

- Plan
1. Rational functions and asymptotes
  2. Hyperbolas

1. Rational functions and asymptotes

Rational function  $f(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$  ← polynomials

Ex  $f(x) = \frac{2x+1}{x^2+3}$  - would like to see what happens when  $x$  is big.

- divide by  $x^2$  both in the numerator and in the denominator

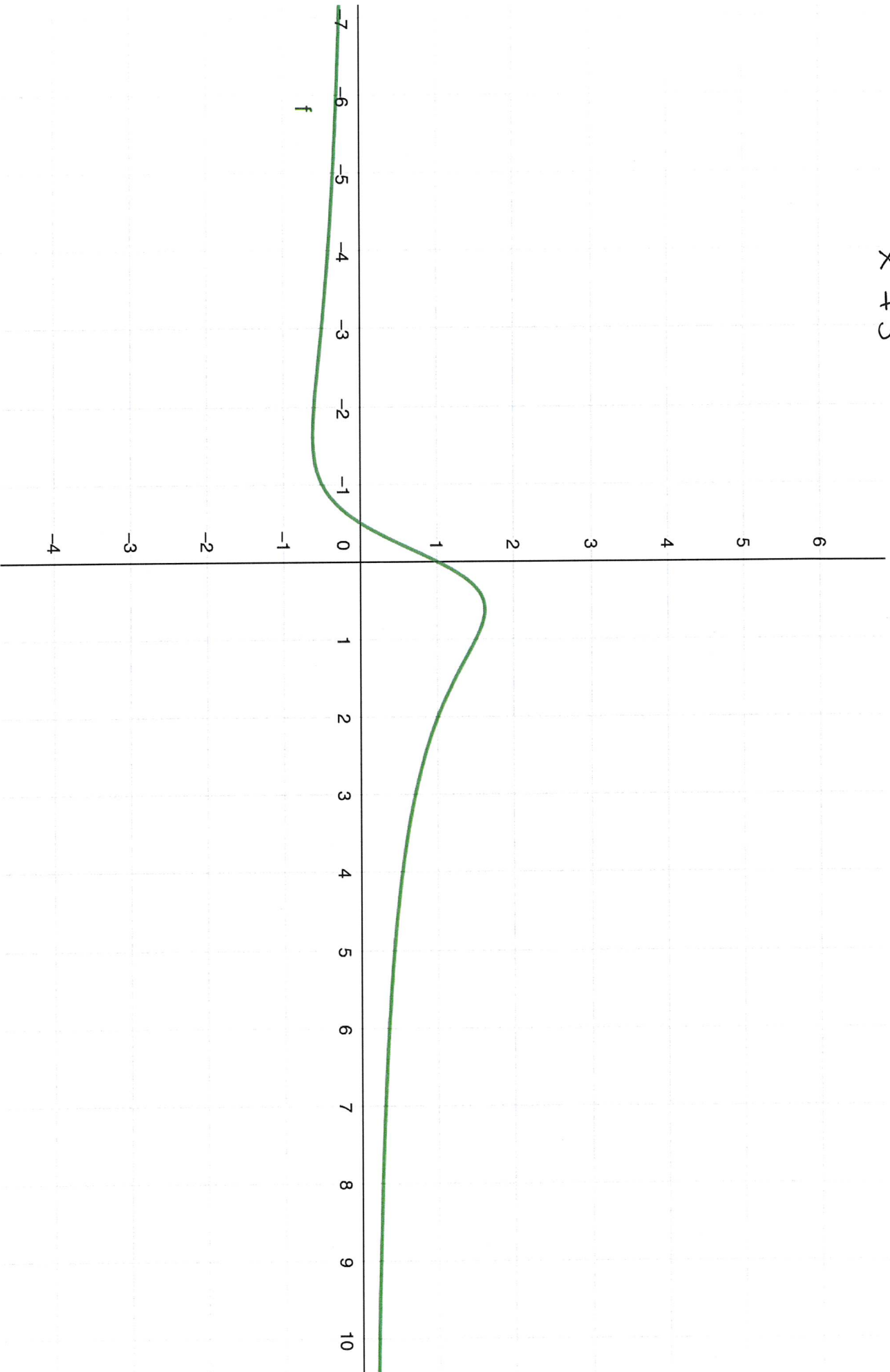
$$\frac{\frac{2x}{x^2} + \frac{1}{x^2}}{\frac{x^2}{x^2} + \frac{3}{x^2}} = \frac{\frac{2}{x} + \frac{1}{x^2}}{1 + \frac{3}{x^2}} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{0}{1} = 0$$

$$f(1000) = \frac{\frac{2}{1000} + \frac{1}{1000^2}}{1 + \frac{3}{1000^2}} = 0.00200099\dots$$

This means that the line  $y=0$  ( $x$  free) is a horizontal asymptote for  $f(x)$ .

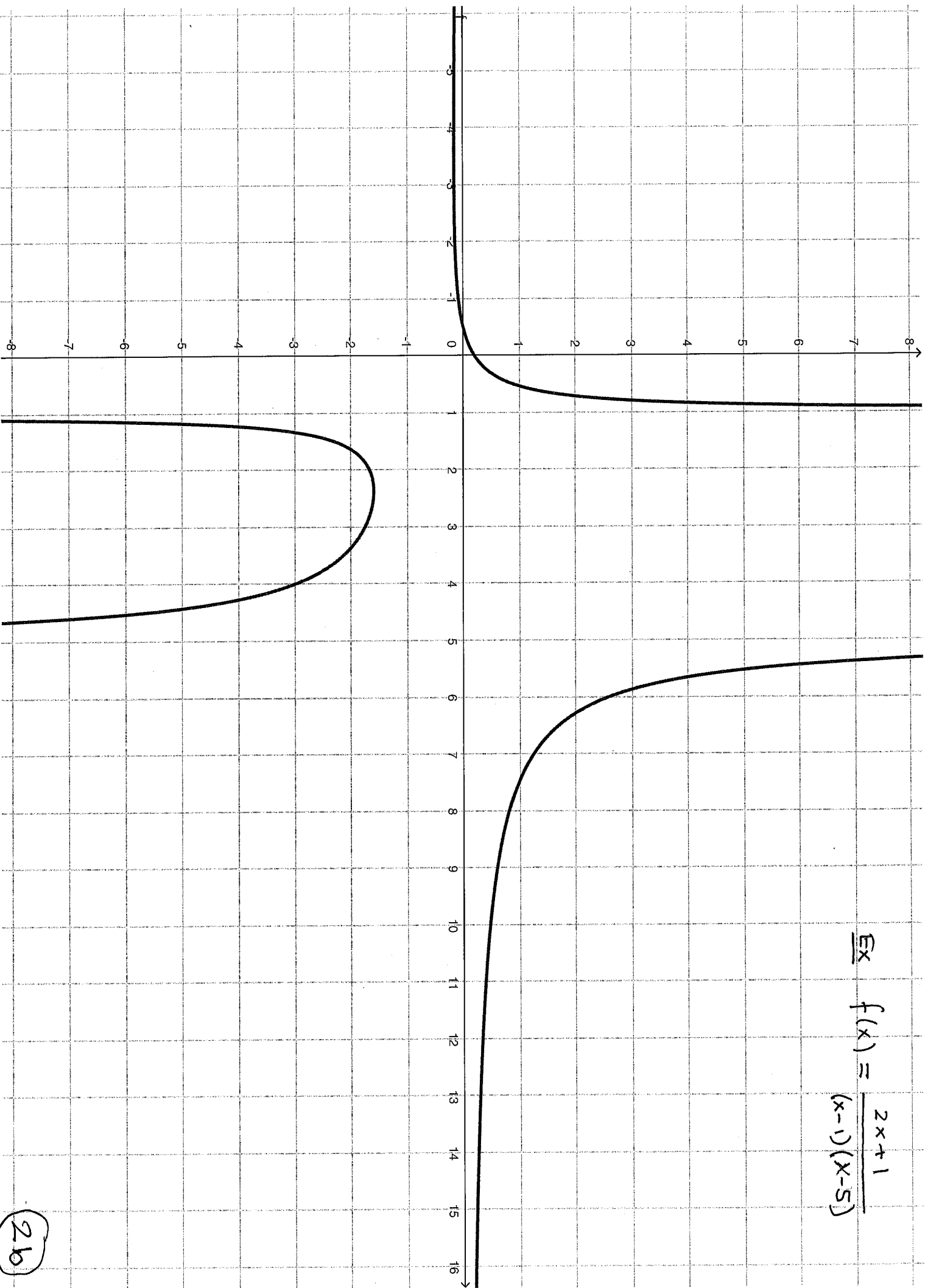
The graph of  $f(x)$  is approaching the  $x$ -axis (the horizontal asymptote) when  $x$  becomes big (pos/neg.).

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





Ex  $f(x) = \frac{2x+1}{(x-1)(x-5)}$



## Non-vertical (oblique) asymptotes

Ex  $f(x) = x - 5 + \frac{2}{x-4}$  has vertical asymptote  $x=4$

But also an oblique asymptote:

Put  $g(x) = x - 5$ .

Then the graph of  $f(x)$  is approaching the graph of  $g(x)$  when  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$  because

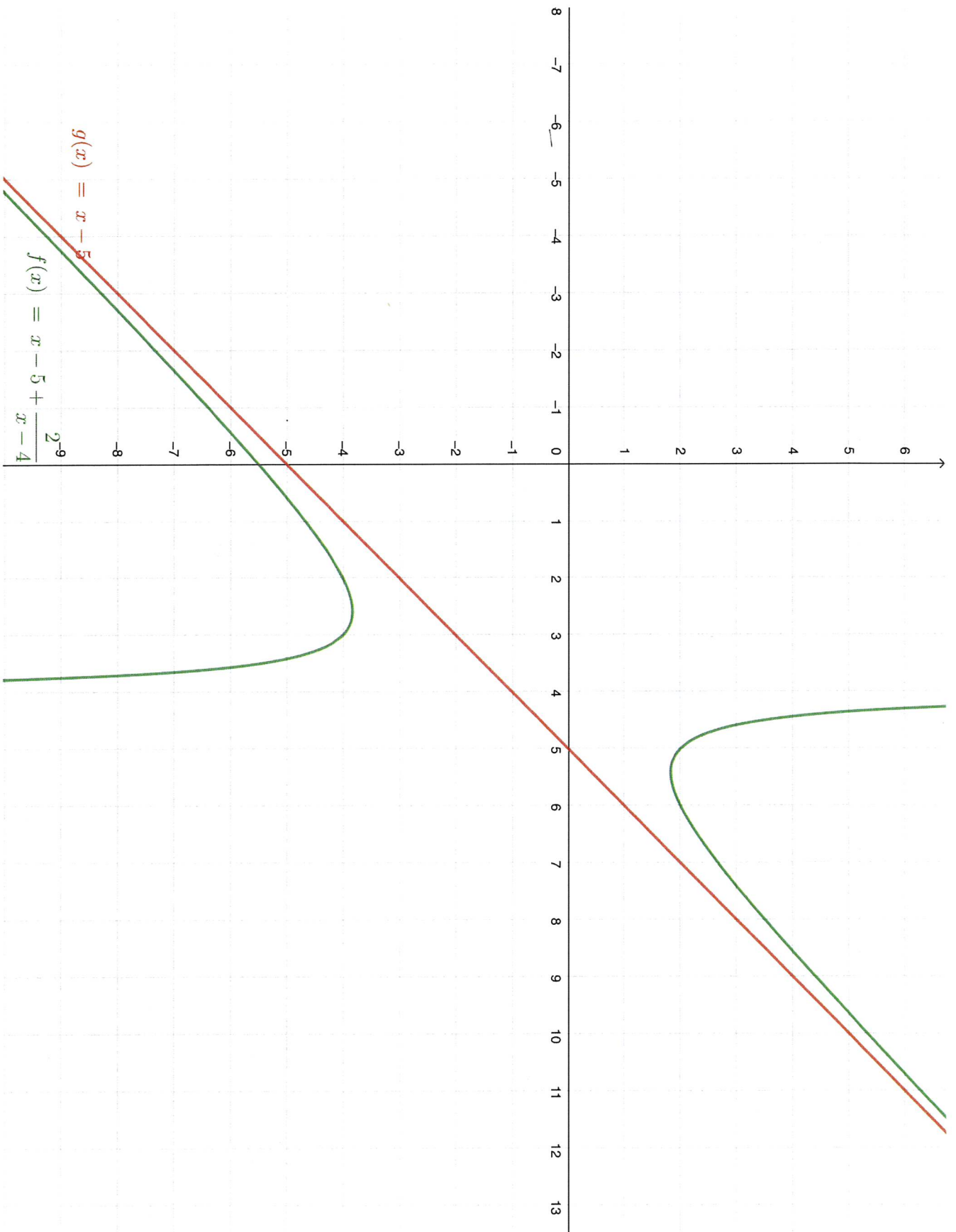
$$f(x) - g(x) = \frac{2}{x-4} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} 0$$

$$\text{Note that } f(x) = \frac{(x-5)(x-4) + 2}{x-4} = \frac{x^2 - 9x + 22}{x-4}$$

- have to do polynomial division to find the better expression  $\underbrace{(x-5)}_{g(x)} + \frac{2}{x-4}$

The graph of  $g(x)$  is a non-vertical asymptote for  $f(x)$ .

Start: 11.12

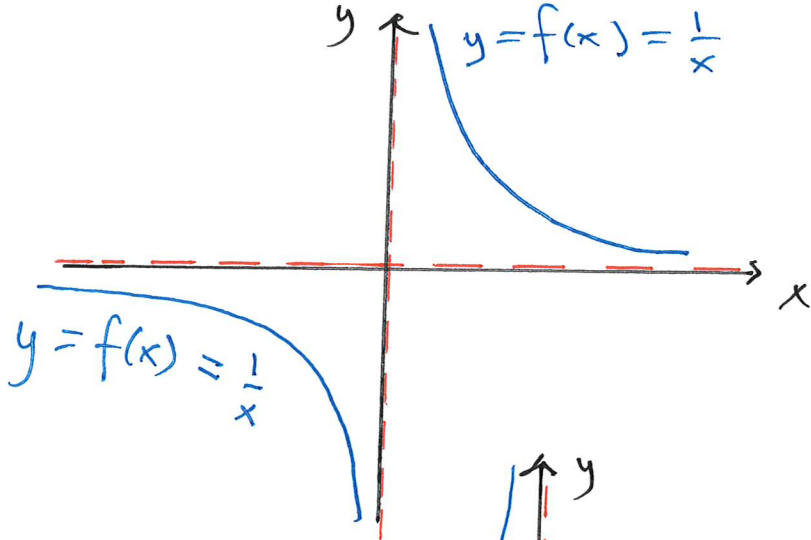


## 2. Hyperbolas

EX  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  ( $x \neq 0$ )

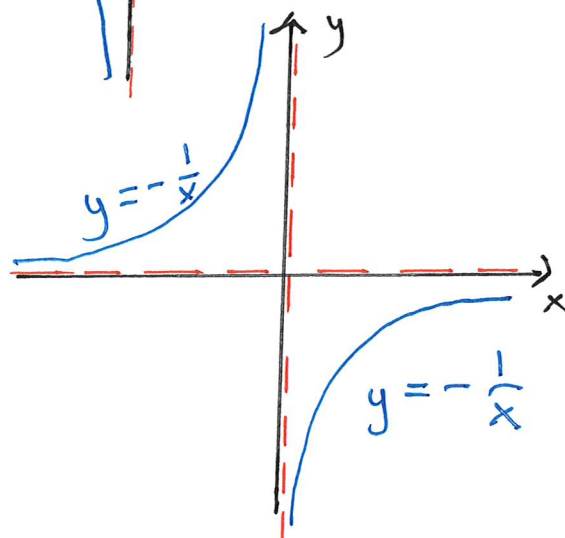
The line  $y=0$   
is a horizontal  
asymptote.

The line  $x=0$   
is a vertical asymptote



EX  $f(x) = -\frac{1}{x}$  ( $x \neq 0$ )

- the same asymptotes.



Definition A function  $f(x)$   
is a hyperbola function  
if it can be written as

$$f(x) = c + \frac{a}{x-b} \quad (a \neq 0)$$

EX  $f(x) = \frac{3x-5}{x-2}$  is a hyperbola function

because polynomial division gives

$$(3x-5) : (x-2) = 3 + \frac{1}{x-2} \quad \text{so} \quad \begin{array}{l} a = 1 \\ b = 2 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{-(3x-6)}{1} \quad \leftarrow \cdot (x-2)$$

$$c = 3$$

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

We have

$$3 + \frac{1}{x-2} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 2^-} -\infty \quad \text{and} \quad 3 + \frac{1}{x-2} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 2^+} +\infty$$

So the line  $x=2$  is a vertical asymptote.

Also note that  $3 + \frac{1}{x-2} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} 3^\pm$

so the line  $y=3$  is a horizontal asymptote

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

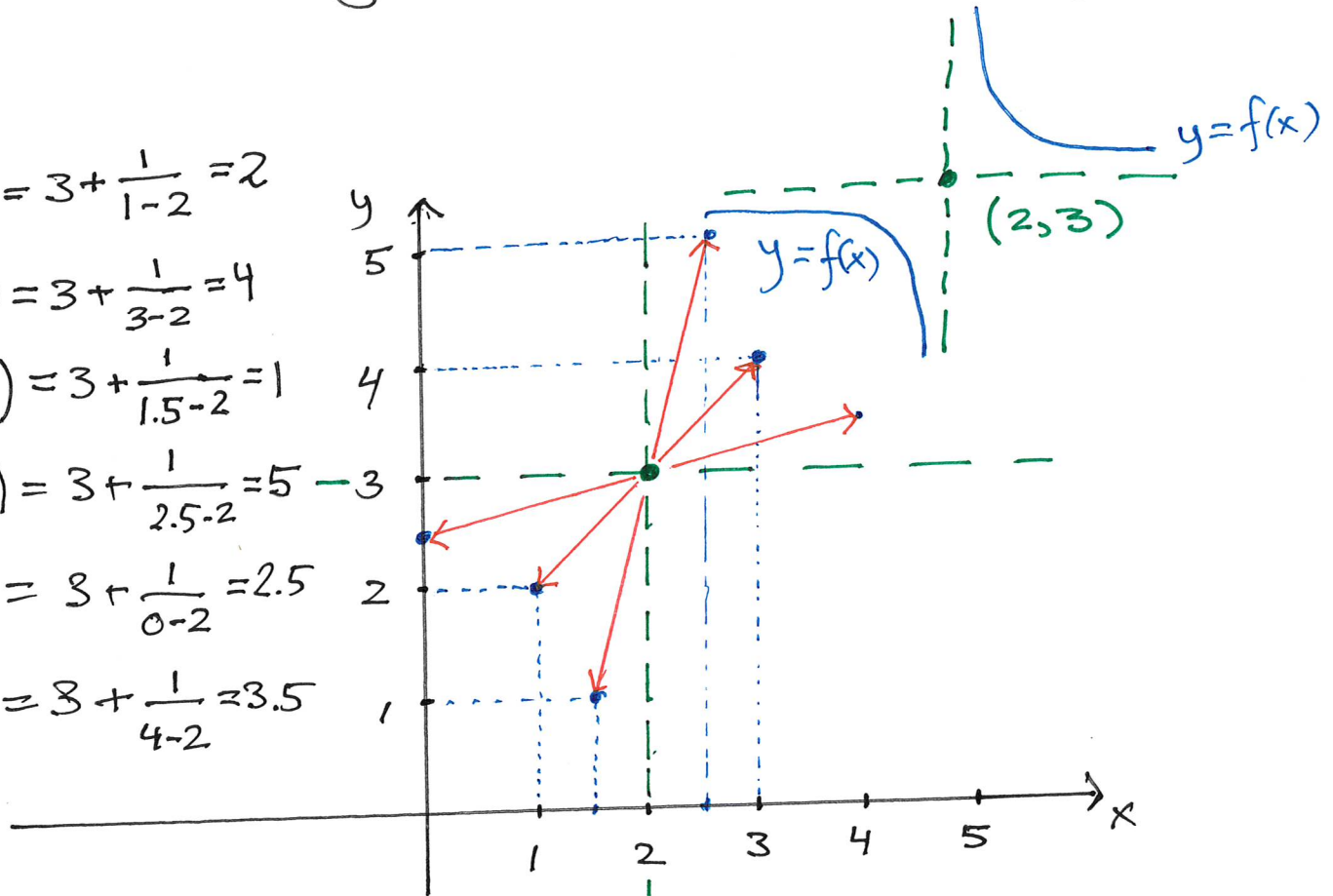
$$f(3) = 3 + \frac{1}{3-2} = 4$$

$$f(1.5) = 3 + \frac{1}{1.5-2} = 1$$

$$f(2.5) = 3 + \frac{1}{2.5-2} = 5$$

$$f(0) = 3 + \frac{1}{0-2} = 2.5$$

$$f(4) = 3 + \frac{1}{4-2} = 3.5$$



The graph of a hyperbola function is symmetric through the intersection point of the asymptotes.



2019 s Multiple Choice

**Problem 5**

We have the hyperbola function  $f(x) = \frac{4x - 38}{x - 10}$ . Which of the graphs in figure 1 is the graph of  $f(x)$ ?

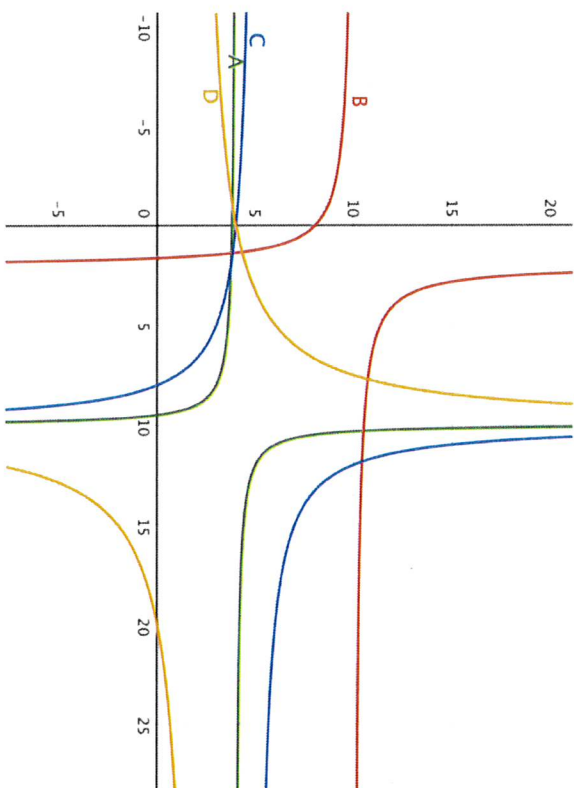


Figure 1: Graphs A-D

- (A)  $f(x)$  has the graph A (green)
- (B)  $f(x)$  has the graph B (red)
- (C)  $f(x)$  has the graph C (blue)
- (D)  $f(x)$  has the graph D (yellow)
- (E) I choose not to answer this problem.

2019 a Term Paper

Find the expression for the hyperbola function.

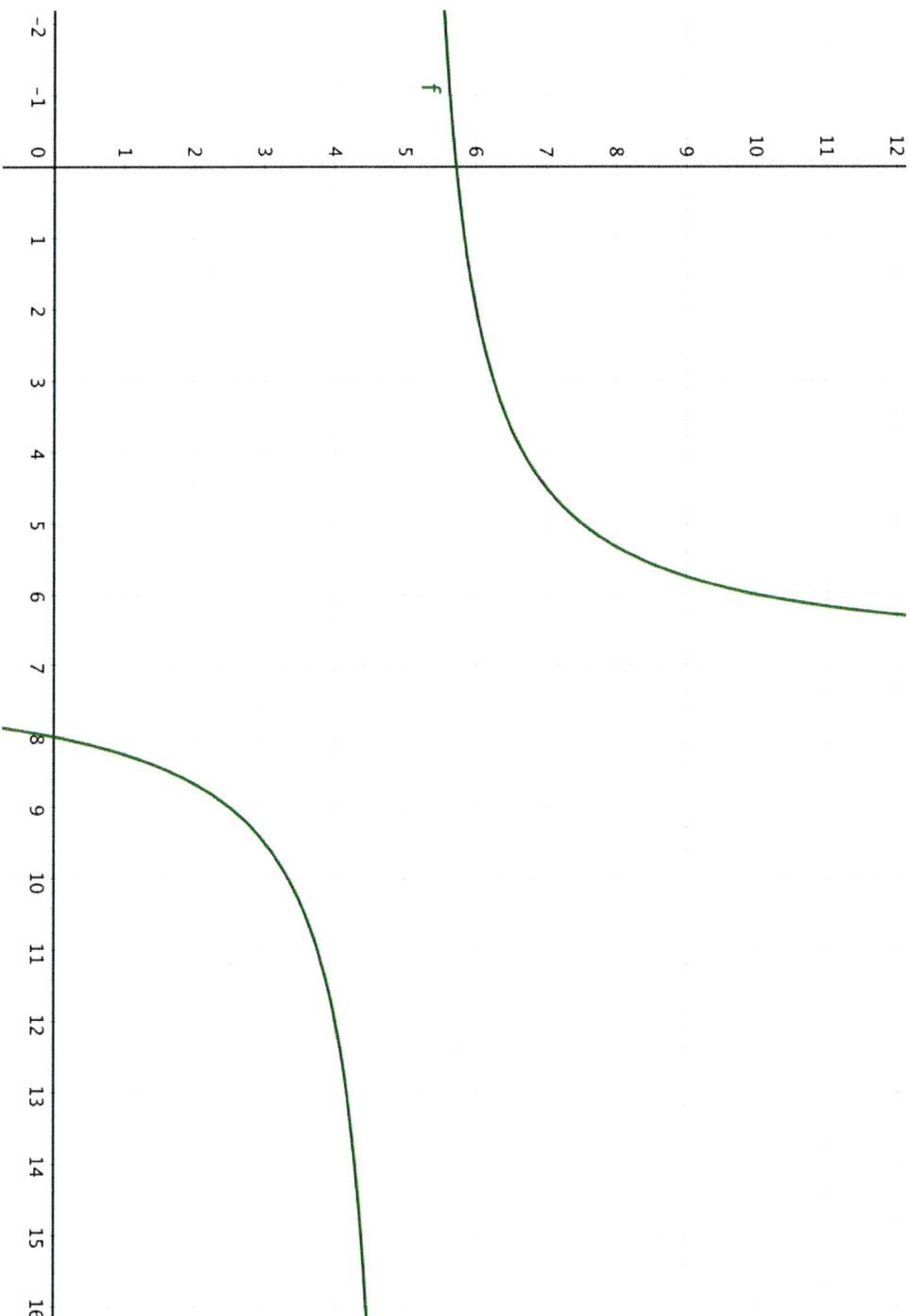


Figure 2: Hyperbola