

# Solution to Review Problems for Midterm #1

**Midterm I: Wednesday, September 22 in class**

**Topics: 1.1, 1.3 and 2.1-2.6 (except 2.3)**

**Office hours before the exam: Monday 11-1 and 4-6 p.m., Tuesday 1-2 pm and 4-6 pm at UH 2080B)**

Topics1 Find the equation of the tangent line to  $y = f(x)$  at  $x = a$ ,

1. We need to find the slope of the tangent line by finding the limit

$$m = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

2. Use the point slope formula to find the equation of the tangent line thru  $(a, f(a))$  with slope  $m$ :

$$y - f(a) = m(x - a).$$

1. Let  $f(x) = -2x^2 + 3x + 1$ . Find an equation of the tangent line to the curve at  $P(1, f(1))$ .

Solution: To find the slope of the tangent line at  $x = 1$ , we need to find the limit  $m = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(1+h) - f(1)}{h}$ . Since  $f(\square) = -2\square^2 + 3\square + 1$ , we have  $f(1+h) = -2(1+h)^2 + 3(1+h) + 1 = -2(1+2h+h^2) + 3+3h+1 = -2-4h-2h^2 + 4+3h = 2-h-2h^2$ ,  $f(1) = -2+3+1 = 2$  and

$f(1+h) - f(1) = 2-h-2h^2 - 2 = -h-2h^2 = h(-1-2h)$ . So  $m = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(1+h) - f(1)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(-1-2h)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} -1-2h = -1$ . Now we have the point  $P = (1, f(1)) = (1, 2)$  and the slope of the tangent line  $m = -1$ . By the point slope formula, we have the equation of the tangent line  $y - 2 = -1(x - 1) = -x + 1$  and  $y = -x + 1 + 2 = -x + 3$ . Hence the equation of the tangent line to the curve at  $P(1, f(1))$  is  $y = -x + 3$ .

2. Let  $f(x) = \frac{2}{x^2+1}$ . Find an equation of the tangent line to the curve at  $P(1, f(1))$ .

Solution: To find the slope of the tangent line at  $x = 1$ , we need to find the limit  $m = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(1+h) - f(1)}{h}$ . Since  $f(\square) = \frac{2}{\square^2+1}$ , we have

$$f(1+h) = \frac{2}{(1+h)^2+1} = \frac{2}{(1+2h+h^2)+1} = \frac{2}{2+2h+h^2}, \quad f(1) = \frac{2}{1^2+1} = \frac{2}{2} = 1 \text{ and}$$

$$f(1+h) - f(1) = \frac{2}{2+2h+h^2} - 1 = \frac{2}{2+2h+h^2} - \frac{2+2h+h^2}{2+2h+h^2} = \frac{2-(2+2h+h^2)}{2+2h+h^2} = \frac{2-2-2h-h^2}{2+2h+h^2} = \frac{-2h-h^2}{2+2h+h^2} = \frac{h(-2-h)}{2+2h+h^2}.$$

So  $m = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(1+h) - f(1)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(-2-h)}{2+2h+h^2} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(-2-h)}{(2+2h+h^2)h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(-2-h)}{(2+2h+h^2)} = \frac{-2-0}{2+0+0} = -1$ . Now we have the point  $P = (1, f(1)) =$

$(1, 1)$  and the slope of the tangent line  $m = -1$ . By the point slope formula, we have the equation of the tangent line  $y - 1 = -1(x - 1) = -x + 1$  and  $y = -x + 1 + 1 = -x + 2$ . Hence the equation of the tangent line to the curve at  $P(1, f(1))$  is  $y = -x + 2$ .

3. Let  $f(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{x^2+3}}$ . Find an equation of the tangent line to the curve at  $P(1, f(1))$ .

Solution: To find the slope of the tangent line at  $x = 1$ , we need to find the limit  $m = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(1+h) - f(1)}{h}$ . Since  $f(\square) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\square^2+3}}$ , we have  $f(1+h) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{(1+h)^2+3}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{1+2h+h^2+3}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4+2h+h^2}}$ ,  $f(1) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{1^2+3}} = \frac{2}{2} = 1$  and

$f(1+h) - f(1) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4+2h+h^2}} - 1 = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4+2h+h^2}} - \frac{\sqrt{4+2h+h^2}}{\sqrt{4+2h+h^2}} = \frac{2 - \sqrt{4+2h+h^2}}{\sqrt{4+2h+h^2}}$ . Now we rationalize the expression by multiplying  $\frac{2 + \sqrt{4+2h+h^2}}{2 + \sqrt{4+2h+h^2}}$  to get

$$f(1+h) - f(1) = \frac{2 - \sqrt{4+2h+h^2}}{\sqrt{4+2h+h^2}} \cdot \frac{2 + \sqrt{4+2h+h^2}}{2 + \sqrt{4+2h+h^2}} = \frac{2^2 - (4+2h+h^2)}{(\sqrt{4+2h+h^2})(2 + \sqrt{4+2h+h^2})}$$

$$= \frac{4 - 4 - 2h - h^2}{(\sqrt{4+2h+h^2})(2 + \sqrt{4+2h+h^2})} = \frac{-2h - h^2}{(\sqrt{4+2h+h^2})(2 + \sqrt{4+2h+h^2})}$$

So  $m = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(1+h) - f(1)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{-2h - h^2}{(\sqrt{4+2h+h^2})(2 + \sqrt{4+2h+h^2})}}{h}$   
 $= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(-2-h)}{(\sqrt{4+2h+h^2})(2 + \sqrt{4+2h+h^2})h}$  (factoring out  $h$  from the top and the bottom)  $= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(-2-h)}{(\sqrt{4+2h+h^2})(2 + \sqrt{4+2h+h^2})} = \frac{-2-0}{\sqrt{4}(2+\sqrt{4})} = \frac{-2}{2 \cdot 4} = -\frac{1}{4}$ . Now we have the point  $P = (1, f(1)) = (1, 1)$  and the slope of the tangent line  $m = -\frac{1}{4}$ . By the point slope formula, we have the equation of the tangent line  $y - 1 = -\frac{1}{4}(x - 1) = -\frac{1}{4}x + \frac{1}{4}$  and  $y = -\frac{1}{4}x + \frac{1}{4} + 1 = -\frac{x}{4} + \frac{5}{4}$ . Hence the equation of the tangent line to the curve at  $P(1, f(1))$  is  $y = -\frac{x}{4} + \frac{5}{4}$ .

**Topic2 Left continuity:** To determine if a function is left continuous at  $x = a$ , we need to find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$  and  $f(a)$ . If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) \neq f(a)$  then  $f$  is not left continuous. If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = f(a)$  then  $f$  is left continuous. Right

continuity at  $x = a$ : To determine if a function is right continuous at  $x = a$ , we need to find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$  and  $f(a)$ . If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) \neq f(a)$  then  $f$  is not left continuous. If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$  then  $f$  is left continuous. Continuity at  $x = a$ : To determine if a function is t con-

tinuous at  $x = a$ , we need to find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$  and  $f(a)$ . If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$  then  $f$  is not continuous. (either jump or infinite discontinuity). If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) \neq f(a)$  then  $f$  is not continuous. (This is called the removable discontinuity.) If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$  then  $f$  is continuous.

4. A piecewise defined function is given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x - 1, & x < -1 \\ x^2 - 1, & -1 \leq x < 2 \\ x + 2, & 2 \leq x \end{cases}$$

Determine if  $f$  is left continuous, right continuous or continuous at  $x = -1$  or  $x = 2$ .

**Solution:** At  $x = -1$ , we have  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} -x - 1 = 1 - 1 = 0$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} x^2 - 1 = (-1)^2 - 1 = 0$  and  $f(-1) = 1^2 - 1 = 0$ . So  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x) = f(-1)$ . Hence  $f$  is left continuous, right continuous and continuous at  $x = -1$ .

At  $x = 2$ , we have  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} x^2 - 1 = 4 - 1 = 3$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} x + 2 = 2 + 2 = 4$  and  $f(2) = 2 + 2 = 4$ . So  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) \neq f(2)$  and  $f$  is not left continuous at  $x = 2$ . Now  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) = f(2)$  and  $f$  is right continuous at  $x = 2$ .

But  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) = 3 \neq 4 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x)$  and  $f$  has a jump discontinuity at  $x = 2$ .

5. Classify the discontinuity of the following functions (removable, infinite, jump or oscillating discontinuity). Redefine the value of the function if it's removable.

(a)  $f(x) = \frac{x-3}{x^2-4x+3}$

**Solution:** Note that  $x^2 - 4x + 3 = (x - 1)(x - 3)$ . The domain of  $f$  is  $\{x \mid x \neq 1 \text{ and } x \neq 3\}$ . So  $f$  is discontinuous at  $x = 1$  and  $x = 3$ . At  $x = 1$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{x-3}{x^2-4x+3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{x-3}{(x-1)(x-3)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{1}{x-1} = \frac{1}{0^-} = -\infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{x-3}{x^2-4x+3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{1}{x-1} = \frac{1}{0^+} = \infty$ . So  $f$  has an infinite discontinuity at  $x = 1$ .

At  $x = 3$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{x-3}{x^2-4x+3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{1}{x-1} = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{x-3}{x^2-4x+3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{1}{x-1} = \frac{1}{2}$ . So  $f$  has a removable discontinuity at  $x = 3$ .

We can define  $f(3) = \frac{1}{2}$  to make  $f$  continuous at  $x = 3$ .

(b)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x+1}{x^2-1}, & x < -1 \\ \frac{x+1}{8}, & -1 \leq x \leq 1 \\ \frac{\sqrt{x}-1}{x^2-1}, & 1 < x \end{cases}$$

Solution: The only points where  $f$  may not be continuous is  $x = -1$  and  $x = 1$ .

At  $x = -1$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} \frac{x+1}{x^2-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} \frac{x+1}{(x+1)(x-1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} \frac{1}{x-1} = -\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} \frac{x+1}{8} = 0$  and  $f(-1) = \frac{-1+1}{8} = 0$ . Hence  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} f(x) \neq f(-1)$  and  $f$  is not left continuous at  $x = -1$ . Now  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x) = f(-1)$  and  $f$  is right continuous at  $x = -1$ . Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} f(x) = -\frac{1}{2} \neq 0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x)$  and  $f$  has a jump discontinuity at  $x = -1$ .

At  $x = 1$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{x+1}{8} = \frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{\sqrt{x}-1}{x^2-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{(\sqrt{x}-1)(\sqrt{x}+1)}{(x^2-1)(\sqrt{x}+1)}$   
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{x-1}{(x^2-1)(\sqrt{x}+1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{x-1}{(x-1)(x+1)(\sqrt{x}+1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{1}{(x+1)(\sqrt{x}+1)} = \frac{1}{4}$   
 and  $f(1) = \frac{1+1}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$ . Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) = f(1)$  and  $f$  has is left continuous, right continuous and continuous at  $x = 1$ .

6. A piecewise defined function is given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x - 1, & x < -1 \\ ax + b, & -1 \leq x < 1 \\ x^2, & 1 \leq x \end{cases}$$

(a) Find the graph of  $y = f(x)$  over the interval  $(-\infty, -1) \cup [1, \infty)$ .

(b) Determine the value of  $a$  and  $b$  so that  $f$  is continuous everywhere. Also explain your answer geometrically.

Solution: The only possible discontinuity are at  $x = -1$  and  $x = 1$ . We first compute  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} x - 1 = -1 - 1 = -2$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} ax + b = -a + b$  and  $f(-1) = -a + b$ . To make  $f$  continuous at  $x = -1$ , we must have  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x) = f(-1)$ . This gives  $-a + b = -2$ .

Next we compute  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} ax + b = a + b$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} x^2 = 1$  and  $f(1) = 1$ . To make  $f$  continuous at  $x = 1$ , we must have  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) = f(1)$ . This gives  $a + b = 1$ .

Now we have two equations  $-a + b = -2$  and  $a + b = 1$ . From  $-a + b = -2$ , we get  $b = -2 + a$ . Plugging  $b = -2 + a$  to  $a + b = 1$ , we get  $a + (-2 + a) = 1$ ,  $2a = 3$  and  $a = \frac{3}{2}$ . Use  $b = -2 + a$  to get  $b = -2 + \frac{3}{2} = -\frac{1}{2}$ . Thus  $a = \frac{3}{2}$  and  $b = -\frac{1}{2}$  will make  $f$  continuous everywhere.

**Topic 3: Vertical asymptote and horizontal asymptote.** To find vertical asymptote, we first find its domain. Let  $a$  be a point not in the domain. We find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$ . If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \infty$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = -\infty$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = \infty$  or  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = -\infty$  then  $x = a$  is a vertical asymptote.

To find horizontal asymptote, we find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x)$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$ . If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = b$  then  $y = b$  is a horizontal asymptote. If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = c$  then  $y = c$  is a horizontal asymptote.

$$\frac{1}{0^+} = \frac{\text{negative number}}{0^-} = \infty, \frac{1}{0^-} = \frac{\text{positive number}}{0^-} = -\infty, 0^+ \cdot 0^- = 0^-, 0^- \cdot 0^- = 0^+.$$

$$\frac{1}{\infty} = \frac{1}{-\infty} = 0, \infty \cdot \infty = -\infty \cdot -\infty = \infty, \infty \cdot -\infty = -\infty, (-\infty)^{\text{odd power}} = -\infty.$$

$$x^p = x^n x^{-n+p}, \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{\text{positive number}} = \infty, \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{\text{negative number}} = 0,$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} x^{\text{positive and even integer}} = \infty, \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} x^{\text{positive and odd integer}} = -\infty.$$

Given a rational function  $R(x)$ . Suppose we rearrange the order of the power in the top and the bottom so it's in decreasing order, i.e

$$R(x) = \frac{a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0}{b_m x^m + b_{m-1} x^{m-1} + \dots + b_1 x + b_0}. \text{ For example, } R(x) = \frac{x-x^3+2}{x-5x^3+6x^4} = \frac{-x^3+x+2}{6x^4-5x^3+x}.$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0}{b_m x^m + b_{m-1} x^{m-1} + \dots + b_1 x + b_0} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{x^n (a_n + a_{n-1} x^{-1} + \dots + a_1 x^{-n+1} + a_0 x^{-n})}{x^m (b_m + b_{m-1} x^{-1} + \dots + b_1 x^{-m+1} + b_0 x^{-m})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{a_n}{b_m} x^{n-m}.$$

**7. Determine the following limits**

**(a)**  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x+2}$

**Solution:**  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{(x-1)(x-2)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{x-2} = -1.$

**(b)**  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x-4}{x^2-5x+6}, \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x-4}{x^2-5x+6}, \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x-4}{x^2-5x+6}$

**Solution:** Plugging in the expression, we get  $\frac{2}{0}$ . So we need to factor the bottom to analyze its behavior.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x-4}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x-4}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{-2}{0^+ \cdot -1} = \frac{-2}{0^-} = \infty.$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x-4}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x-4}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{-2}{0^- \cdot -1} = \frac{-2}{0^+} = -\infty.$$

Now we know that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x-4}{x^2-5x+6} \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x-4}{x^2-5x+6}$ . So  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x-4}{x^2-5x+6}$  doesn't exist.

**(c)**  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2x^2+x^6+1}{x^3-5x+6}, \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-2x^2+x^6+1}{x^3-5x+6}$

**Solution:**  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2x^2+x^6+1}{x^3-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^6(-2x^{-4}+1+x^{-6})}{x^3(1-5x^{-2}+6x^{-3})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^3(-2x^{-4}+1+x^{-6})}{(1-5x^{-2}+6x^{-3})} =$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^3 = \infty. \text{ Note that we have used the fact that } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(-2x^{-4}+1+x^{-6})}{(1-5x^{-2}+6x^{-3})} =$$

1.

Similarly,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-2x^2+x^6+1}{x^3-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x^6(-2x^{-4}+1+x^{-6})}{x^3(1-5x^{-2}+6x^{-3})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x^3(-2x^{-4}+1+x^{-6})}{(1-5x^{-2}+6x^{-3})} =$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} x^3 = (-\infty)^3 = -\infty.$$

$$(d) \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2x^6 + x^2 + 1}{4x - 5x + 6x^6}, \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-2x^6 + x^2 + 1}{4x - 5x + 6x^6}$$

$$\text{Solution: } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2x^6 + x^2 + 1}{4x - 5x + 6x^6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^6(-2 + x^{-4} + x^{-6})}{x^6(4x^{-3} - 5x^{-5} + 6)}$$

$$\text{(factoring out } x^6 \text{ from the top and the bottom)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(-2 + x^{-4} + x^{-6})}{(4x^{-3} - 5x^{-5} + 6)} = \frac{-2}{6} = -\frac{1}{3}.$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-2x^6 + x^2 + 1}{4x - 5x + 6x^6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x^6(-2x^{-4} + 1 + x^{-6})}{x^6(4x^{-3} - 5x^{-5} + 6)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{(-2x^{-4} + 1 + x^{-6})}{(4x^{-3} - 5x^{-5} + 6)} = \frac{1}{6}.$$

$$(e) \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2x^6 + x^2 + 1}{4x^3 - 5x^8 + 6}, \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-2x^6 + x^2 + 1}{4x^3 - 5x^8 + 6}$$

$$\text{Solution: } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2x^6 + x^2 + 1}{4x^3 - 5x^8 + 6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^6(-2 + x^{-4} + x^{-6})}{x^8(4x^{-5} - 5 + 6x^{-8})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(-2 + x^{-4} + x^{-6})}{x^2(4x^{-5} - 5 + 6x^{-8})} = \frac{-2}{\infty \cdot (-5)} = 0.$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-2x^6 + x^2 + 1}{4x^3 - 5x^8 + 6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x^6(-2x^{-4} + x^{-6})}{x^8(4x^{-5} - 5 + 6x^{-8})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1(-2 + x^{-4} + x^{-6})}{x^2(4x^{-5} - 5 + 6x^{-8})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-2}{-\infty \cdot (-5)} = 0.$$

$$(f) \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^2 - \frac{x^4 + 1}{x^2 + 1}$$

$$\text{Solution: } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^2 - \frac{x^4 + 1}{x^2 + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2(x^2 + 1)}{x^2 + 1} - \frac{x^4 + 1}{x^2 + 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^4 + x^2}{x^2 + 1} -$$

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

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

$$(g) \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{x^2 + 1} - \sqrt{x^2 - 1}$$

$$\text{Solution: } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{x^2 + 1} - \sqrt{x^2 - 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\sqrt{x^2 + 1} - \sqrt{x^2 - 1}) \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + \sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + \sqrt{x^2 - 1}} =$$

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

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

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{\sqrt{1 + x^{-2}} + \sqrt{1 - x^{-2}}} = 0.$$

$$(h) \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{x^2 + 1} - \sqrt{x - 1}$$

$$\text{Solution: } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{x^2 + 1} - \sqrt{x - 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\sqrt{x^2 + 1} - \sqrt{x - 1}) \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + \sqrt{x - 1}}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + \sqrt{x - 1}} =$$

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

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

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

$$1 = \infty.$$

8. Find the domain of the following functions and determine the vertical and horizontal asymptotes of the graph of the following functions.

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

**Solution:** To find the domain, we factor  $x^2 - 3x + 2 = (x-1)(x-2)$ .

So the domain is  $\{x|x \neq 1 \text{ and } x \neq 2\}$ . At  $x = 1$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{x-1}{(x-1)(x-2)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{1}{(x-2)} = -1$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{x-1}{(x-1)(x-2)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{1}{(x-2)} = -1$ . So  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x+2} = -1$ . Hence  $x = 1$  is not a vertical asymptote. In fact,  $\frac{x-1}{x^2-3x+2}$  has a removable discontinuity at  $x = 1$ .

At  $x = 2$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x-1}{(x-1)(x-2)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{1}{(x-2)} = \frac{1}{0^-} = -\infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x-1}{(x-1)(x-2)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{1}{(x-2)} = \frac{1}{0^+} = \infty$ . Hence  $x = 2$  is a vertical asymptote.

$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x(1-x^{-1})}{x^2(1-3x^{-1}+2x^{-2})} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1(1-x^{-1})}{x(1-3x^{-1}+2x^{-2})}$   
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(1-x^{-1})}{(1-3x^{-1}+2x^{-2})} = 0 \cdot 1 = 0$ . Similarly,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x-1}{x^2-3x+2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x(1-x^{-1})}{x^2(1-3x^{-1}+2x^{-2})} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1(1-x^{-1})}{x(1-3x^{-1}+2x^{-2})}$   
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{x} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{(1-x^{-1})}{(1-3x^{-1}+2x^{-2})} = 0 \cdot 1 = 0$ . Hence  $y = 0$  is a horizontal asymptote.

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

To find the domain, we factor  $x^2 - 5x + 6 = (x-2)(x-3)$ . So the domain is  $\{x|x \neq 2 \text{ and } x \neq 3\}$ . At  $x = 2$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x-1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{1}{0^- \cdot (-1)} = \frac{1}{0^+} = \infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x-1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{1}{0^+ \cdot (-1)} = \frac{1}{0^-} = -\infty$ . Hence  $x = 2$  is a vertical asymptote.

At  $x = 3$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{x-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{x-1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{2}{1 \cdot 0^-} = \frac{2}{0^-} = -\infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{x-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{x-1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{2}{1 \cdot 0^+} = \frac{2}{0^+} = \infty$ . Hence  $x = 3$  is a vertical asymptote.

$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x(1-x^{-1})}{x^2(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1(1-x^{-1})}{x(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})}$   
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{x} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{(1-x^{-1})}{(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})} = 0 \cdot 1 = 0$ . Similarly,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x(1-x^{-1})}{x^2(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1(1-x^{-1})}{x(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})}$   
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(1-x^{-1})}{(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})} = 0 \cdot 1 = 0$ . Hence  $y = 0$  is a horizontal asymptote.

(c)  $f(x) = \frac{x^3-1}{x^2-5x+6}$

To find the domain, we factor  $x^2 - 5x + 6 = (x-2)(x-3)$ . So the domain is  $\{x|x \neq 2 \text{ and } x \neq 3\}$ . At  $x = 2$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x^3-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{x^3-1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{7}{0^- \cdot (-1)} = \frac{7}{0^+} = \infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x^3-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{x^3-1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{7}{0^+ \cdot (-1)} = \frac{7}{0^-} = -\infty$ . Hence  $x = 2$  is a vertical asymptote.

At  $x = 3$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{x^3-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{x^3-1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{26}{1 \cdot 0^-} = \frac{26}{0^-} = -\infty$  and

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{x^3-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{x^3-1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{26}{1 \cdot 0^+} = \frac{26}{0^+} = \infty$ . Hence  $x = 3$  is a vertical asymptote.

$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x^3-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x^3(1-x^{-3})}{x^2(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x(1-x^{-3})}{(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})}$   
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} x \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{(1-x^{-1})}{(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})} = -\infty \cdot 1 = -\infty$ . Similarly,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^3-1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(1-x^{-1})}{(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})} = \infty$ . Hence  $y = \frac{x^3-1}{(x-2)(x-3)}$  doesn't have a horizontal asymptote.

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

To find the domain, we factor  $x^2 - 5x + 6 = (x - 2)(x - 3)$ . So the domain is  $\{x \mid x \neq 2 \text{ and } x \neq 3\}$ . At  $x = 2$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{-x^2+1}{x^2-5x+6} =$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} \frac{-x^2+1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{-3}{0^- \cdot (-1)} = \frac{-3}{0^+} = -\infty \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{-x^2+1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} \frac{-x^2+1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{-3}{0^+ \cdot (-1)} = \frac{-3}{0^-} = \infty$$
 Hence  $x = 2$  is a vertical asymptote.

At  $x = 3$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{-x^2+1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{-x^2+1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{-8}{1 \cdot 0^-} = \frac{-8}{0^-} = \infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{-x^2+1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3^+} \frac{-x^2+1}{(x-2)(x-3)} = \frac{-8}{1 \cdot 0^+} = \frac{-8}{0^+} = -\infty$ . Hence  $x = 3$  is a vertical asymptote.

$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{-x^2+1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{x^2(-1+x^{-2})}{x^2(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})} \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1(-1+x^{-2})}{(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})}$   
 $= -1$ . Similarly,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-x^2+1}{x^2-5x+6} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1(-1+x^{-2})}{(1-5x^{-1}+6x^{-2})} = -1$ . Hence  $y = -1$  is a horizontal asymptote.