

Inverse Functions — 6.2

Definition of a One-to-One Function

A function f with domain D and range R is a **one-to-one function** if either of the following equivalent conditions is satisfied:

1. Whenever $a \neq b$ in D , then $f(a) \neq f(b)$ in R .
2. Whenever $f(a) = f(b)$ in R , then $a = b$ in D .

Determine whether a function f is one-to-one.

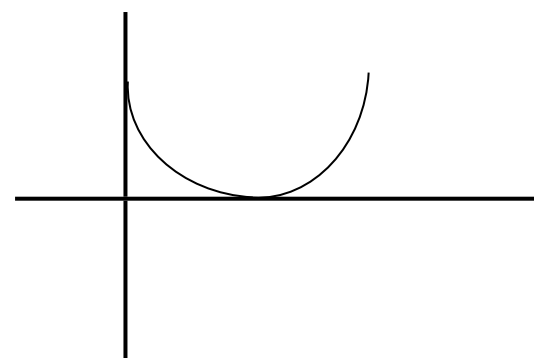
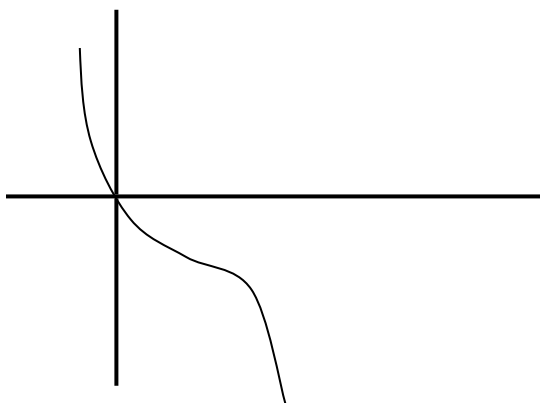
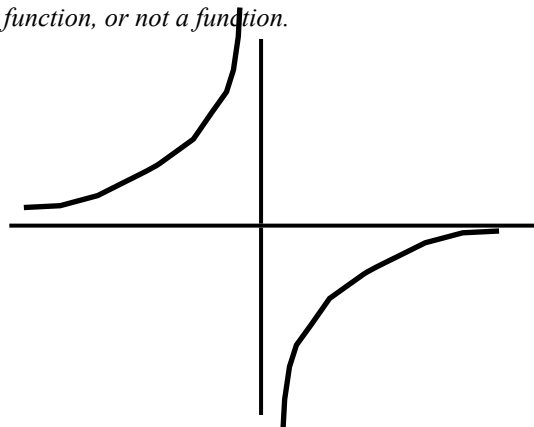
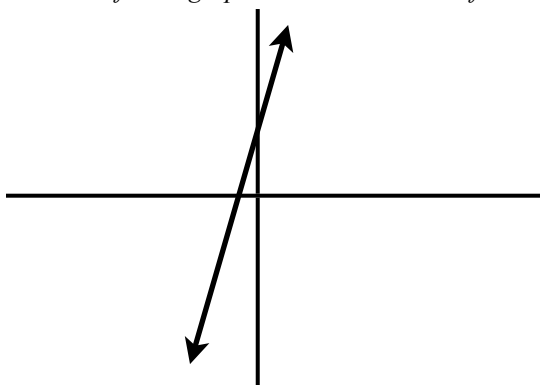
1. $f(x) = -2x + 1$

2. $f(x) = (x + 2)^2 - 3$

Horizontal Line Test

A function f is one-to-one if and only if every **horizontal** line intersects the graph of f in at most one point.

Determine if each graph is a non one-to-one function, a one-to-one function, or not a function.



Inverse Functions

Let f be a one-to-one function with domain D and range R . A function g with domain R and range D is the inverse function of f provided the following condition is true for every x in D and every y in R .

$$y = f(x) \text{ if and only if } x = g(y).$$

In other words, the domain and range switch, and g maps every y (output of f) back to its original x (input of f).

All one-to-one functions have inverses.

Theorem on Inverse Functions

Let f be a one-to-one function with domain D and range R . If g is a function with domain R and range D , then g is the inverse function f if and only if both of the following conditions are true.

1. $g(f(x)) = x$ for every x in D .
2. $f(g(y)) = y$ for every y in R .

Notation

The inverse of a one-to-one function f is denoted by f^{-1} . This means if f and f^{-1} are inverses, the following is true:

1. $f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$ for every x in the domain of f .
2. $f(f^{-1}(x)) = x$ for every x in the domain of f^{-1} .

Domain and Range

If f and f^{-1} are inverses, then

1. The domain of f is equal to the range of f^{-1} .
2. The domain of f^{-1} is equal to the range of f .

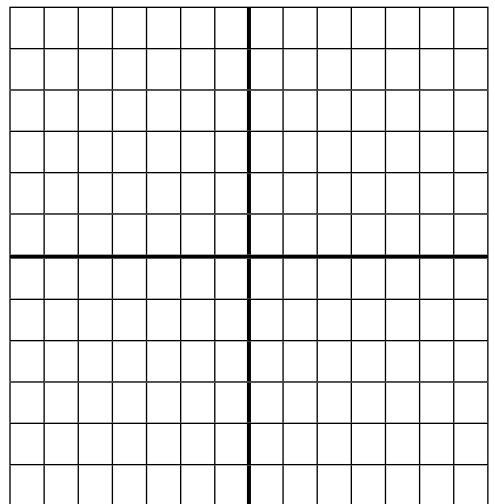
Graphs of Inverses

If f and f^{-1} are inverses, then the graphs of f and f^{-1} are reflections of each other about the line $y = x$, or are symmetric with respect to this line. In other words if the point (a, b) is on the graph of f , then the point (b, a) is on the graph of f^{-1} .

Use the theorem on inverse functions to prove that f and g are inverse functions of each other; and sketch graphs of f and g on the same coordinate plane.

3. $f(x) = x^3 - 1$

$$g(x) = \sqrt[3]{x+1}$$



Determine the domain and range of f^{-1} for the given function without actually finding f^{-1} .

4. $f(x) = x^2 - 2, \quad x \geq 0$

Find the inverse of the function f .

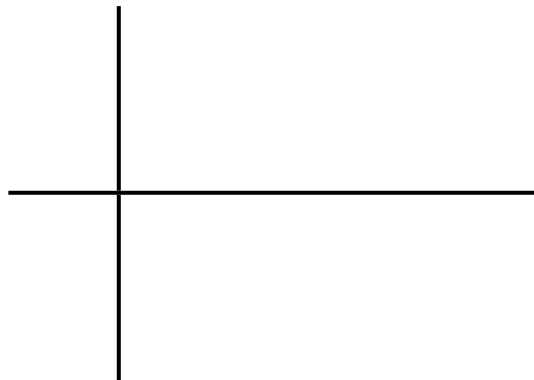
5. $f(x) = x^2 - 2, \quad x \geq 0$

6. $f(x) = \frac{4x}{x-2}$

7. $f(x) = -\sqrt{x+5} - 2$

Let $h(x) = 3 - x$. Use h , the table, and the graph to evaluate each expression.

x	0	1	2	3	4
$f(x)$	2	3	1	0	5



- a) $(h \circ g)(2)$
- b) $(f^{-1} \circ h)(0)$
- c) $(f^{-1} \circ g^{-1})(-2)$

8. The graph of a one-to-one function f is shown. Use the reflection property to sketch the graph of f^{-1} . Find the domain and range of the function. Find the domain and range of the inverse function.

