

LESSON 2.7: ONE-TO-ONE FUNCTIONS & THEIR INVERSES

WARM UP

Determine which of the following sets are functions.

1.

x	0	4	-1	0	7
y	3	6	3	2	5

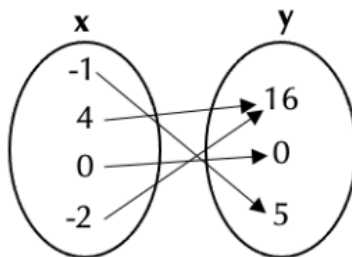
Not a function.

2.

x	-1	2	-1	6	0
y	4	5	6	4	2

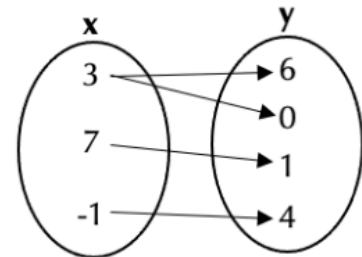
Not a function.

3.



Function ✓

4.



Not a function.

ONE-TO-ONE functions

A function is one-to-one if each input has a unique output.

In other words, no two inputs can have the same output.

One-To-One

x	1	-1	3	5	7	9
y	5	7	2	10	-3	0

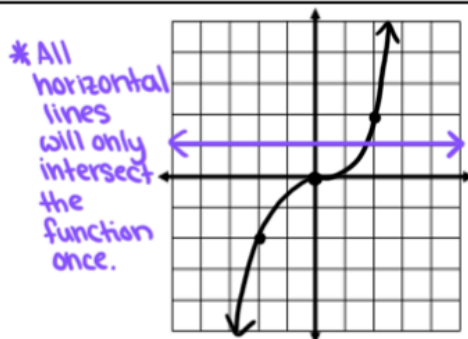
Not One-To-One

x	1	-1	3	5	7	9
y	5	7	5	10	-3	0

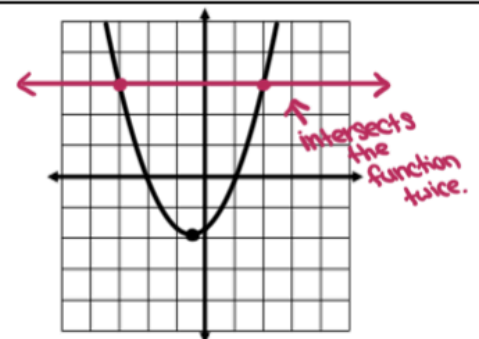
* $x=1 \rightarrow x=3$ have the same output

Graphically, we can test if a function is one-to-one by using the horizontal line test as demonstrated below.

One-To-One



Not One-To-One



ONE-TO-ONE functions

Example: Which of the following functions are one-to-one?

1. $f(x) = x^2$

$$\begin{matrix} (-3)^2 = 9 \\ (3)^2 = 9 \end{matrix} > \begin{matrix} x = -3 \text{ \& } \\ x = 3 \text{ has} \\ \text{the same} \\ \text{input.} \end{matrix}$$

Not one-to-one.

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

$$(\sqrt[3]{x_1})^3 = (\sqrt[3]{x_2})^3$$

$$x_1 = x_2$$

\Rightarrow Any number cubed has a unique output

$f(x)$ is one-to-one.

3. $f(x) = 2x - 4$

$$\begin{matrix} 2x_1 - 4 = 2x_2 - 4 \\ +4 \quad \quad +4 \end{matrix}$$

$$\frac{2x_1}{2} = \frac{2x_2}{2}$$

$$x_1 = x_2$$

$f(x)$ is one-to-one.

The inverse of a one-to-one function is another function.

See the steps below to find the inverse of a one-to-one function.

Step 1 Write $y = f(x)$.

Step 2 Swap x and y .

Step 3 Solve for y . The resulting equation is $y = f^{-1}(x)$

Examples: Find the inverse of the functions below.

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

$$y = -2x + 1$$

$$\begin{matrix} x = -2y + 1 \\ -1 \quad \quad -1 \end{matrix}$$

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

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

$$f^{-1}(x) = -\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{2}$$

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

$$y = \sqrt{x-4}$$

$$(x)^2 = (\sqrt{y-4})^2$$

$$\begin{matrix} x^2 = y-4 \\ +4 \quad \quad +4 \end{matrix}$$

$$x^2 + 4 = y$$

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

3. $f(x) = \frac{x^3-4}{2}$

$$y = \frac{x^3-4}{2}$$

$$2(x) = \left(\frac{y^3-4}{2}\right) 2$$

$$\begin{matrix} 2x = y^3 - 4 \\ +4 \quad \quad +4 \end{matrix}$$

$$\sqrt[3]{2x+4} = \sqrt[3]{y^3}$$

$$y = \sqrt[3]{2x+4}$$

$$f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt[3]{2x+4}$$

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

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

\leftarrow Solve for x first!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INVERSE OF A function

GRAPHING THE INVERSE OF A function

Since we switch the input with the output in order to find the inverse of a one-to-one function, the original function's domain becomes the inverse function's range and the original function's range becomes the inverse function's domain.



As a result, we can graph the inverse of a function by switching each x coordinate with the corresponding y coordinate of the original function.

For example, if the point $(3, -2)$ is on $f(x)$ then, $(-2, 3)$ is on $f^{-1}(x)$.

To achieve this, we could also take $f(x)$ and reflect it over the line $y = x$ to obtain the graph of $f^{-1}(x)$.

Examples: Graph the inverse of each of the functions below.

1. $f(x) = \sqrt{x-2}$

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

