

Applications of Rational Functions:

Example 4/Page 335:

A utility company (ConED) burns coal to make electricity. The cost C (in dollars) of removing $p\%$ of the smokestack pollutants is given by $C = \frac{80000p}{100-p}$, where $0 \leq p < 100$. This is a rational function. $R(x) = \frac{N(x)}{D(x)}$, $N(p) = 80000p$
 $D(p) = 100-p$
 p is the independent variable
 $R(p) = \frac{N(p)}{D(p)}$
 p comes from "pollutant"

at $p=100$: $C(100) = \frac{80000 \cdot 100}{100-100} = \frac{80000 \cdot 100}{0} \leftarrow$ not defined for $p=100$. domain: $0 \leq p < 100$

If $p=0$, we'd be saying we can remove all the pollutants, which is probably not realistic.

If $p=0$, then we get $C(0) = \frac{80000 \cdot 0}{100-0} = \frac{0}{100} = 0 \leftarrow$ To remove 0% of pollutants will cost you 0 dollars.

$C(85) = \frac{80000 \cdot 85}{100-85}$ remove 85% of pollutants $\rightarrow \approx \$453,333$. $C(90) = \frac{80000 \cdot 90}{100-90} = \$720,000$.

What's the additional cost to go from 85% to 90%: $C(90) - C(85) = 720,000 - 453,333 = \$266,667$.

Example 5: Ultraviolet radiation:

For a person with sensitive skin, the amount of time T (in hours) the person can be exposed to the sun with minimal burning can be modeled by $T = \frac{0.37s + 23.8}{s}$, $0 < s \leq 120$, $s =$ Sunspot Scale reading (Sunspot Inc.)

$s = 10$: $T(10) = \frac{0.37 \cdot 10 + 23.8}{10} = 2.75$ hrs $T(s) = \frac{0.37s + 23.8}{s}$ rational function

$s = 25$: $T(25) = \frac{0.37 \cdot 25 + 23.8}{25} = 1.32$ hrs $N(s) = 0.37s + 23.8$

$s = 100$: $T(100) = \frac{0.37 \cdot 100 + 23.8}{100} = 0.61$ hrs $D(s) = s$

$s = 120$ (last value from the domain of s b/c it says $<$ or $=$): $T(120) = \frac{0.37 \cdot 120 + 23.8}{120} = 0.57$ hrs

Imagine $s=1000$: $T(1000) = \frac{0.37 \cdot 1000 + 23.8}{1000} = 0.39$ Horizontal Asymptote is $y = 0.37$

Imagine $s = 10000$ (not real): $T(10000) = \frac{0.37 \cdot 10000 + 23.8}{10000} = 0.37$ Shortest possible exposure time with minimal burning is .37 hrs.

3. (Hwork): Mr. Ewald decides to make and sell Left Handed Smoke Shifters (made up whatever). The function below gives the average cost (in dollars) per Smoke Shifter when x Smoke Shifters are produced.

$A(x) = \frac{3x+450}{x}$, rational function $N(x) = 3x+450$, $D(x) = x$ Average Cost = $\frac{\text{total cost}}{\text{number of units}}$

Determine $A(15)$. Average cost to produce 15 smoke shifters.

$A(15) = \frac{3 \cdot 15 + 450}{15} = \frac{45 + 450}{15} = \frac{495}{15} = 33$

How many smoke shifters must be produced to reduce the average cost to \$12 each? $x = ?$ A

Find the average cost to make 1000 smoke shifters:

$A(1000) = \frac{3 \cdot 1000 + 450}{1000} = 3.45$

$A(10000) = \frac{3 \cdot 10000 + 450}{10000} = 3.045$

(in MOM..input only two decimal places..3.05)

Horizontal asymptote:
 A as $x \rightarrow \infty$, $y \rightarrow 3$
 $y = 3$ If we made a huggggge number of smoke shifters, the average cost would be 3 per smoke shifter.

$\frac{3x+450}{x} = 12 \leftarrow$ given

$\frac{3x+450}{x} = \frac{12}{1}$ any number is a really a/1

$1(3x+450) = 12 \cdot x$ (cross multiplication)

$3x+450 = 12x$ (linear equation b/c x^1)

$450 = 12x - 3x$

$450 = 9x$

$\frac{450}{9} = x \rightarrow x = 50$ We have to make 50 smoke shifters to ensure the average cost is 9 dollars.

last example: Human Memory Model:

$P(n) = \frac{0.5+0.9(n-1)}{1+0.9(n-1)}$, $n > 0$ $n =$ number of trials of some task (how many times did we do this task)

$P =$ fraction of correct responses

Summary: As $n \rightarrow \infty$, $P \rightarrow 1$. We get better and better simply by repeating the task. No genius required!

n 1 2 3 4 5

P

$P(1) = \frac{0.5+0.9(1-1)}{1+0.9(1-1)} = \frac{0.5+0.9(0)}{1+0.9(0)} = \frac{0.5}{1} = 0.5$ (do something once..50% chance it's correct)

$P(2) = \frac{0.5+0.9(2-1)}{1+0.9(2-1)} = 0.74$ (tasks we can control at each stage)

$P(3) = \frac{0.5+0.9(3-1)}{1+0.9(3-1)} = 0.82$

... make $n=10$: $P(10) = \frac{0.5+0.9(10-1)}{1+0.9(10-1)} = 0.95$

$P(100) = \frac{0.5+0.9(100-1)}{1+0.9(100-1)} = 1.0$
 1 means 100% correct