

## TOOLKIT #6:

## Inverses

(Chapter 5)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: A1 A2 A3 B1 B2 B3

## What is an inverse function?

**Formal Definition:** A function that "undoes" what the original function does. The inverse function performs in reverse order the inverse operations of the function.

In my own words:

## Inverse Operations:

What is the inverse of....?

Addition

Ex. +2

Ex.

subtract or add the opposite (-)  
 $-2$  Ex.  $+(-2)$

Multiplication

Ex.  $\times 10$ 

Ex.

divide or multiply by reciprocal  
 $\div 10$  Ex.  $\cdot \frac{1}{10}$

Square (exponent)

Ex.  $()^2$ 

Ex.

square root or exponent of  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\sqrt{\quad}$  Ex.  $()^{\frac{1}{2}}$

Cube (exponent)

Ex.  $()^3$ 

Ex.

cube root or exponent of  $\frac{1}{3}$   
 $\sqrt[3]{\quad}$  Ex.  $()^{\frac{1}{3}}$

x is the exponent

Ex.  $2^x$ 

$\sqrt{\quad}$  We'll learn about this next unit...

Absolute Value

Ex.  $|x|$ Maybe  $\pm x$ , but a with domain restriction...check the graph!

## G.E.M.A.

**"G"** stands for Grouping Symbols, including parentheses  $()$ , brackets  $[\ ]$ , radicals  $\sqrt{\quad}$ , fraction bars  $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$ , absolute value symbols  $|\quad|$ , etc.

**"E"** stands for Exponents (and Roots!). These can be considered the same because any root could be written as an exponent instead. For example...  $\sqrt{x} = x^{\frac{1}{2}}$

**"M"** stands for Multiplication (and Division!). These can be considered the same because division is the same as multiplying by the reciprocal. For example...  $x \div 8 = x \cdot \frac{1}{8}$

**"A"** stands for Addition (and Subtraction!). These can be considered the same because subtraction is the same as adding the opposite. For example...  $x - 9 = x + (-9)$

# Do/Undo Tables (Writing the equation of an inverse STRATEGY #1)

A do/undo table can help you figure out how to write the equation of an inverse.

STEP 1: Ask yourself, "what operations does this equation do to the input,  $x$ ?" Record those operations on the **Do** ↓ side of the table.

STEP 2: On the **Undo** ↑ side, record the inverse operation for each operation of the function.

STEP 3: Write an equation to represent the inverse operations in the reverse order.

STEP 4: Simplify the inverse equation if necessary.

$$f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt[3]{2(x-5)} + 4$$

Ex.  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}(x-4)^3 + 5$

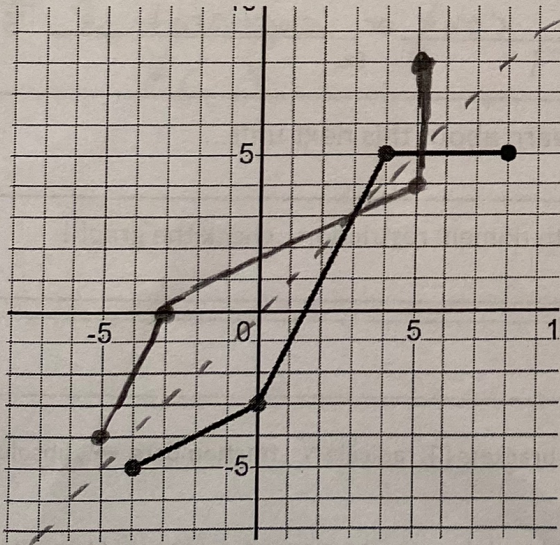
Do ↓	
-4	+4
$( )^3$	$\sqrt[3]{ }$
$\cdot \frac{1}{2}$	$\cdot 2$
+5	-5
	↑ Undo

## Multiple Representations of Inverses

### Graphs:

The graphs of inverses will have reflective symmetry. The line of symmetry is always  $y=x$ .

EXAMPLE:



### Tables:

The tables of inverses are related because the  $x$  &  $y$  values switch.

EXAMPLE:

Original $f(x)$		Inverse $f^{-1}(x)$	
$x$	$y$	$x$	$y$
-3	6	6	-3
-2	0	0	-2
-1	-4	-4	-1
0	-6	-6	0
1	-6	-6	1
2	-4	-4	2
3	0	0	3
4	6	6	4

### Domain & Range:

The Domain & Range of an equation and its inverse are related because They switch.

EXAMPLE:

Original  $g(x)$ :

Domain:  $-4 \leq x < \infty$

Range:  $\infty < y \leq 18$

Inverse  $g^{-1}(x)$ :

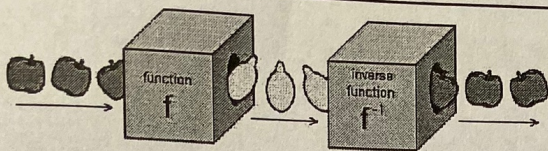
Domain:  $\infty < x \leq 18$

Range:  $-4 \leq y < \infty$

# How can you check that an inverse equation is correct?

## Method #1:

Choose a value of  $x$  to test...



EX.

$$f(x) = -2x^3 + 5 \text{ and } f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt[3]{\frac{x-5}{-2}}$$

If the original input is 2,  $f(2) = -2(2)^3 + 5$

$$\begin{aligned} &= -2(8) + 5 \\ &= -16 + 5 \\ &= -11 \end{aligned}$$

Now, the output of  $f$  will be the input of  $f^{-1}$  ...

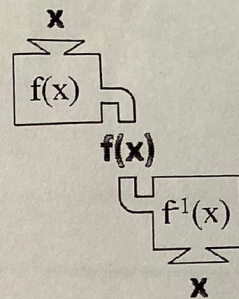
$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}(-11) &= \sqrt[3]{\frac{-11-5}{-2}} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{-16}{-2}} \\ &= \sqrt[3]{8} \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

The output of  $f^{-1}(x)$  is equal to the original input, so this example supports the claim that these two equations are inverses.

## Method #2:

Composition of Functions...

To generalize the process in Method #1, the input is  $x$ ...



EX.

$$f(x) = -2x^3 + 5 \text{ and } f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt[3]{\frac{x-5}{-2}}$$

If the original input is  $x$ , the output is  $-2x^3 + 5$ .

If the input for the inverse is  $-2x^3 + 5$ ,

$$f^{-1}(f(x)) = \sqrt[3]{\frac{(-2x^3+5)-5}{-2}} \quad (\text{simplify})$$

$$= \sqrt[3]{\frac{-2x^3}{-2}} = \sqrt[3]{x^3} = x$$

The output of  $f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$ , the original input. This proves that  $f^{-1}$  will always undo  $f$ . To prove they are inverses, you must also show that  $f(f^{-1}(x)) = x$  also.

## Function Notation for Inverses

The symbol  $f^{-1}(x)$  is read "f inverse of x" and it is used to say that this function is the inverse of  $f(x)$

## x-y Interchange (Writing the equation of an inverse STRATEGY #2)

STEP 1: Write the original equation with  $y$  instead of function notation. Rewrite the equation with  $x$  and  $y$  switched.

STEP 2: Solve for  $y$ .

Ex.  $h(x) = \frac{x}{x+2}$

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

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

$$(y+2)(x) = \left(\frac{y}{y+2}\right)(y+2)$$

$$xy + 2x = y$$

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

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

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