Math 170: Quiz 6 Solution

Sayan Mukherjee's discussion

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Problem 1. Find the vertical asymptotes of the function

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 6x + 7}{x^2 - 49}.$$

Solution. Setting denominator to 0, we get $x=\pm 7$ as the two roots. Observe that evaluating the numerator:

- At x = 7: $49 42 + 7 = 14 \neq 0$,
- At x = -7: $49 + 42 + 7 = 98 \neq 0$,

Therefore x = 7 and x = -7 are both vertical asymptotes of f(x).

Rubric.

- +2pts for setting denominator to 0 or factorizing denominator
- +2pts for noting that the function evaluates to something nonzero/0 at x=7 and x=-7
- +1pt for correct answer (x = 7 and x = -7 are both asymptotes)