

7.1: Absolute Value

For a real number a , the **absolute value** is always the non-negative value of the number. We show absolute value with two vertical lines, like brackets.

Ex. 1: $|7| =$ $|-7| =$ $-|7| =$ $|0| =$

Ex. 2: Write the following real numbers in order from least to greatest.

$$|-6.5|, 5, |4.75|, -3.4, \left|-\frac{12}{5}\right|, |-0.1|$$

We treat absolute value symbols just like brackets. Use the order of operations.

Ex. 3: Evaluate $4 - |3(2) - 1| + 3$

Your Turn

Evaluate the following:

(a) $|4| - |-6|$

(b) $5 - 3|2 - 7|$

(c) $|-2(5 - 7)^2 + 6|$

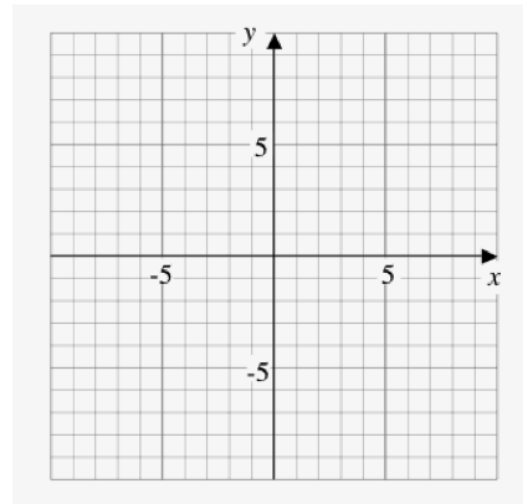
When could absolute values be useful in real life?

7.2: Absolute Value Functions

Ex. 1: Graph the functions $y = x$ and $y = |x|$ using a table of values. State both the domain and range of both graphs.

x	y

x	y



Domain:

Domain:

Range:

Range:

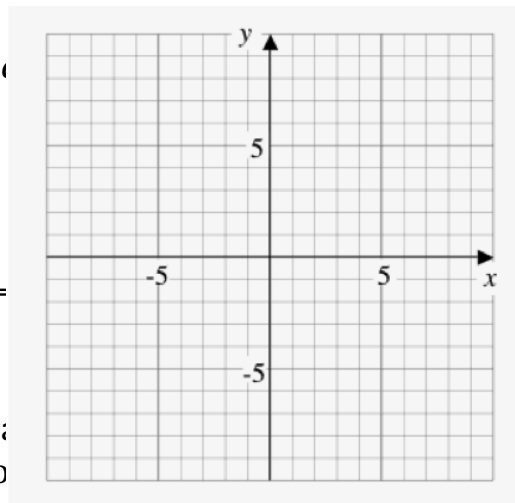
Absolute values will require the use of **piecewise notation**. This is because the function is made up of two or more separate functions with its own domain and range. They will combine to the overall functions.

- What is the piecewise notation for the above graph $y = |x|$?

In general: $|a| = \begin{cases} a, & a \geq 0 \\ -a, & a < 0 \end{cases}$

Ex. 2: Consider the absolute value function $y =$

- Determine the x and y intercepts.
- Sketch the graph.
- State the domain and range of the graph.
- Express the graph with piecewise notation.

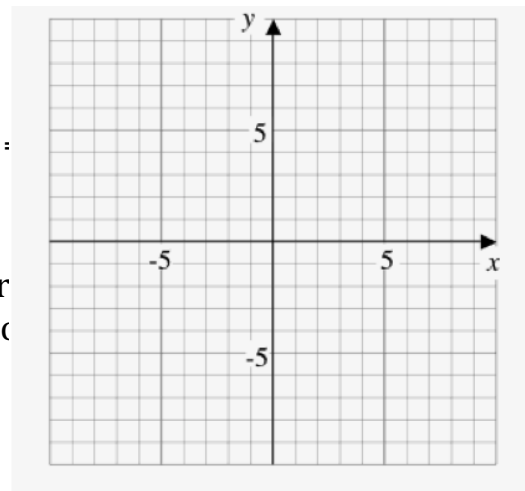


An **invariant point** is any point that remains unchanged when a transformation is applied to it.

- Can you name some invariant points in the above example?

Ex. 3: Consider the absolute value function $y =$

- (a) Determine the x and y intercepts.
- (b) Sketch the graph.
- (c) State the domain and range of the graph.
- (d) Express the graph with piecewise notation.

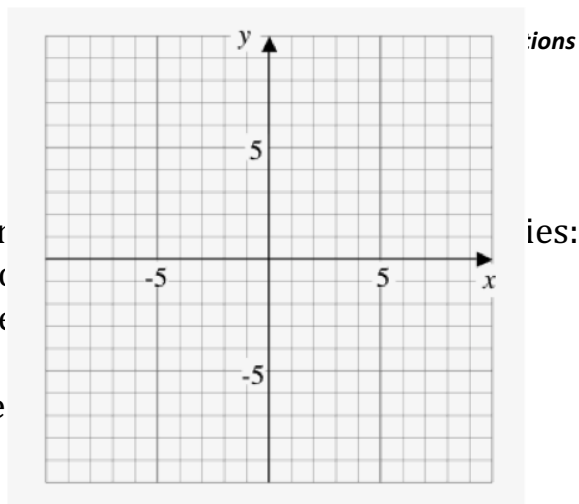


7.3: Absolute Value Equations (Part I)

When solving an absolute value equation we must consider two cases:

1. The value inside the absolute value is positive.
2. The value inside the absolute value is negative.

Consider $|x| = 10$. What is a possible solution?



Ex. 1: Solve $|x - 3| = 7$ both algebraically and graphically.

Solving absolute value equations:

1. Consider the positive and negative case for each absolute value:
 - +**CASE**: remove absolute value bars
 - **CASE**: multiply the contents of the absolute value bars by -1
2. Solve each case.
3. Check solution(s) by substituting the solution back into the ORIGINAL equation. Reject any that do not work (**extraneous roots!**).

Ex. 2: Solve $|2x - 5| = 5 - 3x$

Solve $|x + 5| = 4x - 1$

Ex. 3: Solve $|3x - 4| + 12 = 9$

Ex. 4: Solve $|x - 10| = x^2 - 10x$

Ex. 5: Solve $|x^2 - 2x| = 1$

Ex. 6: Solve $6|x-2|-15 = -9|x-2| + 15$

A few questions about example 2:

- Why does the curve approach the y-axis, but never touch it?
- Why does the curve approach the x-axis, but never touch it?
- Recall that **invariant points** are those that are unchanged. What are the invariant points for this pair of functions? What is special about the reciprocals of these values?

Asymptote: A line whose distance from a curve approaches zero.

Ex. 3: Complete the following table:

Characteristic	$y = x$	$y = \frac{1}{x}$
Domain		
Range		
End Behaviour (Quadrants)		
Behaviour at $x = 0$		

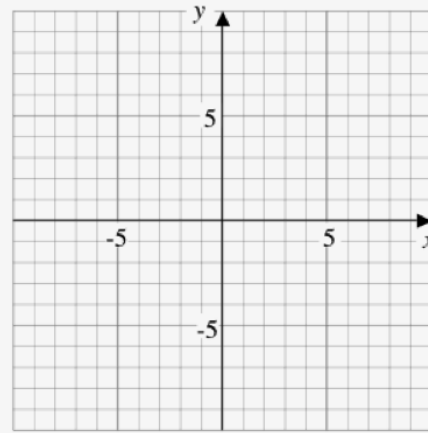
7.4: Reciprocal Functions (Part II)

Ex.1: Consider $y = x - 3$

(a) Determine its reciprocal function, $y =$

(b) Determine the equation of the vertical

(c) Graph $y = \frac{1}{f(x)}$ - start with $y = f(x)$!



* Check on your graphing calculator

Graphing reciprocal functions:

1. Graph the function $f(x)$. Mark the x-intercept(s) and points where $f(x) = \pm 1$ (**invariant points**).
2. Mark the **vertical asymptotes** of the reciprocal function at the x-intercepts.
3. Create the graph through the invariant points by **curving with the vertical asymptotes and the x-axis, not against**. (Check with a table of values or graphing calculator if needed.)

Ex.2: Consider $f(x) = x^2 - 4$

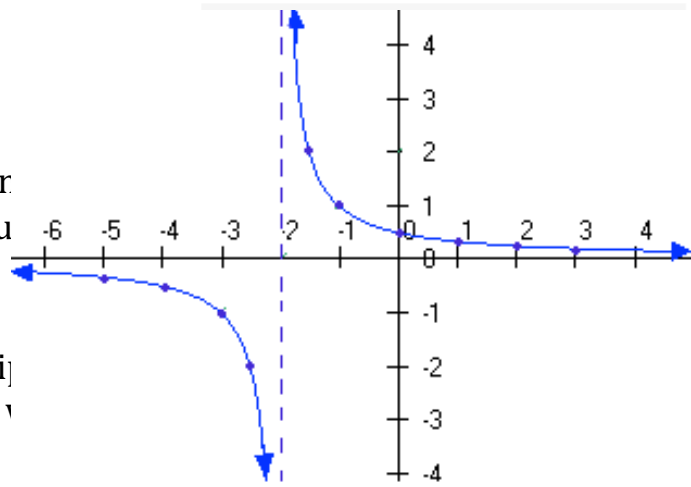
(a) What is the reciprocal function

(b) State the non-permissible value

asymptote(s) of $y = \frac{1}{f(x)}$.

(c) Graph the function and its reciprocal

(d) What are the invariant points



Ex.3: Given the graph of a reciprocal function of the form $y = \frac{1}{mx + b}$:

(a) Sketch the graph of the original function $y = f(x)$.

(b) Determine the original function $y = f(x)$.