

Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

2 Graphs of Functions

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 4y &= 5 \\ 2x - y &= -10 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1 - z^{n+1}}{1 - z}$$

Learning Objectives

- Solve real-world applications of piecewise-defined functions.
- Identify and graph the toolkit/parent functions.
- Graph piecewise-defined functions.
- Determine whether a function is even, odd or neither.
- Determine where a function is increasing, decreasing or constant.
- Determine local maxima and minima.
- Determine absolute maximum and minimum.

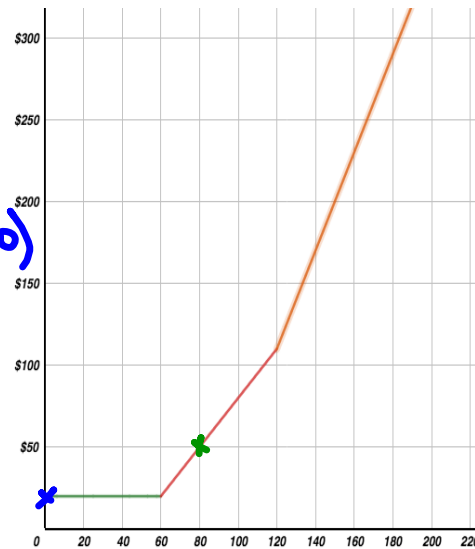
Here is an example of a piece-wise function.

Ex 1: In a small community, to encourage water-wise behavior, the water company has priced it so that consumers who use more water will pay more beyond some minimum usage. After being connected to the system, the residential consumer pays a monthly flat fee of \$20 until the usage exceeds 60 units. They will then pay \$1.50 for each unit exceeding 60 up to 120 units, after which they will pay \$3.00 per unit for those units over 120.

This is a graph of the function.

Here is what that function looks like, where $C(u)$ is the cost of your water in dollars and u is a unit of water (10,000 gallons).

$$C(u) = \begin{cases} 20 & \text{for } [0, 60] \text{ (1)} \\ 1.5u - 70 & \text{for } (60, 120] \text{ (2)} \\ 3u - 270 & \text{for } (120, \infty) \text{ (3)} \end{cases} \quad (0 \leq x \leq 60)$$



Verify these by using the equation and the graph.

a) $C(80) = 1.5(80) - 70 = 30$ (2)
 cost of 80 units of water

b) $C(-5) = \$0$
 (cost of -5 units of water) -5 is not in domain of C .

c) Why is $C(0) = 20$?

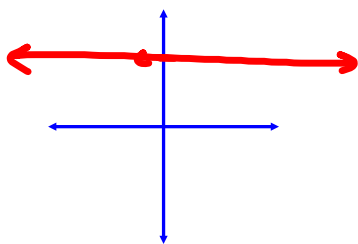
i.e. cost of 0 units of water is \$20.

as soon as we "connect to system" we get charged \$20.

The Toolkit Functions

There are several families of functions one needs to have in their toolkit.

Constant Function



even
fn

$$f(x) = c \quad (c \text{ is a constant})$$

Domain: $(-\infty, \infty)$

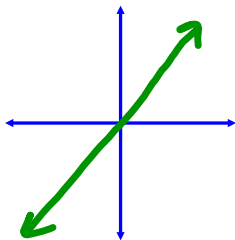
Range: $\{c\}$

x-intercept: none

y-intercept: $(0, c)$

(if $c = 0$, then ∞ many x-int.)

Identity Function



odd
fn
 $f(-x) = -x = -f(x)$ ✓

$$f(x) = x$$

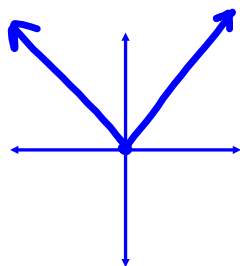
Domain: $(-\infty, \infty)$

Range: $(-\infty, \infty)$

x-intercept: $(0, 0)$

y-intercept: $(0, 0)$

Absolute Value Function



even
fn
 $f(-x) = |-x| = |x| = f(x)$

$$f(x) = |x| = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

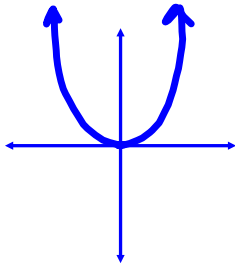
Domain: $(-\infty, \infty)$

Range: $[0, \infty)$

x-intercept: $(0, 0)$

y-intercept: $(0, 0)$

Quadratic Function (parabola)



even
fn

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

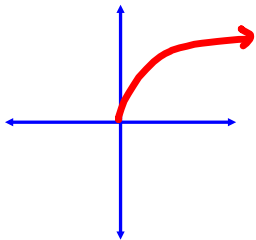
Domain: $(-\infty, \infty)$

Range: $[0, \infty)$

x-intercept: $(0, 0)$

y-intercept: $(0, 0)$

Square Root Function



neither
even
nor
odd fn

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x}$$

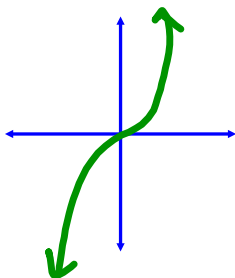
Domain: $[0, \infty)$

Range: $[0, \infty)$

x-intercept: $(0, 0)$

y-intercept: $(0, 0)$

Cubic Function



odd fn

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

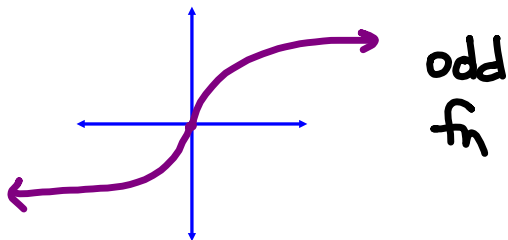
Domain: $(-\infty, \infty)$

Range: $(-\infty, \infty)$

x-intercept: $(0, 0)$

y-intercept: $(0, 0)$

Cube Root Function



$$f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$$

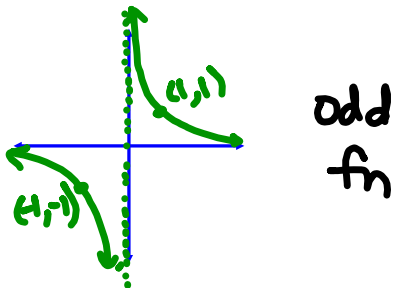
Domain: $(-\infty, \infty)$

Range: $(-\infty, \infty)$

x-intercept: $(0, 0)$

y-intercept: $(0, 0)$

Reciprocal Function



$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$

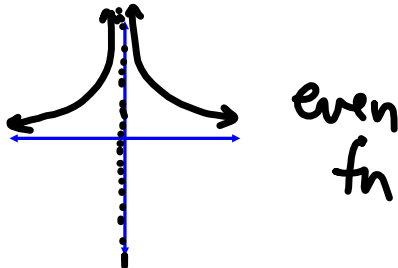
Domain: $(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$

Range: $(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$

x-intercept: none

y-intercept: none

Reciprocal Squared Function



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

Domain: $(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$

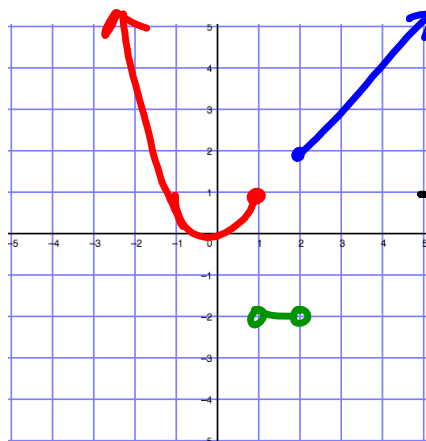
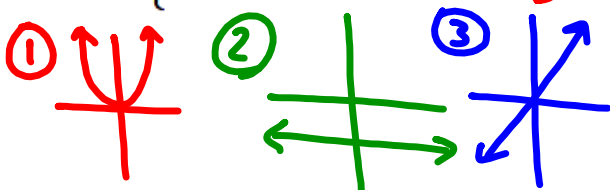
Range: $(0, \infty)$

x-intercept: none

y-intercept: none

Ex 2: Graph this piece-wise function.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & \text{if } x \leq 1 \\ -2 & \text{if } 1 < x < 2 \\ x & \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$



increasing
going up
(from left to right)
decreasing
going down

Where is a function increasing, decreasing or constant?

Ex 3: Use the function, $f(x)$ from example 2 for this exercise.

a) Use points to describe where the function is increasing, decreasing or constant.

- from left to $(0, 0)$ decreasing
- from $(0, 0)$ to $(1, 1)$ increasing
- from $(1, -2)$ to $(2, -2)$ constant
- from $(2, 2)$ to right increasing

b) Use domain values to describe these behaviors.

- on $(-\infty, 0)$ decreasing
- $(0, 1)$ increasing
- $(1, 2)$ constant
- $(2, \infty)$ increasing

Determining Maximum and Minimum Function Values

Relative minimum y-value lowest locally (valley pt)	Relative maximum y-value highest locally (peak)
Absolute minimum lowest overall y-value on the graph	Absolute maximum highest (biggest) overall y-value on graph

Synonyms

• relative: local
 • absolute: global

(see book for more precise defn)

Ex 4: Determine extrema values for this function.

(extrema values = min/max values)

rel. min values:
-4 and 1

rel. max values:
2



abs min value: -4
 abs max value: 2.5

Symmetry of Functions

Even Functions

$$f(-x) = f(x)$$

graphically, an even fn is symmetric about the y-axis (y-axis behaves like mirror)

Odd Functions

$$f(-x) = -f(x)$$

graphically, an odd fn is symmetric about (0,0) (the origin)

Ex 5: Look at the toolkit functions and determine if any are even or odd as graphed earlier in this lesson.

(answers written on toolkit fns pages)

odd fns

$$y = x$$

$$y = x^3$$

$$y = \sqrt[3]{x}$$

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

even fns

$$y = c$$

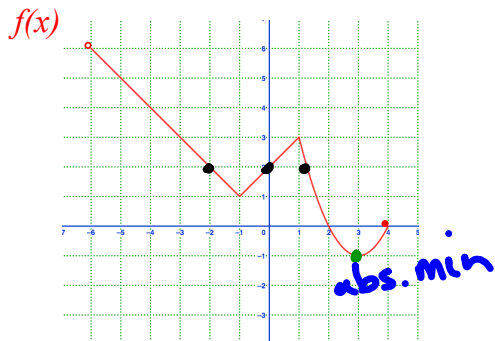
$$y = |x|$$

$$y = x^2$$

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

neither

$$y = \sqrt{x}$$



Ex 6: Use the function $f(x)$, represented in this graph to analyze these characteristics.

a) domain of f $(-6, 4]$

b) range of f $[-1, 6)$

c) x-intercept(s) of f
 $(2, 0)$ & $(4, 0)$

d) y-intercept of f
 $(0, 2)$

e) zeros (roots) of f
(x-values where $y=0$)
2 and 4

f) solve $f(x) = 2$ i.e. $x=?$ when $y=2$
 $x = -2, 0, 1, 2$

g) $f(3) = -1$, i.e. when $x=3$
what is y ?

h) interval(s) of increase
 $(-1, 1)$ and $(3, 4)$

i) maximum/minimum values
(absolute)

j) symmetry
none

abs. min -1

no abs. max