

## 3.2: Reciprocal of a Quadratic Function

### Rational Function:

- Rational functions can have polynomials of any degree, such as quadratic, cubic, quartic, etc; in the numerator and denominator
- Quadratics have possibly zero, one, or two x-intercepts, a parabolic shape, and a maximum or minimum point. As a result of this, their reciprocals can be complex.
- Rational functions can be analyzed using key features: asymptotes, intercepts, slope (positive or negative, increasing or decreasing), domain, range, and positive and negative intervals.

Investigate the graph of  $y = \frac{1}{x^2}$

$$y = \frac{1}{x^2}$$

- Horizontal Asymptote:

$$y = 0$$

- Vertical Asymptote:

$$x = 0$$

- Intercepts:

no intercepts

- Domain and Range:

$$D: x \in \mathbb{R}, x \neq 0 \quad R: y > 0, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

- End Behaviour

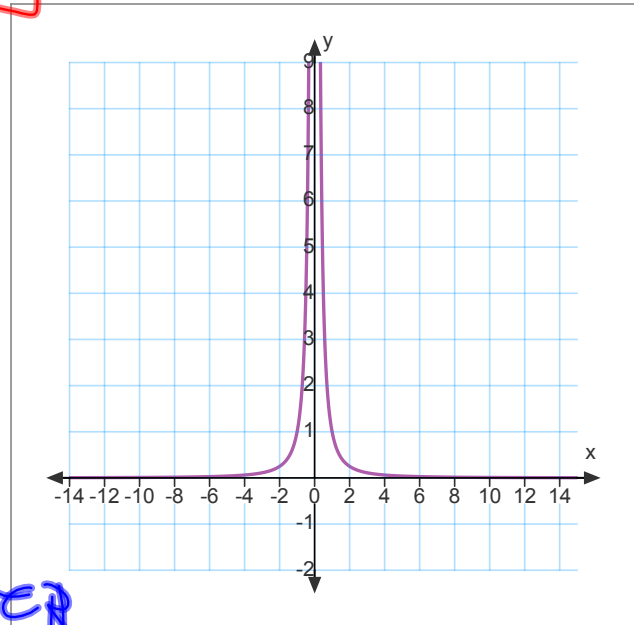
$$x \rightarrow \infty, y \rightarrow 0; \quad x \rightarrow -\infty, y \rightarrow 0$$

- Positive and Negative Intervals:

positive always

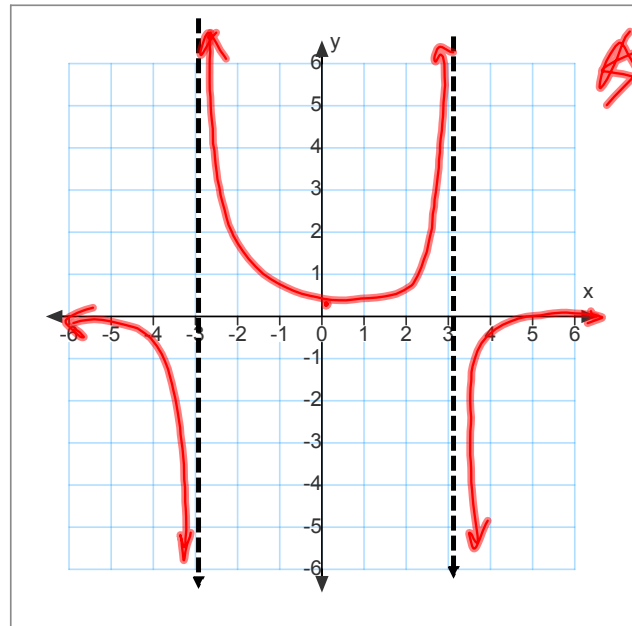
- Increasing and Decreasing intervals

increasing  $(-\infty, 0)$   
decreasing  $(0, \infty)$



The Nature of the Graph of the Reciprocal of a Quadratic Funcon

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



(a) Determine the vercal asymptotes:

$x = 3$  and

$x = -3$

- There will be a maximum or minimum between the asymptotes. Just as a quadrac, the reciprocal of a quadrac has the **x-coordinate** of its maximum or minimum **exactly halfway** between the vercal asymptotes

$x = \frac{3 + (-3)}{2} = 0$        $f(0) = \frac{1}{9} = 0.\bar{1}$

- There is a local minimum at: \_\_\_\_\_

$y = 0.1$

(b) Determine the domain and range

Domain:  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}, x \neq 3, -3\}$

Range:  $\{y \in \mathbb{R}, y > 1/9, y \neq 0\}$

(c) Determine the x- and y- intercepts:

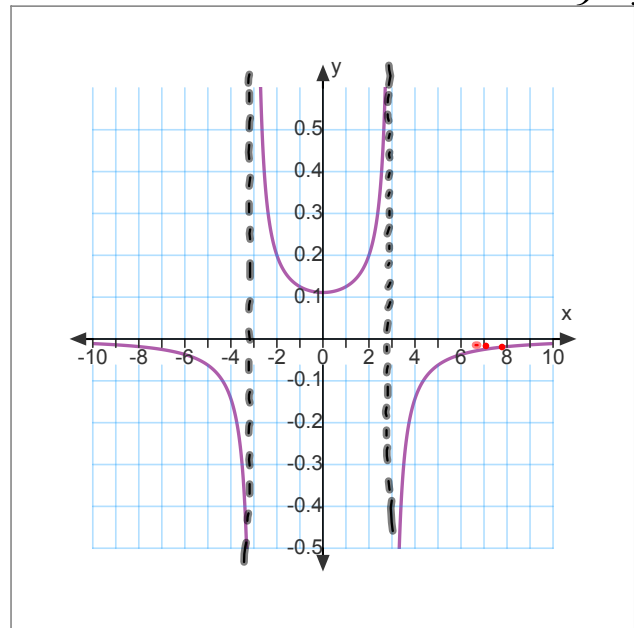
x-intercept: \_\_\_\_\_

y-intercept: no x-int!  
 $y = 1/9$

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

(d) Determine the behaviour of the function near the **asymptotes**:  $y = \frac{1}{9-x^2}$

- As  $x \rightarrow 3^+$ ,  $y \rightarrow -\infty$
- As  $x \rightarrow 3^-$ ,  $y \rightarrow +\infty$
- As  $x \rightarrow -3^+$ ,  $y \rightarrow +\infty$
- As  $x \rightarrow -3^-$ ,  $y \rightarrow -\infty$



(e) Determine the **end behaviour**:

- As  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow 0$
- As  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow 0$
- There is a **horizontal asymptote**, at  $y = 0$

(f) Determine **positive and negative** intervals:

$f(x)$  is positive when  $-3 < x < 3$  or  $(-3, 3)$

$f(x)$  is negative when  $-\infty < x < -3$  and  $3 < x < \infty$

(g) Determine **increasing** and **decreasing** intervals

- Increasing intervals means as  $x \uparrow$ ,  $y \uparrow$
- Decreasing intervals means as  $x \uparrow$ ,  $y \downarrow$

- $f(x)$  is increasing when  $0 < x < 3$  and  $3 < x < \infty$
- $f(x)$  is decreasing when  $-\infty < x < -3$  and  $-3 < x < 0$

Example: Sketch  $f(x) = \frac{-1}{2x^2 - 1x - 6}$

$$\frac{-1}{18+3-6}$$

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

Solution: Analyze  $f(x)$  using the key features:

- Domain
- Range
- Asymptotes
- Intercepts
- End Behaviour
- Behaviour of  $f(x)$  near the asymptotes
- Positive and Negative Intervals
- Increasing and Decreasing Intervals
- Max and Min Points

Asymptotes:

$$x = -3/2$$

$$x = 2$$

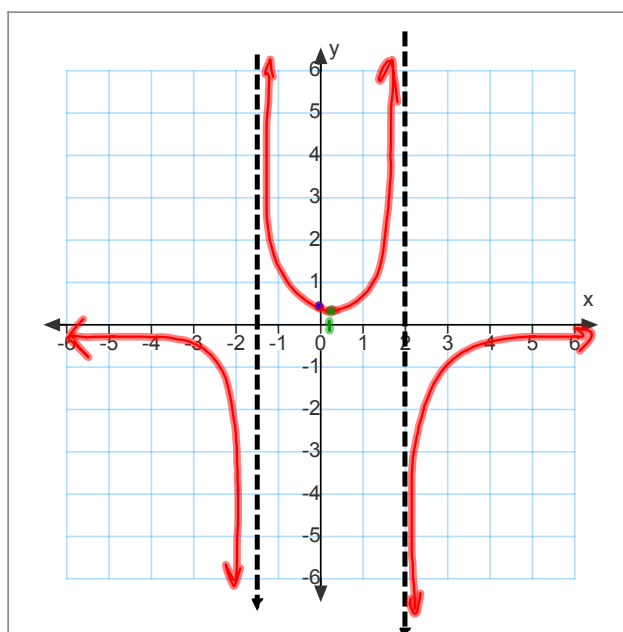
Intercepts

$$y\text{-int: } y = \frac{-1}{(3)(-2)} = \frac{1}{6}$$

Local /max/min:

$$\frac{-1.5 + 2}{2} = 0.25$$

$$f(0.25) = 0.1633$$



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