



Dr. Bbosa Science

Sponsored by  
**The Science Foundation College**  
**Uganda East Africa**  
Senior one to senior six  
**+256 778 633 682, 753 802709**  
**Based On, best for science**

digitalteachers.co.ug



Nurture your dreams

## Curve sketching (A-level)

The procedures of curve sketching depend on the nature of the curve to be sketched

Graphs of  $y = f(x)$  (Non rational functions)

For any graph of the form  $y = f(x)$  where  $f(x)$  is not linear, some or all the following steps are followed.

- Determine if the curve is symmetrical about either or both axes of coordinates.
  - Symmetry about the x-axis occurs if the equation contains only even powers of y. here equation will be unchanged when (-y) is substituted for y. this applies to graphs of the type  $y^2=f(x)$
  - Symmetry about the y-axis occurs if the equation contains only even powers of x. Here the equation will be unchanged when (-x) is substituted for x. Here the graph is said to even i.e.  $f(x) = f(-x)$ . For example the graph of  $y = x^2$ . **Note** if there are odd powers of x and y then there will be no symmetry.
- Determine if there is symmetry about the origin. Here symmetry occurs when a change in the sign of x causes a change in the sign of y without altering its numerical value.
- Find the intercepts i.e. the curve cuts the x-axis at a point when  $y = 0$  and cuts the y-axis at the point when  $x = 0$ .
- The curve passes through the origin if  $(x, y) = (0, 0)$

The behaviour of the neighbour of the curve through the origin is studied by considering the ratio of  $\frac{y}{x}$ .

- If this ratio is small, the curve keeps close to x-axis near the origin.
- If the ratio is unity, the direction of the curve bisects the angle between the axes.
- If the ratio is large, the curve keeps near the y-axis.

Or:

We consider the behaviour of  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  near the origin.

- If  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  is very small, then the curve lies near the x-axis.
  - If  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  is large, then the curve lies near the y-axis.
  - If  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  is near unity, then the direction of the curve (tangent at origin) bisects the angle between the axes.
- Examine the behaviour of the function as  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$  and  $y \rightarrow \pm\infty$  (if any)
  - Find the turning points and their nature as well as points of inflexion (if any)  
Use the second derivative
    - For min point,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = +ve$
    - For max point,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -ve$
    - Point of inflexion,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 0$

### Example 1

- Sketch the graph of  $y = 5 + 4x - x^2$ .

Steps taken

- Finding intercepts
  - x – intercept;  $y = 0$   
 $0 = 5 + 4x - x^2$   
 $5 + 5x - x - x^2 = 0$   
 $5(1 + x) - x(1 + x) = 0$   
 $(5 - x)(1 + x)$

Either  $5 - x = 0$ ;  $x = 5$

Or  $1 + x = 0$ ;  $x = -1$

Hence the curve cuts the x-axis at point  $(-1, 0)$  and  $(0, 5)$

y - intercept, when  $x = 0$ ,  $y = 5$

hence the curve cuts the y-axis at point  $(0, 5)$

- As  $x \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow -\infty$  and  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow +\infty$
- Finding turning point

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 4 - 2x$$

$$\text{At turning point } \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$2x - 4 = 0; x = 2$$

$$\text{When } x = 2; y = 5 + 4(2) - (2)^2 = 9$$

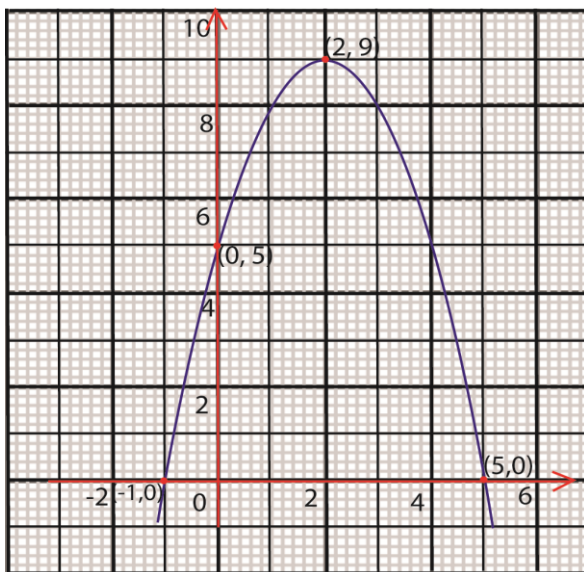
Hence turning point =  $(2, 9)$

Finding the nature of turning point

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 4 - 2x$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -2$$

Since  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} < 0$ , hence the turning point is maximum.



(b) Sketch the curve  $y = x^3 - x^2 - 5x + 6$

Steps taken

For y - intercept;  $x = 0$ ,  $y = 6$

Hence the y - intercept is  $(0, 6)$

For x - intercept,  $y = 0$

$$x^3 - x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$$

error approach is used to find the first factor i.e.  $(x-2)$ , then other factor is found by long division

$$\begin{array}{r} x^2 + x - 3 \\ (x-2) \overline{) x^3 - x^2 - 5x + 6} \\ \underline{-x^3 - 2x^2} \phantom{+ 6} \\ x^2 - 5x + 6 \\ \underline{-x^2 - 2x} \phantom{+ 6} \\ 3x + 6 \\ \underline{-3x + 6} \\ 0 + 0 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow x^3 - x^2 - 5x + 6 = (x-2)(x^2 + x - 3) = 0$$

Solving  $x^2 + x - 3 = 0$

$$x = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1+12}}{2} = \frac{-1 \pm 3.6}{2}$$

$x = 1.3$  or  $-2.6$

Hence the x- intercepts are  $(2, 0)$ ,  $(1.3, 0)$  and  $(-2.3, 0)$

Finding turning points

$$y = x^3 - x^2 - 5x + 6$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2 - 2x - 5$$

$$\text{At turning point } \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$3x^2 - 2x - 5 = (3x - 5)(x+1) = 0$$

$$\text{Either } 3x - 5 = 0 \quad x = \frac{5}{3}$$

$$\text{Or } x + 1 = 0; x = -1$$

$$\text{When } x = \frac{5}{3};$$

$$y = \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^3 - \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^2 - 5\left(\frac{5}{3}\right) + 6 = \frac{-13}{27}$$

$$\text{When } x = -1$$

$$y = (-1)^3 - (-1)^2 - 5(-1) + 6 = 9$$

Hence turning points are  $\left(\frac{5}{3}; \frac{-13}{27}\right)$  and  $(-1, 9)$

Finding the nature of turning points

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2 - 2x - 5$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 6x - 2$$

$$\text{For } \left(\frac{5}{3}; \frac{-13}{27}\right)$$

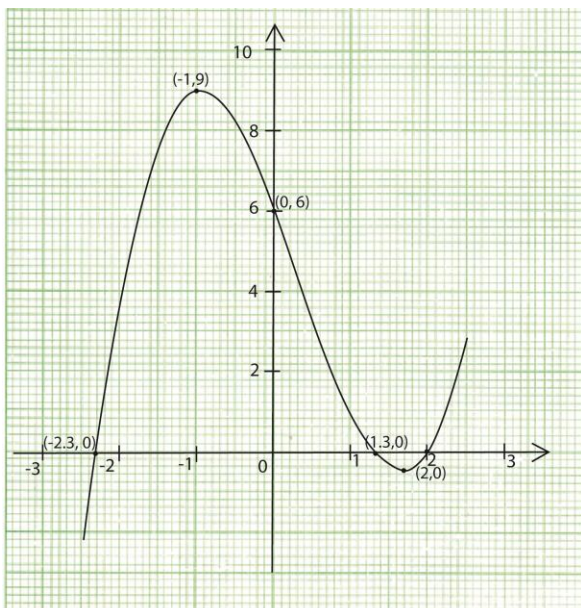
$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 6\left(\frac{5}{3}\right) - 2 = 8 (> 0)$$

$\therefore \left(\frac{5}{3}; \frac{-13}{27}\right)$  is minimum

For (-1, 9)

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 6(-1) - 2 = -8 (< 0)$$

$\therefore (-1; 9)$  is maximum



(c) sketch the curve  $y = x^3 - 8$

$$y = x^3 - 8$$

Intercepts

When  $x = 0$ ,  $y = -8$

When  $y = 0$ ,  $x = 2$

$(x, y) = (2, 0)$

Turning point:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2$

$$3x^2 = 0$$

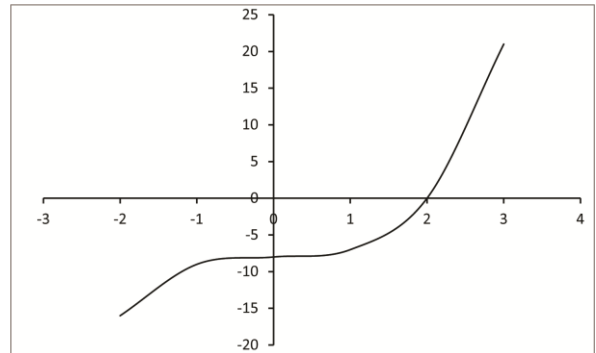
$$x = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 6x$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 0, x = 0$$

Point of reflection = (0, 8)

	$x < 2$	$x > 2$
$y$	-	+



(d) Sketch the curve  $y = x^2(x - 4)$

Steps taken

- Finding the intercepts

$y$ -intercept, (0,0)

hence  $y$ -intercept is (0, 0)

For  $x$ -intercept,  $y = 0$

$$\Rightarrow x^2(x - 4) = 0$$

Either  $x = 0$  or  $x = 4$

Hence  $x$ -intercept are (0, 0) and (4, 0)

- As  $x \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow +\infty$  and  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow -\infty$

- Finding turning point(s)

$$y = x^2(x - 4) = x^3 - 4x^2$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2 - 8x$$

At turning point,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow 3x^2 - 8x = x(3x - 8) = 0$$

Either  $x = 0$

$$\text{Or } x = \frac{8}{3}$$

When  $x = 0$ ;  $y = 0$

$$\text{When } x = \frac{8}{3}; y = 3\left(\frac{8}{3}\right)^2 - 8\left(\frac{8}{3}\right) = \frac{-256}{27}$$

Hence turning points are (0,0) and  $\left(\frac{8}{3}, \frac{-256}{27}\right)$

- Finding the nature of turning points

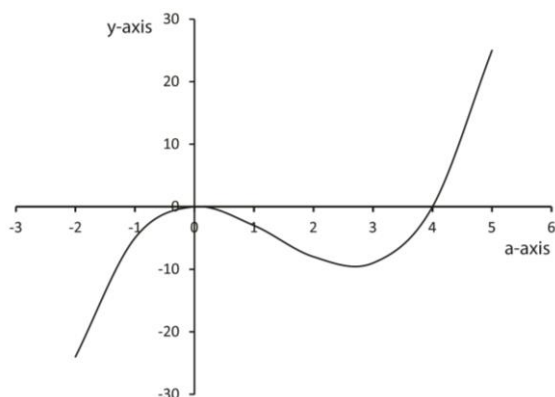
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2 - 8x$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 6x - 8$$

$$\text{For } (0, 0); \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 6(0) - 8 = -8 (< 0)$$

Hence (0, 0) is maximum

For  $\left(\frac{8}{3}, \frac{-256}{27}\right)$ ;  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 6\left(\frac{8}{3}\right) - 8 = 8 (> 0)$   
Hence  $\frac{8}{3}$  is minimum



### Graphs of rational functions

Rational functions are fractions expressed in the form  $y = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ .

#### The basic principles followed when sketching rational curves

- Determine if the curve is symmetrical about either or both axes of coordinates.
- Find the intercepts on both axes.
- Examine the behaviour of the curve as  $x$  tends to infinity.
- Find the turning points and their nature
- Determine the possible asymptotes of the curve
  - Vertical asymptote is the value of  $x$  which make(s)  $y$  tend to infinity. Here we equate the denominator of the function to zero
  - Horizontal asymptote is the value of  $x$  which make(s)  $x$  tend to infinity. Here we divide terms of the numerator and denominators by  $x$  with the highest power.  
Alternatively; when finding the horizontal asymptote, we re-arrange the equation and solve for  $x$  or make  $x$  the subject and then observe the limits, i.e.  $x \rightarrow \infty$ , see how  $y$  behaves
  - Slanting asymptotes; this only occurs if horizontal asymptote does not exist and the function is improper. Here we divide the terms of the numerator by those of

the denominator and  $y$  equated to the quotient becomes the asymptote, i.e. asymptote is the  $y$ -quotient.

- Determine the region where the curve exists/does not exist. This is done by finding a quadratic equation in  $x$  such that for real values of  $x$ ;  $b^2 > 4ac$

#### Example 2

- Sketch the graph of  $y = \frac{(x-1)(x+2)}{(x-2)(x+1)}$

Solution

#### Steps taken

- Finding intercepts

$$\text{For } y\text{-intercepts; } x=0, y = \frac{(-1)(2)}{(-2)(+1)} = 1$$

Hence the  $y$ -intercept =  $(0, 1)$

$$\text{For } x\text{-intercept } y=0, \frac{(x-1)(x+2)}{(x-2)(x+1)} = 0;$$

$$x=1 \text{ or } x = -2$$

Hence the  $x$ -intercepts are  $(1, 0)$  and  $(-2, 0)$

- Finding turning points

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

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

$$\text{At turning point, } \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(x^2-x-2)(2x+1) - (x^2+x-2)(2x-1)}{(x^2-x-2)^2} = 0$$

$$(2x^3 - x^2 - 5x - 2)$$

$$-(2x^3 + x^2 - 5x + 2) = 0$$

$$2x^2 + 4 = 0$$

$$x^2 + 2 = 0$$

There is no real value of  $x$ , hence there is no turning points.

- Finding asymptotes;

Vertical asymptote

$$(x-2)(x+1) = 0$$

$$\text{Either } (x-2) = 0; x = 2$$

$$\text{Or } (x+1) = 0; x = -1$$

Hence the vertical asymptotes are  $x = 2$  and  $x = -1$

Horizontal asymptotes

$$y = \frac{x^2+x-2}{x^2-x-2}$$

Dividing terms on the LHS by  $x^2$

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

As  $x \rightarrow \infty, y \rightarrow 1$

Hence the horizontal asymptote  $y = 1$

- Finding the regions where the curve does not exist

$$y = \frac{x^2+x-2}{x^2-x-2}$$

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

$$y(x^2 - x - 2) - x^2 - x + 2 = 0$$

$$(y - 1)x^2 + (-y - 1)x + (2 - 2y) = 0$$

For real value of  $x$ ,  $b^2 > 4ac$

$$\Rightarrow (-y - 1)^2 > 8(y - 1)(1 - y)$$

$$(y + 1)^2 + 8(y - 1)^2 > 0$$

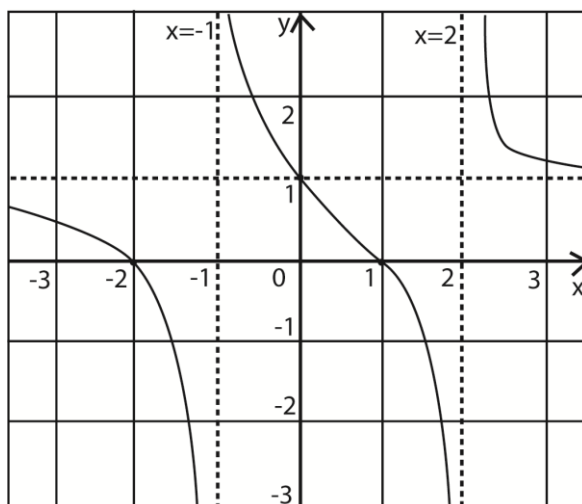
$$9y^2 - 6y + 9 > 0$$

There is no real value of  $y$  which means that there is no restriction on  $y$

- Determining the sign of the function throughout its domain. The function will only change sign where the curve cuts the  $x$ -axis and vertical asymptotes  
The critical values are  $-1, 1, 2$

	$x < -2$	$-2 < x < -1$	$-1 < x < 1$	$1 < x < 2$	$x > 2$
$x-1$	-	-	-	+	+
$x+2$	-	+	+	+	+
$x-2$	-	-	-	-	+
$x+1$	-	-	+	+	+
$y$	+	-	+	-	+

Graph of  $y = \frac{(x-1)(x+2)}{(x-2)(x+1)}$



(b) Sketch the graph

Sketch the graph of  $y = \frac{x(x-2)}{x+1}$

Steps taken

- Finding the intercepts

For  $y$ -intercept;  $x = 0$ , and  $y = 0$

Hence the  $y$ -intercept is  $(0, 0)$

For  $x$ -intercept  $y = 0$

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

$$x(x - 2) = 0$$

Either  $x = 0$

Or  $(x-2) = 0$ ;  $x = 2$

Hence the  $x$ -intercepts are  $(0, 0)$  and  $(2, 0)$

- Finding turning points

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

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

At turning points,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 + 2x - 2 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{2^2 - (4 \times 1 \times -2)}}{2 \times 1}$$

$$x = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{12}}{2} = -1 \pm 1.732$$

When  $x = -1 + 1.732 = 0.732$

$$y = \frac{0.732(0.732-2)}{0.732+1} = -0.54$$

When  $x = -1 - 1.732 = -2.732$

$$y = \frac{-2.732(-2.732-2)}{-2.732+1} = -7.46$$

Hence the turning points are  $(0.73, -0.54)$  and  $(-2.73, -7.46)$

- Finding the nature of the turning points

For  $(0.73, -0.54)$

$x$	0	0.73	3
$\frac{dy}{dx}$	-2	0	0.25

negative minimum positive

Hence the turning point  $(0.73, -0.54)$  is minimum

For  $(-2.73, -7.46)$

$x$	-3	-2.73	-2
$\frac{dy}{dx}$	0.25	0	-2

positive maximum negative

Hence the turning point  $(-2.73, -7.46)$  is maximum

- Finding asymptotes

For vertical asymptote, the denominator = 0  
 $\Rightarrow x + 1 = 0; x = -1$   
 since the function is improper fraction, there must be slanting asymptote.

Dividing the numerator by denominator;

$$\begin{array}{r} x-3 \\ x+1 \overline{) x^2-2x} \\ \underline{-x^2+x} \phantom{0} \\ -3x-3 \\ \underline{\phantom{-}3x-3} \\ 3 \end{array}$$

The slanting asymptote is  $y = x - 3$

X	0	3
y	-3	0

- Finding the region where the curve does not exist.

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

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

$$x^2 - (2+y)x - y = 0$$

For real values of x,  $b^2 \geq 4ac$

$$(2+y)^2 > 4x \cdot 1 \cdot x(-y)$$

$$y^2 + 8y + 4 > 0$$

The inequality cannot be factorized

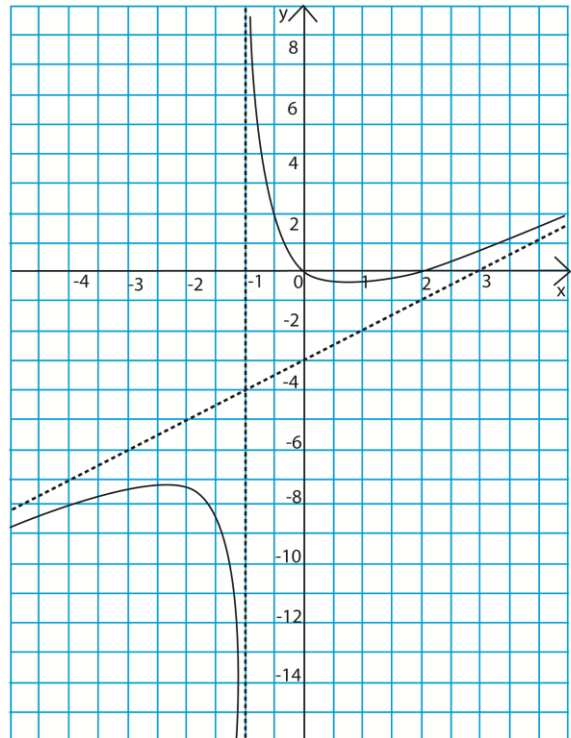
therefore we may not proceed further even though there is no real value of y

- Determining the sign of the function through its domain

The critical values are -1, 0, 2

	$x < -1$	$-1 < x < 0$	$0 < x < 2$	$x > 2$
$x(x-1)$	+	+	-	+
$x+1$	-	+	+	+
y	-	+	-	+

Graph of  $y = \frac{x(x-2)}{x+1}$



(c) Given the curve  $y = \frac{x(x-1)}{(x-2)(x+1)}$

- Finding intercept

For y-intercept  $x = 0; y = 0$

Hence y-intercept = (0, 0)

For x-intercept  $y = 0$

$$\Rightarrow x(x-1) = 0$$

Either  $x = 0$

Or  $x - 1 = 0; x = 1$

Hence x-intercept as are (0, 0) and (1, 0)

- Finding turning points

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

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{(x^2-x-2)(2x-1) - (x^2-x)(2x-1)}{(x^2-x-2)^2}$$

At turning point  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$

$$(2x-1)\{(x^2-x-2) - (x^2-x)\} = 0$$

$$(2x-1)(-2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x - 1 = 0; x = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\text{When } x = \frac{1}{2}, y = \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{2}}{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - 2} = \frac{1}{9}$$

Hence turning point is  $\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{9}\right)$

- Determining nature of turning point



x	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1
$\frac{dy}{dx}$	2	0	-6

positive      maximum      negative

Hence the turning point  $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{9})$  is maximum.

- Finding the asymptote(s)

For vertical asymptote

$$(x - 2)(x + 1) = 0$$

Either  $(x - 2) = 0$ ;  $x = 2$

Or  $(x + 1) = 0$ ;  $x = -1$

For horizontal asymptote

Dividing the numerator and denominator on the RHS by  $x^2$ .

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

As  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow 1$

- Finding the region where x does not exist

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

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

$$y(x^2 - x - 2) = x^2 - x$$

$$yx^2 - yx - 2y - x^2 + x = 0$$

$$(y - 1)x^2 + (1 - y)x - 2y = 0$$

For real values of x,  $b^2 \geq 4ac$

$$(1 - y)^2 > -8y(y - 1)$$

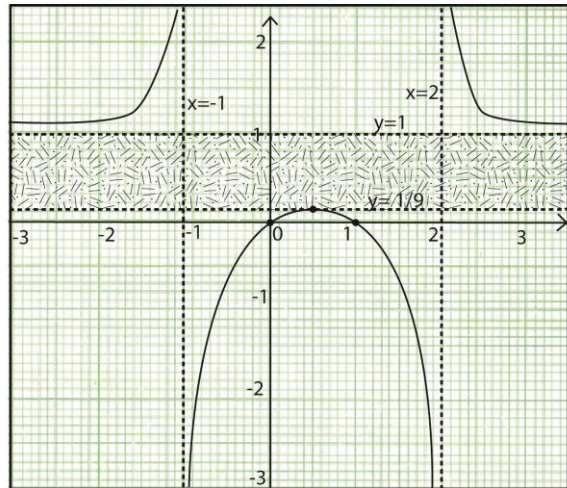
$$1 - 2y + y^2 + 8y(y - 1) > 0$$

$$(9y - 1)(y - 1) = 0$$

	$y < \frac{1}{9}$	$\frac{1}{9} < y < 1$	$y > 1$
$9y - 1$	-	+	+
$y - 1$	-	-	+
$(9y - 1)(y - 1)$	+	-	+

Hence the curve does not lie in the range

$$\frac{1}{9} < y < 1$$



- (d) Sketch the curve  $y = \frac{x^2 + 4x + 3}{x + 2}$

- Finding the range of values over which the curve does not exist

$$y = \frac{x^2 + 4x + 3}{x + 2}$$

$$y(x + 2) = x^2 + 4x + 3$$

$$x^2 + (4 - y)x + (3 - 2y) = 0$$

For real values of x,  $b^2 \geq 4ac$

$$(4 - y)^2 > 4(3 - 2y)$$

$$16 - 8y + y^2 - 12 + 8y \geq 0$$

$$y^2 + 4 \geq 0$$

Since there are no real values of y, this means that there is no restriction on y.

- Finding intercepts

For y intercept,  $x = 0$ ;  $y = \frac{3}{2}$

Hence y- intercept is  $(0, \frac{3}{2})$

For x - intercepts  $y = 0$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{x^2 + 4x + 3}{x + 2} = 0$$

$$x^2 + 4x + 3 = 0$$

$$(x + 3)(x + 1) = 0$$

Either  $(x + 3) = 0$ ;  $x = -3$

Or  $(x + 1) = 0$ ,  $x = -1$

Hence x-intercepts are  $(-1, 0)$  and  $(-3, 0)$

- Finding turning points

$$y = \frac{x^2 + 4x + 3}{x + 2}$$

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

At turning points,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$

$$x^2 + 4x + 5x = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{4^2 - 4(1)(5)}}{2(1)}$$

$$x = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{-4}}{2}$$

Since there is no real value of  $x$ , this means that the curve has no turning point

- Finding vertical asymptote

$$(x+2) = 0$$

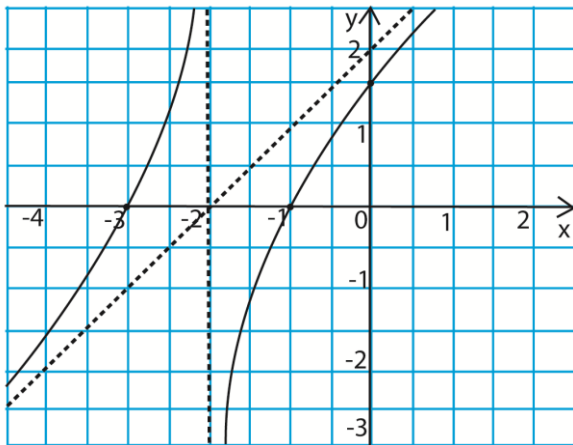
$$x = -2$$

Since the function is improper fraction, there could be a slanting asymptote

$$\begin{array}{r} x+2 \\ (x+2) \overline{) x^2 + 4x + 3} \\ \underline{-x^2 + 2x} \phantom{+ 3} \\ 2x + 3 \\ \underline{-2x + 4} \\ -1 \end{array}$$

Hence the slanting asymptote is  $y = x + 2$

$$\text{A curve } y = \frac{x^2 + 4x + 3}{x + 2}$$



(e) A curve is given by  $y = \frac{(x-1)}{(2x-1)(x+1)}$

(i) Show that for real values of  $x$ ,  $y$  cannot take on values in the interval  $(\frac{1}{9}, 1)$

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

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

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

$$2yx^2 + (y-1)x + (1-y) = 0$$

For real values of  $x$ ,  $b^2 \geq 0$

$$(y-1)^2 \geq 8y(1-y)$$

$$(y-1)^2 + 8y(y-1) \geq 0$$

$$(9y-1)(y-1) = 0$$

	$y < \frac{1}{9}$	$\frac{1}{9} < y < 1$	$y > 1$
$9y - 1$	-	+	+
$y - 1$	-	-	+
$(9y - 1)(y - 1)$	+	-	+

Hence the curve does not lie in the range

$$\frac{1}{9} < y < 1$$

(ii) Determine the turning points of the curve

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

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

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

At turning point  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow -2x^2 + 4x = 0$$

$$-2x(x-2) = 0$$

$$\text{Either } 2x = 0; x = 0$$

$$\text{Or } (x-2) = 0; x = 2$$

$$\text{When } x = 0; y = \frac{-1}{-1} = 1 \Rightarrow (x, y) = (0, 1)$$

$$\text{When } x = 2; y = \frac{1}{3 \times 3} = \frac{1}{9} \Rightarrow (x, y) = (2, \frac{1}{9})$$

Determining the nature of turning points

For  $(0, 1)$

$x$	-0.5	0	0.5
$\frac{dy}{dx}$	-2.5	0	1.5

negative      minimum      positive

Hence  $(0, 1)$  is minimum

For  $(2, \frac{1}{9})$

$x$	1	2	3
$\frac{dy}{dx}$	+0.025	0	-0.074

positive      maximum      negative

Hence  $(2, \frac{1}{9})$  is maximum

(iii) State with reasons the asymptotes of the curve

For vertical asymptote

$$(2x-1)(x+1) = 0$$

$$\text{Either } 2x - 1 = 0; x = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\text{Or } (x+1) = 0; x = -1$$



For horizontal asymptotes

Dividing the numerator and denominator on the RHS by  $x$

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

As  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $y \rightarrow 0$

Hence horizontal asymptote is  $y = 0$

(iv) Sketch the curve

Finding intercepts

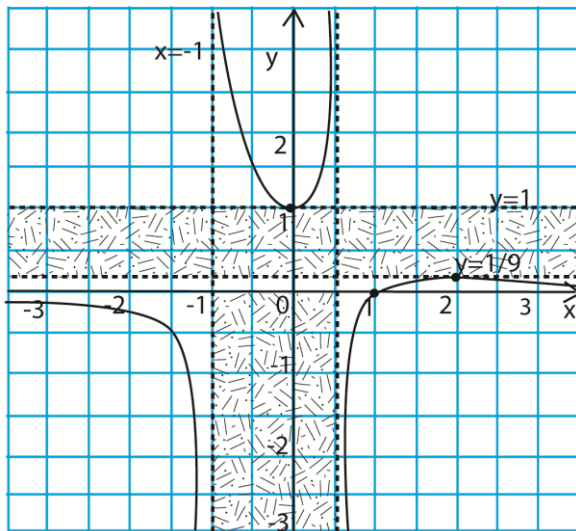
For  $y$ -intercept  $x = 0$ ;  $y = 1$

Hence  $y$ -intercept  $(0, 1)$

For  $x$ -intercept  $y = 0$ ;  $x = 1$

Hence  $x$ -intercept is  $(1, 0)$

A graph of  $y = \frac{(x-1)}{(2x-1)(x+1)}$



### Sketching graphs of parametric equations

It requires eliminating parameters in the equations given and then following similar steps in above examples.

#### Example 3

(a) A curve is given by parametric equations

$$x = t + 2 \text{ and } y = \frac{t^2 - t}{t + 1}$$

(a) Find the Cartesian equation of the curve

#### Solution

$$x = t + 2; t = x + 2$$

Substituting  $t$  into the equation

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

$$\text{Hence Cartesian equation is } y = \frac{(x-2)(x-3)}{(x-1)}$$

(b) Sketch the curve

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

- Finding intercepts

For  $y$ -intercept,  $x = 0$ ,  $y = -6$

For  $x$ -intercept  $y = 0$

$$\Rightarrow (x-2)(x-3) = 0$$

Either  $x - 2 = 0$ ;  $x = 2$

Or  $(x - 3) = 0$ ;  $x = 3$

Hence  $x$ -intercepts are  $(2, 0)$  and  $(3, 0)$

- Finding the turning points

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

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

At turning point  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - 2x - 1 = 0$$

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

$$x = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{8}}{2} = \frac{2 \pm 2\sqrt{2}}{2} = 1 \pm \sqrt{2}$$

Either  $x = 1 + \sqrt{2} = 2.4$

Or  $x = 1 - \sqrt{2} = -0.4$

When  $x = 2.4$

$$y = \frac{(2.4-2)(2.4-3)}{(2.4-1)} = -0.17$$

When  $x = -0.4$

$$y = \frac{(-0.4-2)(-0.4-3)}{(-0.4-1)} = -5.83$$

Hence the turning points are  $(2.4, -0.17)$  and  $(-0.4, -5.83)$

- Finding the nature of turning points

For  $(2.4, -0.17)$

X	2	2.4	3
$\frac{dy}{dx}$	-1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$

negative minimum positive

Hence the turning point  $(2.4, -0.17)$  is minimum.

For (-0.4, -5.83)

X	-1	-0.4	0
$\frac{dy}{dx}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	-1

positive
maximum
negative

Hence the turning point (-0.4, -5.3) is maximum

- Finding asymptotes  
For vertical asymptotes  
 $x - 1 = 0, x = 1$

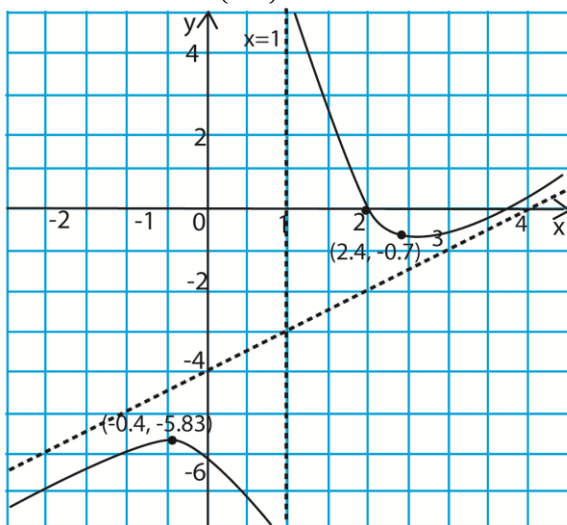
For slanting asymptote

$$\begin{array}{r}
 x - 4 \\
 (x - 1) \overline{) x^2 - 5x + 6} \\
 \underline{-x^2 - x} \phantom{+ 6} \\
 -4x + 6 \\
 \underline{-4x + 4} \\
 2
 \end{array}$$

Hence the slanting asymptote is  $y = x - 4$

$$\begin{array}{l|l}
 x & 0 & 4 \\
 y & -4 & 0
 \end{array}$$

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



- (c) A curve is given by parametric equations  $x = \cos 2\theta$  and  $y = 2\sin \theta$ .
- (i) Find the equation of the normal to the curve at  $\theta = \frac{5\pi}{6}$

$$x = \cos 2\theta$$

$$\frac{dx}{d\theta} = -2\sin 2\theta$$

$$y = 2\sin \theta$$

$$\frac{dy}{d\theta} = 2\cos \theta$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{d\theta} \cdot \frac{d\theta}{dx} = \frac{2\cos \theta}{-2\sin 2\theta} = -\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin 2\theta}$$

At  $\theta = \frac{5\pi}{6}$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\cos(\frac{5\pi}{6})}{\sin(\frac{5\pi}{3})} = -1$$

Gradient of the normal  $= \frac{-1}{-1} = 1$

$$x = \cos 2\theta$$

$$x = \cos \frac{5\pi}{3} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$y = 2\sin \frac{5\pi}{6} = 1$$

Let a point (x, y) lie on the normal

$$\Rightarrow \frac{y-1}{x-\frac{1}{2}} = 1$$

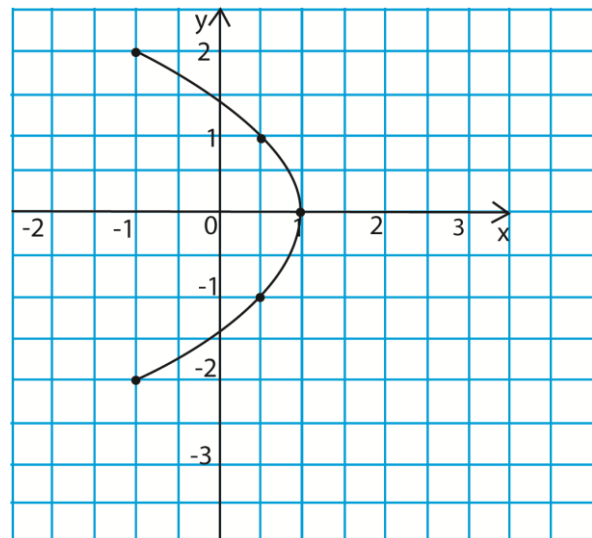
$$y = x + \frac{1}{2}$$

Hence the equation of the normal to the curve at  $\theta = \frac{5\pi}{6}$  is  $y = x + \frac{1}{2}$

- (ii) Sketch the curve for  $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$

$\theta$	$\frac{\pi}{2}$	$\frac{\pi}{3}$	$\frac{\pi}{6}$	0	$\frac{\pi}{6}$	$\frac{\pi}{3}$	$\frac{\pi}{2}$
$x = \cos 2\theta$	-1	-0.5	0.5	1	0.5	-0.5	-1
$y = 2\sin \theta$	-2	-1.73	-1	0	1.73	1.73	2

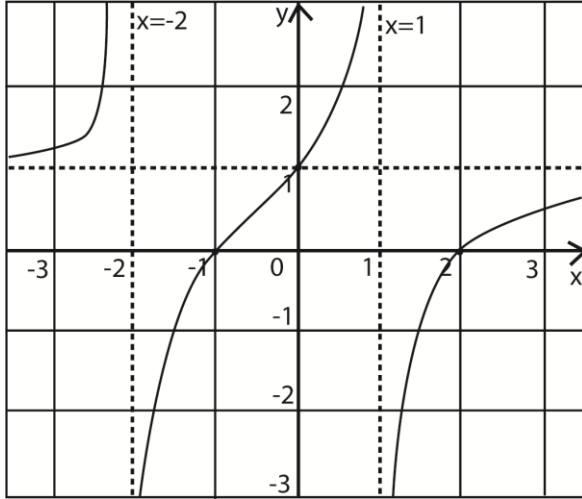
A graph of  $x = 1 - \frac{y^2}{2}$



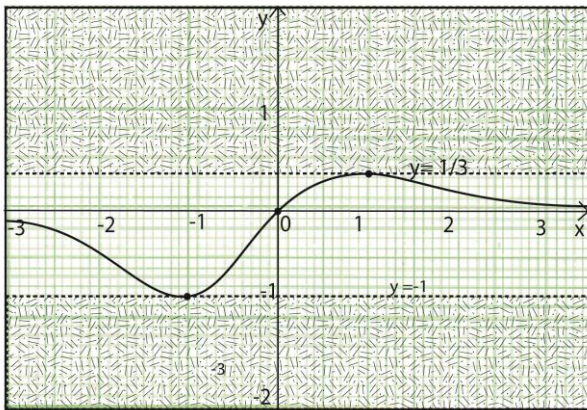
Revision question 1

1. Sketch the graph  $y = \frac{(x-2)(x+1)}{(x-1)(x+2)}$

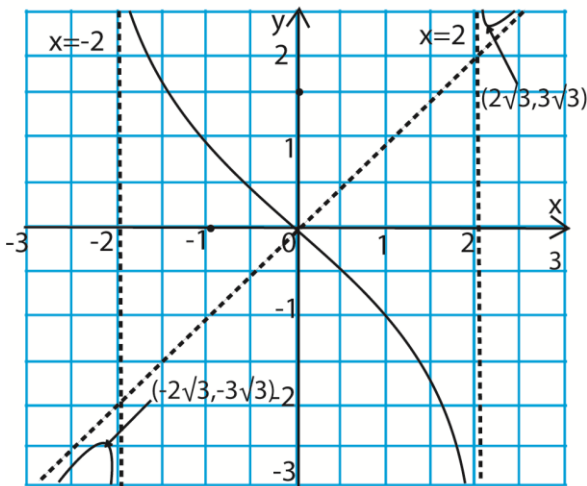
A graph  $y = \frac{(x-2)(x+1)}{(x-1)(x+2)}$



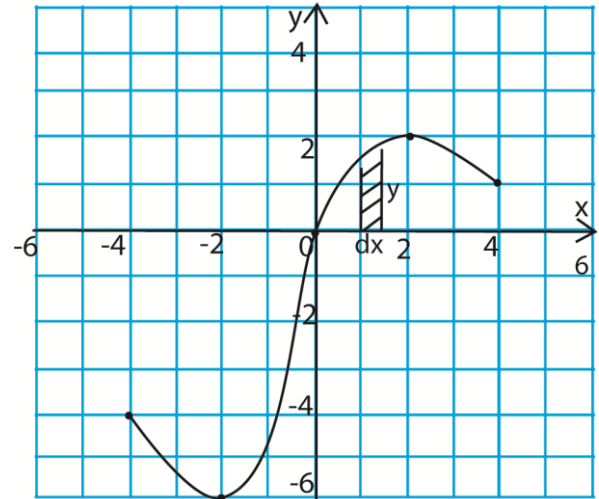
2. Sketch the graph  $y = \frac{x}{x^2+x+1}$



3. Sketch the curve  $y = \frac{x^2}{x^2-4}$



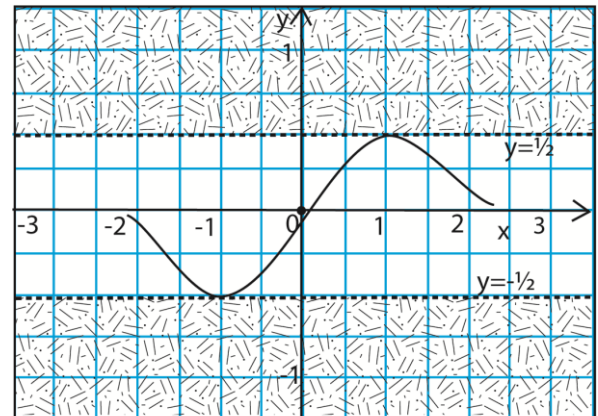
4. (a) Sketch the curve  $y = \frac{12}{x^2+2x+4}$



- (b) Find the area enclosed by the curve, x-axis and  $0 \leq x \leq 4$  [0.259 to 3dp]

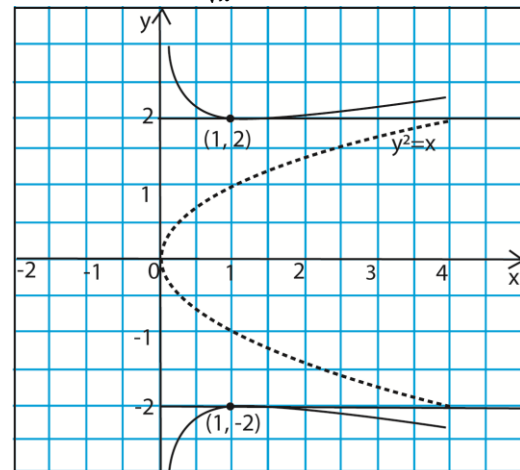
5. Determine the stationary points (including points of inflexion) of the curve  $y = \frac{x}{x^2+1}$ .

Sketch the curve



6. Sketch the curve give by the following parametric equations  $x = t^2$  and  $y = t + \frac{1}{t}$ .

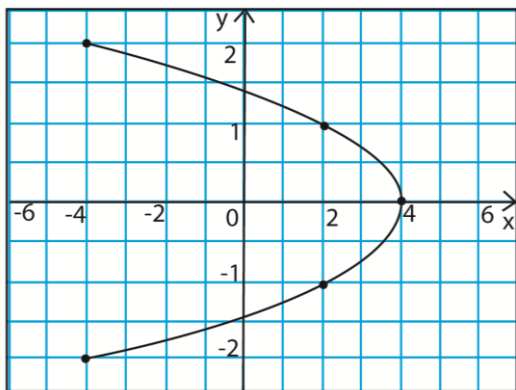
A graph of  $y = \frac{x+1}{\sqrt{x}}$



7. A curve is given by the parametric equations  $x = 4\cos 2t$  and  $y = 2\sin t$

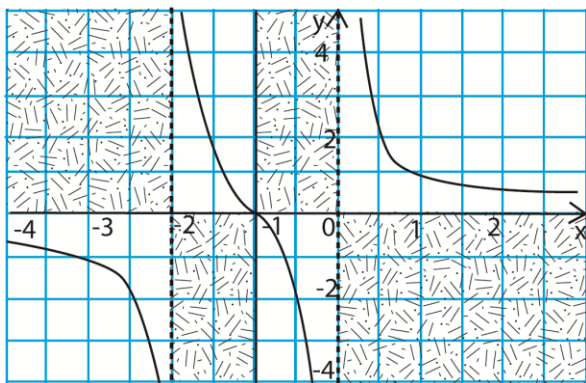
(i) Find the equation of the normal to the curve at  $t = \frac{5\pi}{6}$  [ $y = 4x - 7$ ]

(ii) Sketch the curve for  $-\frac{\pi}{2} < t < \frac{\pi}{2}$

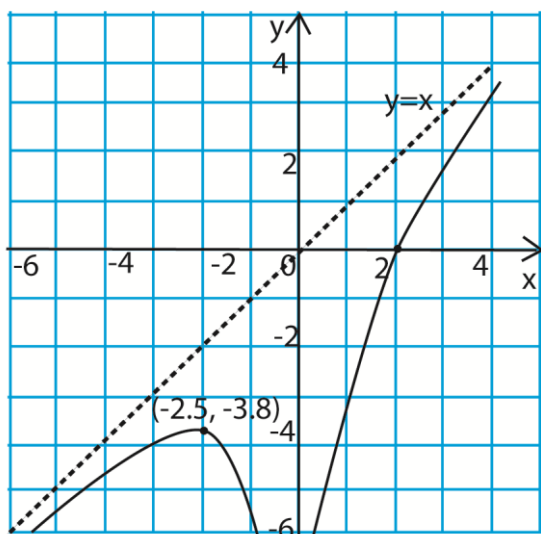


(iii) Find the area enclosed by the curve and the y-axis [7.543 units (3d,p)]

8. Sketch the curve  $y = \frac{x+1}{x^2+2x}$



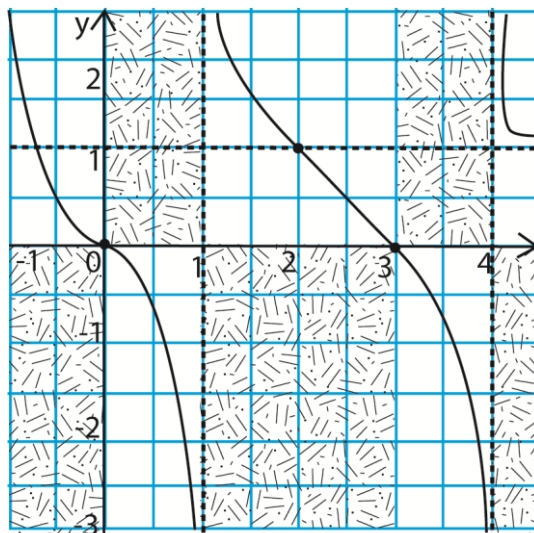
9. Sketch the curve  $y = x - \frac{8}{x^2}$



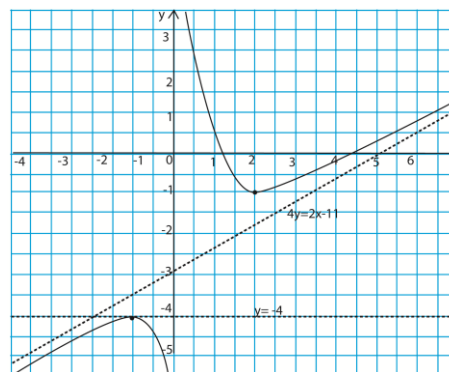
10. Given the curve  $y = \frac{x(x-3)}{(x-1)(x-4)}$

(i) Show that the curve does not have turning points [ $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ ; has no roots]

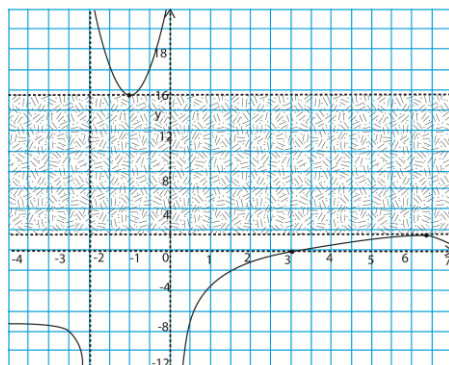
(ii) Find the equations of asymptotes. Hence sketch the graph



11. Determining the nature of the turning points of the curve  $y = \frac{x^2-6x+5}{2x+1}$ , sketch the graph of the curve for  $x = -2$  to  $x = 7$ . Show any asymptotes.



12. Sketch the curve  $y = \frac{4(x-3)}{x(x+2)}$



Thank you

Dr. Bbosa Science