

1.2 Rational functions and graphs

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 15 marks

KEY WORDS asymptotes 渐近线 • oblique 斜渐近线 • discriminant 判别式
• rational function 有理函数 • rational functions and graphs 有理函数与图像

Objective

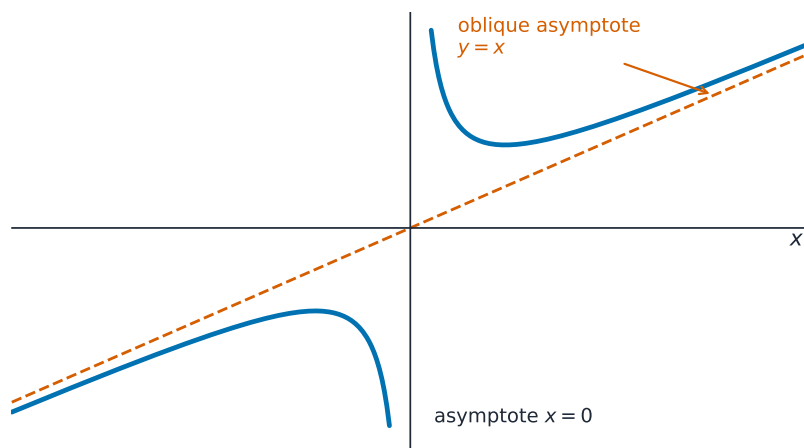
Build the skills to answer exam questions on **rational functions and graphs** 有理函数与图像 — **asymptotes** 渐近线 (including **oblique** 斜渐近线), the range via the **discriminant** 判别式, and related graphs.

You must be able to:

- find vertical and oblique asymptotes (divide out)
- find the set of values of a rational function using the discriminant
- relate $y = f(x)$ to $y = \frac{1}{f(x)}$, $y = |f(x)|$, $y^2 = f(x)$

1 Worked examples

■ Asymptotes & range



oblique asymptote when $\deg(\text{num}) = \deg(\text{den}) + 1$ (long division)

Far out the curve hugs the slant line; near a zero of the denominator it runs off along a vertical asymptote

$y = \frac{x^2 + 1}{x} = x + \frac{1}{x}$: vertical asymptote $x = 0$, oblique asymptote $y = x$.

Range of $y = \frac{x^2 + 1}{x}$: $yx = x^2 + 1 \Rightarrow x^2 - yx + 1 = 0$; real x needs $y^2 - 4 \geq 0$, so $y \leq -2$ or $y \geq 2$.

2 Practice

2.1 Write down the vertical asymptote of $y = \frac{2x + 1}{x - 3}$. [1]

2.2 Find the oblique asymptote of $y = \frac{x^2}{x - 1}$. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The curve $y = \frac{x^2 - 4}{x}$ has an oblique asymptote: [1]

A	B
C	D

A $y = x$

B $y = x - 4$

C $y = 2x$

D $y = -4$

3.2 A curve has equation $y = \frac{x^2 + 2}{x - 1}$.

(a) Find the equations of the two asymptotes. [3]

(b) Use the discriminant to find the set of values that y **cannot** take. [4]

3.3 The function is $y = \frac{x}{x^2 + 1}$. Find the set of values y can take. [4]
