\right] \stackrel{NS}{=} \frac{1}{(0) - 1} \left[\lim_{t \to 0^+} \frac{1}{t}\right] \stackrel{S.1}{=} (-1)(+\infty) = -\infty$ $\lim_{t \to 1^-} g(t) = \lim_{t \to 1^-} \frac{1}{t(t - 1)} \stackrel{L.3}{=} \left[\lim_{t \to 1^-} \frac{1}{t}\right] \left[\lim_{t \to 1^-} \frac{1}{t - 1}\right] \stackrel{NS}{=} \frac{1}{(1)} \left[\lim_{t \to 1^-} \frac{1}{t - 1}\right] \stackrel{CV}{=} \lim_{u \to 0^-} \frac{1}{u} \stackrel{S.1}{=} -\infty$ (where u = t - 1)

Thus, by definition, indeed
$$t = 0$$
 and $t = 1$ are **vertical asymptotes** of g .

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} g(t) = \lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t(t-1)} \stackrel{L.3}{=} \left[\lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t}\right] \left[\lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t-1}\right] \stackrel{CV}{=} \left[\lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{1}{t}\right] \left[\lim_{u \to \infty} \frac{1}{u}\right] \stackrel{S.1}{=} (0)(0) = 0 \quad (\text{where } u = t-1)$$

$$\lim_{t \to -\infty} g(t) = \lim_{t \to -\infty} \frac{1}{t(t-1)} \stackrel{L.3}{=} \left[\lim_{t \to -\infty} \frac{1}{t}\right] \left[\lim_{t \to -\infty} \frac{1}{t-1}\right] \stackrel{CV}{=} \left[\lim_{t \to -\infty} \frac{1}{t}\right] \left[\lim_{u \to -\infty} \frac{1}{u}\right] \stackrel{S.1}{=} (0)(0) = 0 \quad (\text{where } u = t-1)$$

Thus, | y = 0 is the only **horizontal asymptote** of g.

(c) Find all **critical numbers** of g which lie in the **interior** of its **domain**
$$\implies$$
 int $(\text{Dom}(g)) = \text{int} (\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0, 1\}) = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0, 1\}$
 $g'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{1}{t^2 - t} \right] \stackrel{D.4}{=} -\frac{2t - 1}{(t^2 - t)^2}, \qquad g'(t) \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0 \implies -\frac{2t - 1}{(t^2 - t)^2} = 0 \implies 2t - 1 = 0 \implies t = \frac{1}{2}$
Consider where $g'(t)$ is undefined yet $g(t)$ is defined. Division by zero occurs at $t \in \{0, 1\}$ but $g(0)$ and $g(1)$ are undefined.

Consider where g'(t) is undefined yet g(t) is defined: Division by zero occurs at $t \in \{0, 1\}$, but g(0) and g(1) are **undefined** Thus, the only critical number of g is $t = \frac{1}{2}$

(d) Identify all **relative minima**, **relative maxima** as well as the interval(s) where f **increases** and **decreases**. In order to identify all this, **build the slope table** for g: $\begin{bmatrix} blue = critical \#, red = vertical asymptote (VA) \end{bmatrix}$

Relative extrema & vertical asymptotes separate intervals of increasing/decreasing:

$$g$$
 increases over $(-\infty, 0) \cup \left(0, \frac{1}{2}\right)$, g decreases over $\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1\right) \cup (1, \infty)$

(e) Find all **CFIP's** (candidates for inflection point) of g which lie in the **interior** of its **domain**.

$$g''(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \left[-\frac{2t-1}{(t^2-t)^2} \right] \stackrel{D.4}{=} \frac{6t^2 - 6t + 2}{(t-1)^3 t^3}, \qquad g''(t) \stackrel{set}{=} 0 \implies \frac{6t^2 - 6t + 2}{(t-1)^3 t^3} = 0 \implies 6t^2 - 6t + 2 = 0 \implies \text{NO SOLN}$$

Now, consider where g''(t) is undefined: Division by zero only occurs at vertical asymptotes $\implies |g|$ has NO CFIP's

(f) Identify all inflection points as well as the interval(s) where g is concave up and concave down.

In order to identify all this, **build the concavity table** for g: blue = CFIP, red = vertical asymptote (VA)

Inflection points & vertical asymptotes separate intervals of concave up/concave down:

g is concave up (smiles) over $(-\infty, 0) \cup (1, \infty)$, f is concave down (frowns) over (0, 1)

(g) Identify all **vertical tangents** and **cusps** of g.

Interpreting the 3rd rows of both tables implies that g has NO vertical tangents or cusps

(h) Sketch the graph of g.

Plot all vertical asymptotes, horizontal asymptotes, hills, valleys, cusps, vertical tangents, and inflection points. Complete the curve sketch using the guidance of the **third rows** of the **slope** & **concavity tables** of g.

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