

## Lesson 1.8 – Inverse Functions

**What is an inverse function?**

$$x \rightarrow f(x) \rightarrow y$$

$$x \leftarrow f^{-1}(x) \leftarrow y$$

1. Find
- $x$
- such that
- $f(x) = 5$

$$f(x) = 5 \text{ when } x = 1$$

2. Evaluate the following:

a.  $f^{-1}(5) + g^{-1}(3)$

$$f^{-1}(5) + g^{-1}(3) = 1 + (-1) = 0$$

b.  $f^{-1} \circ g^{-1}(-5)$

$$f(3) = 8$$

c.  $f^{-1} \circ f^{-1}(8)$

$$f^{-1}(3) = -4$$

d.  $g^{-1} \circ g^{-1}(3) + g(3)$

$$g^{-1}(-1) - 5 = -3 - 5 = -8$$

e.  $f^{-1} \circ g^{-1}(4)$

$$f^{-1}(-2) = 4$$

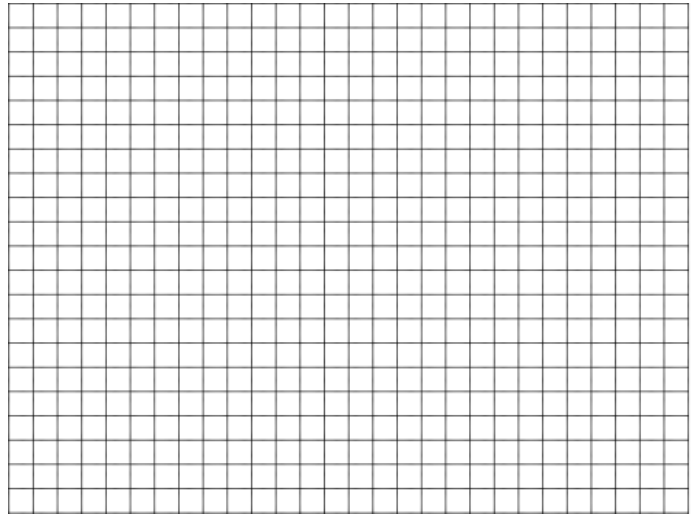
f.  $f \circ f^{-1}(3)$

$$f(-4) = 3 \quad (\text{Composition of a function with its inverse will cancel and yield only the argument}).$$

$x$	$f(x)$	$g(x)$
-4	3	10
-3	-4	-1
-2	0	4
-1	1	3
0	10	2
1	5	1
2	2	0
3	8	-5
4	-2	-2

## I. Inverse Functions Graphically

- Use your calculator to sketch a graph of  $f(x) = \frac{1}{4}x^3$ .



Check Desmos

- On the same graph, use your calculator (or any other means) to help you sketch a graph of  $g(x) = \sqrt[3]{4x}$ .

Check Desmos

- Visually, what is the relationship between the two functions?

Reflection across  $y = x$

Finding inverse functions graphically:  $f(x) \rightarrow (x, y)$

$f^{-1}(x) \rightarrow (y, x)$

- Find the “inverse function” of  $f(x) = x^2$ .

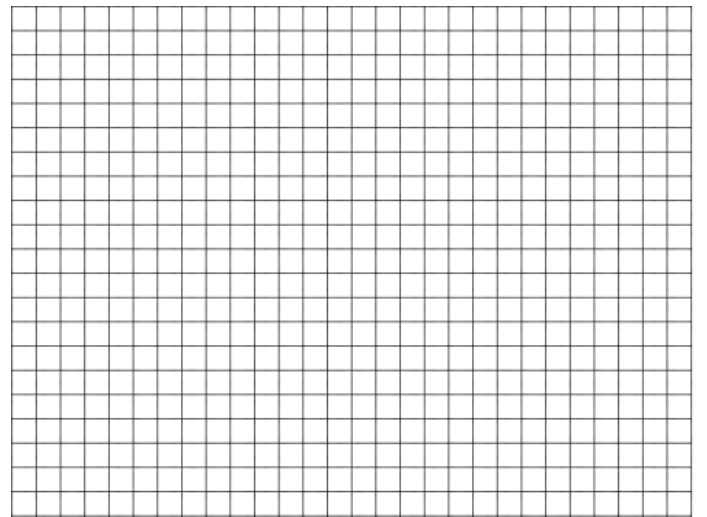
Check Desmos:  $f^{-1}(x) = \pm\sqrt{x}$

- Graph  $f(x)$  and its “inverse”  $f^{-1}(x)$  to the right. What is wrong with this function?

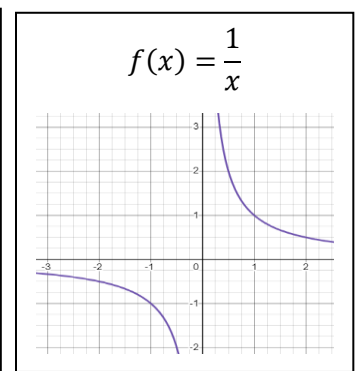
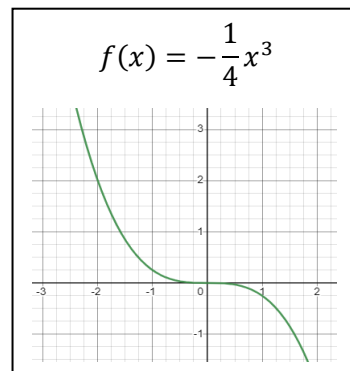
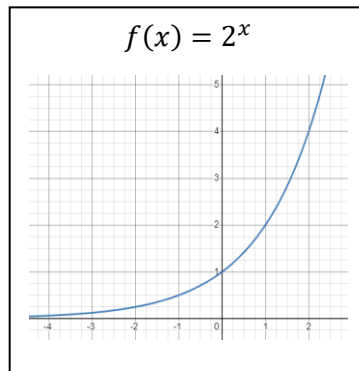
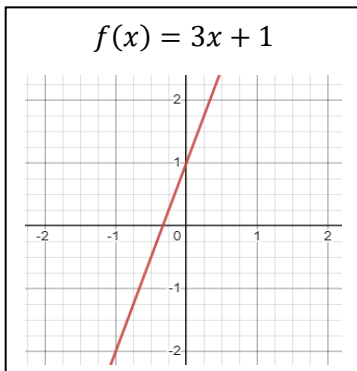
Not a function

- What is a **one-to-one function**?

If no two elements in the domain of  $f$  correspond to the same element in the range of  $f$ .



- Graph the inverse of each function listed below.



Check Desmos for each.

## II. Inverse Function Algebraically

8. Find the inverse function of  $f(x) = 3x + 1$ .

$$x = 3y + 1$$

$$y = \frac{1}{3}(x - 1)$$

9.  $g(x) = \sqrt{x + 2}$

Find  $g^{-1}(x)$ , then show that  $g \circ g^{-1}(x) = x$

$$x = \sqrt{y + 2}$$

$$g \circ g^{-1}(x) = \sqrt{x^2 - 2 + 2}$$

$$x^2 = y + 2$$

$$g \circ g^{-1}(x) = \sqrt{x^2}$$

$$y = x^2 - 2$$

$$g \circ g^{-1}(x) = x$$

10.  $h(x) = \frac{x-3}{x+2}$

Find  $h^{-1}(x)$ , then show  $h \circ h^{-1}(x) = x$

$$x = \frac{y-3}{y+2}$$

$$h \circ h^{-1}(x) = \frac{\left(\frac{-2x-3}{x-1}\right)-3}{\left(\frac{-2x-3}{x-1}\right)+2}$$

$$h \circ h^{-1}(x) = x$$

$$xy + 2x = y - 3$$

$$h \circ h^{-1}(x) = \frac{\left(\frac{-2x-3-3(x-1)}{x-1}\right)}{\left(\frac{-2x-3+2(x-1)}{x-1}\right)}$$

$$xy - y = -2x - 3$$

$$h \circ h^{-1}(x) = \frac{-2x-3-3(x-1)}{-2x-3+2(x-1)}$$

$$y(x - 1) = -2x - 3$$

$$h \circ h^{-1}(x) = \frac{-2x-3-3x+3}{-2x-3+2x-2}$$

$$y = \frac{-2x-3}{x-1}$$

$$h \circ h^{-1}(x) = \frac{-5x}{-5}$$

11. Let  $m(x) = \frac{x-4}{2}$  and  $f(x) = 3x + 1$ . Evaluate the following.

$$f^{-1}(x) = \frac{1}{3}(x - 1); x = \frac{y - 4}{2} \rightarrow y = 2x + 4 \rightarrow m^{-1}(x) = 2x + 4$$

a.  $f^{-1} \circ m^{-1}(x)$

$$\frac{1}{3}((2x + 4) - 1) = \frac{1}{3}(2x + 3) = \frac{2}{3}x + 1$$

b.  $(f \circ m)^{-1}(x)$

$$f \circ m(x) \rightarrow y = 3\left(\frac{x - 4}{2}\right) + 1$$

$$(f \circ m)^{-1}(x) \rightarrow x = 3\left(\frac{y - 4}{2}\right) + 1 \rightarrow x - 1 = \frac{3}{2}(y - 4) \rightarrow y = \frac{2}{3}(x - 1) + 4$$

c.  $m^{-1} \circ f^{-1}(x)$

$$\frac{(3x + 1) - 4}{2} = \frac{3x - 3}{2}$$

*Finding inverse functions algebraically:*

*Switch x and y and solve for y.*