

5.5. Functions of form $\frac{1}{x^p}$

Aims:

- 1) Students know that $\frac{1}{x^p}$ is special case of the power function $y = kx^p$
- 2) Students know what special property's function $\frac{1}{x^p}$ may exhibit when p is odd and when p is even.
- 3) Apply these properties in graphing function $\frac{1}{x^p}$.

Definition of power function

Definition:

A power function is a **single – term** function that contains a variable as its base and a constant for its exponent.

In case of function $y = \frac{1}{x^p}$ we speak about power functions where $k = 1$ and $p < 0$.



Power functions where $p = -1, -3, -5, \dots$

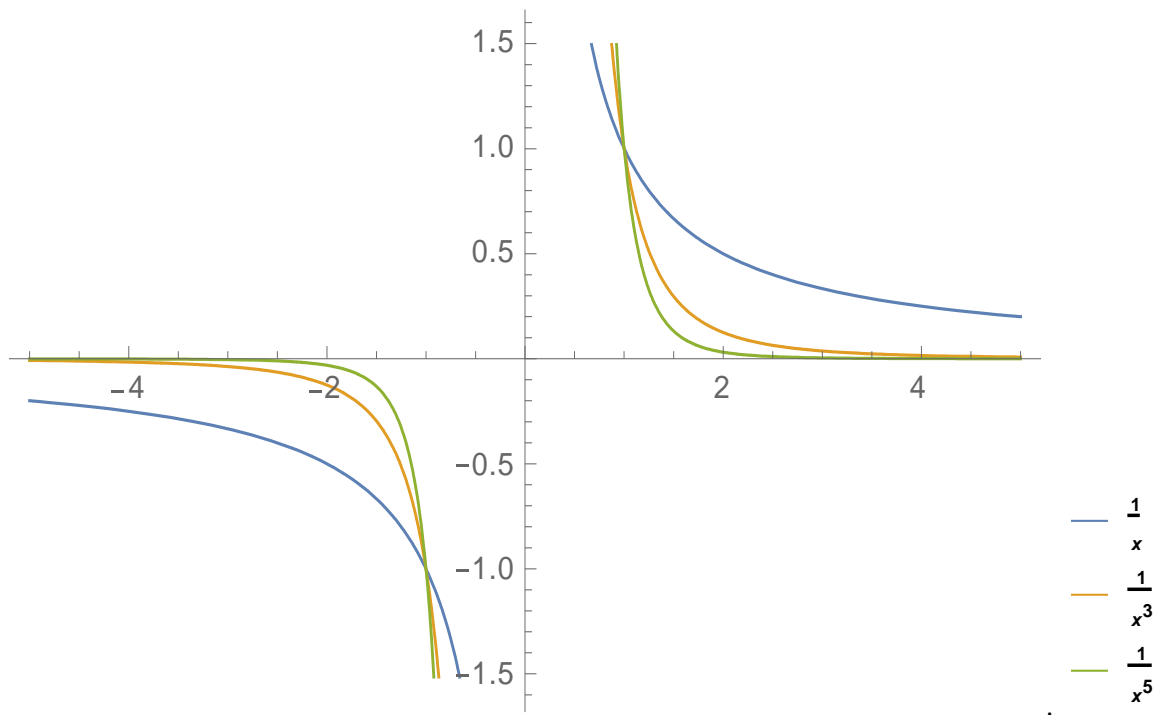


Figure 5.43 Graph 1

Properties:

- Domain: $X \neq 0$
- Domain of variation: $Y \neq 0$
- Evenness and oddness: $y(-x) = -y(x) \rightarrow$ odd
- Monotony: monotonus
- Extremes: none
- Intersection points with coordinate axes: none
- Domain of convexity: $\check{X} = (-\infty; 0); \hat{X} = (0; +\infty)$
- Inflection point: none
- Inverse functions:
 - If $p = -1$, then $x = \frac{1}{y}$
 - If $p < -2$, then $x = \frac{1}{|p|\sqrt{y}}$

Power functions where $p = -2, -4, -6, \dots$

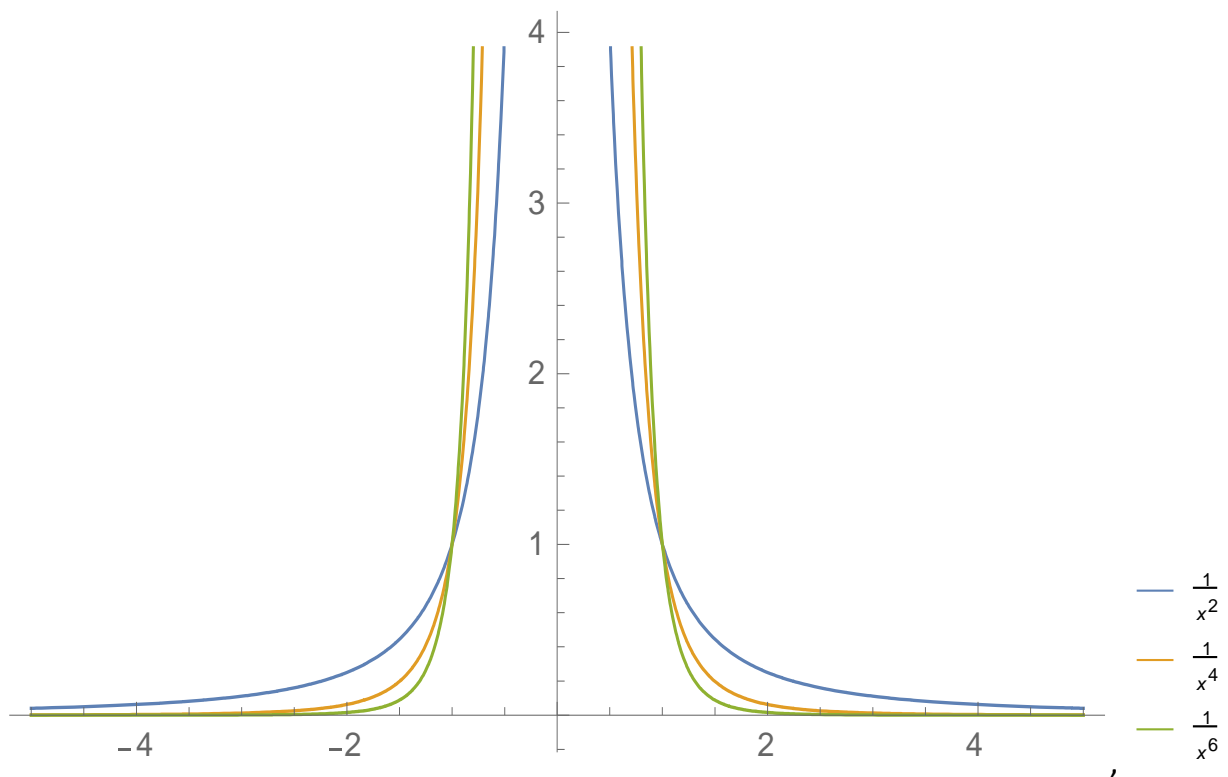


Figure 5.44 Graph 2

Properties:

- Domain: $X \neq 0$
- Domain of variation: $Y > 0$
- Evenness and oddness: $y(-x) = -y(x) \rightarrow$ odd
- Monotony: $X \uparrow = (-\infty; 0)$; $X \downarrow = (0; +\infty)$
- Extremes: none
- Intersection points with coordinate axes: none
- Domain of convexity: $\hat{X} = (-\infty; 0)$
- Inflection point: none
- Inverse functions:
 - If $p = -2$, then $x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{y}}$
 - If $p < -2$, then $x = \frac{1}{|p|\sqrt{y}}$