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2.3 Functions Toolkit

IB Maths - Revision Notes

AA SL

2.3.1 Language of Functions

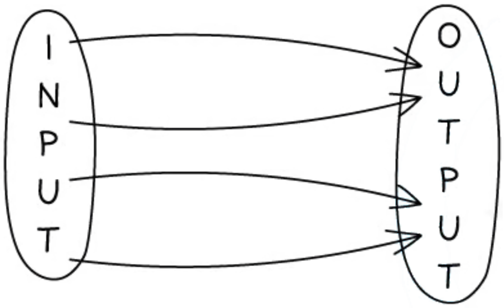
Language of Functions

What is a mapping?

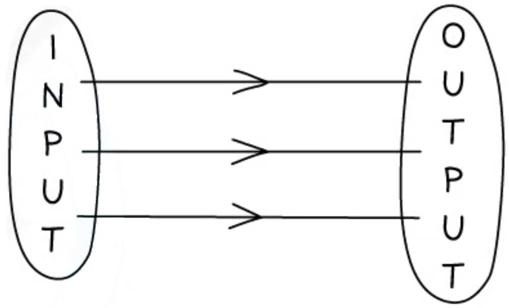
- A **mapping transforms** one set of values (**inputs**) into another set of values (**outputs**)
- Mappings can be:
  - **One-to-one**
    - Each input gets mapped to **exactly one unique** output
    - No two inputs are mapped to the same output
    - For example: A mapping that cubes the input
  - **Many-to-one**
    - Each input gets mapped to **exactly one** output
    - Multiple inputs can be mapped to the same output
    - For example: A mapping that squares the input
  - **One-to-many**
    - An input can be mapped to **more than one** output
    - No two inputs are mapped to the same output
    - For example: A mapping that gives the numbers which when squared equal the input
  - **Many-to-many**
    - An input can be mapped to **more than one** output
    - Multiple inputs can be mapped to the same output
    - For example: A mapping that gives the factors of the input

What is a function?

- A **function** is a mapping between two sets of numbers where **each input** gets mapped to **exactly one output**
  - The output does not need to be unique
- **One-to-one** and **many-to-one** mappings are functions
- A mapping is a function if its graph passes the **vertical line test**
- Any **vertical line** will intersect with the graph **at most once**



MANY–TO–ONE MAPPINGS ARE FUNCTIONS



ONE–TO–ONE MAPPINGS ARE FUNCTIONS

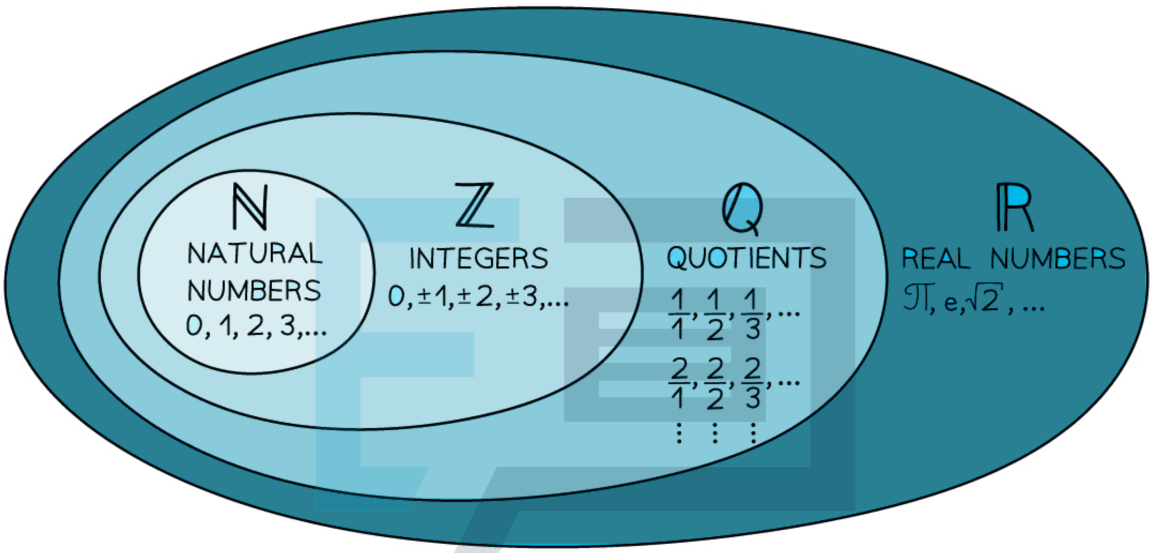
What notation is used for functions?

- Functions are denoted using letters (such as f, v, g, etc)
  - A function is followed by a variable in a bracket
  - This shows the input for the function
  - The letter f is used most commonly for functions and will be used for the remainder of this revision note
- $f(x)$ represents an expression for the value of the function f when evaluated for the variable x
- Function notation gets rid of the need for words which makes it **universal**
  - $f = 5$ when $x = 2$ can simply be written as $f(2) = 5$

What are the domain and range of a function?

- The **domain** of a function is the set of values that are used as **inputs**
- A domain should be stated with a function
  - If a domain is not stated then it is assumed the domain is all the real values which would work as inputs for the function
  - Domains are expressed in terms of the input
    - $x \leq 2$
- The **range** of a function is the set of values that are given as **outputs**
  - The range depends on the domain
  - Ranges are expressed in terms of the output
    - $f(x) \geq 0$
- To graph a function we use the **inputs as the *x*-coordinates** and the **outputs as the *y*-coordinates**
  - $f(2) = 5$ corresponds to the coordinates (2, 5)
- Graphing the function can help you visualise the range
- Common sets of numbers have special symbols:
  - $\mathbb{R}$ represents all the real numbers that can be placed on a number line
    - $x \in \mathbb{R}$ means x is a real number

- $\mathbb{Q}$ represents all the rational numbers $\frac{a}{b}$ where a and b are integers and $b \neq 0$
- $\mathbb{Z}$ represents all the integers (positive, negative and zero)
  - $\mathbb{Z}^+$ represents positive integers
- $\mathbb{N}$ represents the natural numbers (0,1,2,3...)



What are piecewise functions?

- **Piecewise functions** are defined by different functions depending on which interval the input is in

  - E.g. $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+1 & x \leq 5 \\ 2x-4 & 5 < x < 10 \\ x^2 & 10 \leq x \leq 20 \end{cases}$
- The region for the individual functions **cannot overlap**
- To evaluate a piecewise function for a particular value $x = k$
  - Find which interval includes k
  - Substitute $x = k$ into the corresponding function
- The function **may or may not be continuous** at the ends of the intervals
  - In the example above the function is
    - continuous at $x = 5$ as $5 + 1 = 2(5) - 4$
    - not continuous at $x = 10$ as $2(10) - 4 \neq 10^2$

Exam Tip

- Questions may refer to "the largest possible domain"
  - This would usually be $x \in \mathbb{R}$ unless $\mathbb{N}$, $\mathbb{Z}$ or $\mathbb{Q}$ has already been stated
  - There are usualy some exceptions
    - e.g. square roots; $x \geq 0$ for a function involving $\sqrt{x}$
    - e.g. reciprocal functions; $x \neq 2$ for a function with denominator $(x-2)$

Worked example

For the function $f(x) = x^3 + 1, \; 2 \leq x \leq 10$:

a) write down the value of $f(7)$.

Substitute $x = 7$

$f(7) = 7^3 + 1$

$f(7) = 344$

b) find the range of $f(x)$.

Find the values of $x^3 + 1$ when $2 \leq x \leq 10$

$2 \leq x \leq 10$

$8 \leq x^3 \leq 1000$

$9 \leq x^3 + 1 \leq 1001$

$9 \leq f(x) \leq 1001$

2.3.2 Composite & Inverse Functions

Composite Functions

What is a composite function?

- A **composite function** is where a function is applied to another function
- A composite function can be denoted
  - $(f \circ g)(x)$
  - $fg(x)$
  - $f(g(x))$
- The order matters
  - $(f \circ g)(x)$ means:
    - First apply *g* to *x* to get $g(x)$
    - Then apply *f* to the previous output to get $f(g(x))$
    - Always start with the function **closest to the variable**
  - $(f \circ g)(x)$ is not usually equal to $(g \circ f)(x)$

How do I find the domain and range of a composite function?

- The domain of $f \circ g$ is the set of values of x...
  - which are a **subset** of the **domain of *g***
  - which maps *g* to a value that is in the **domain of *f***
- The range of $f \circ g$ is the set of values of x...
  - which are a **subset** of the **range of *f***
  - found by **applying *f*** to the **range of *g***
- To find the **domain** and **range** of $f \circ g$
  - First find the **range of *g***
  - **Restrict** these values to the values that are **within the domain** of ***f***
    - The **domain** is the set of values that **produce the restricted range** of *g*
    - The **range** is the set of values that are **produced using the restricted range** of *g* as the domain for *f*

- For example: let $f(x) = 2x + 1,\ -5 \le x \le 5$ and $g(x) = \sqrt{x},\ 1 \le x \le 49$
  - The **range of *g*** is $1 \le g(x) \le 7$
    - **Restricting** this to fit the **domain of *f*** results in $1 \le g(x) \le 5$
  - The **domain** of $f \circ g$ is therefore $1 \le x \le 25$
    - These are the values of *x* which map to $1 \le g(x) \le 5$
  - The **range** of $f \circ g$ is therefore $3 \le (f \circ g)(x) \le 11$
    - These are the values which *f* maps $1 \le g(x) \le 5$ to

Exam Tip

- Make sure you know what your GDC is capable of with regard to functions
  - You may be able to store individual functions and find composite functions and their values for particular inputs
  - You may be able to graph composite functions directly and so deduce their domain and range from the graph
- $ff(x)$ is not the same as $[f(x)]^2$

Worked example

Given $f(x)=\sqrt{x+4}$ and $g(x)=3+2x$:

a) Write down the value of $(g\circ f)(12)$.

First apply function closest to input

$(g\circ f)(12) = g(f(12))$

$f(12) = \sqrt{12+4} = \sqrt{16} = 4$

$g(4) = 3 + 2(4) = 11$

$(g\circ f)(12) = 11$

b) Write down an expression for $(f\circ g)(x)$.

First apply function closest to input

$(f\circ g)(x) = f(g(x))$

$= f(3+2x)$

$= \sqrt{3+2x+4}$

$(f\circ g)(x) = \sqrt{7+2x}$

c) Write down an expression for $(g\circ g)(x)$.

$(g\circ g)(x) = g(g(x))$

$= g(3+2x)$

$= 3+2(3+2x)$

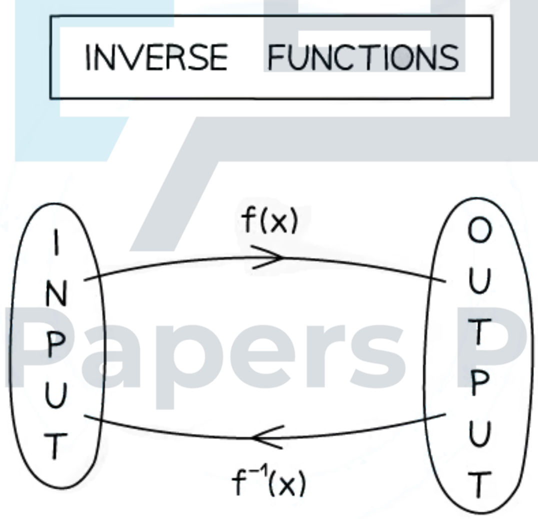
$= 3+6+4x$

$(g\circ g)(x) = 9+4x$

Inverse Functions

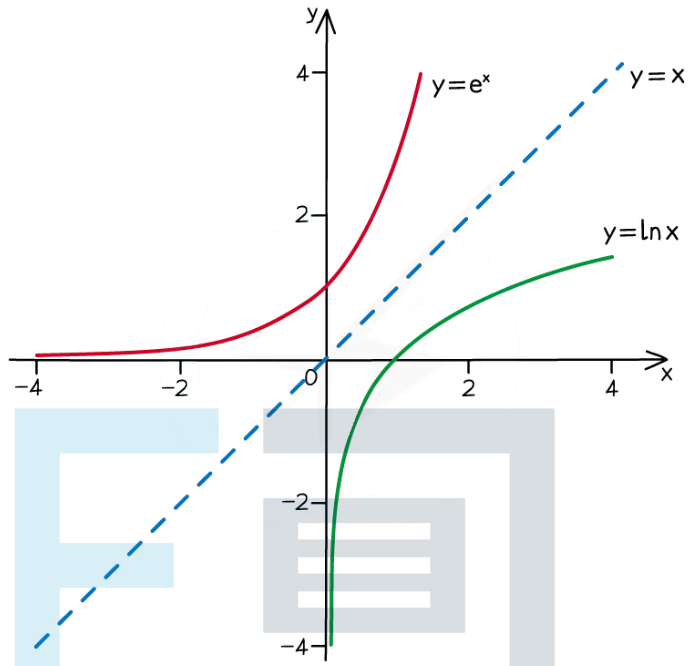
What is an inverse function?

- **Only one-to-one** functions have inverses
- A function has an inverse if its graph passes the **horizontal line test**
  - Any **horizontal line** will intersect with the graph **at most once**
- The **identity function** id maps each value to itself
  - $\mathrm{id}(x) = x$
- If $f \circ g$ and $g \circ f$ have the **same effect as the identity function** then f and g are **inverses**
- Given a function $f(x)$ we denote the **inverse function** as $f^{-1}(x)$
- An inverse function **reverses the effect** of a function
  - $f(2) = 5$ means $f^{-1}(5) = 2$
- Inverse functions are used to solve equations
  - The solution of $f(x) = 5$ is $x = f^{-1}(5)$
- A composite function made of f and f^{-1} has the **same effect as the identity function**
  - $(f \circ f^{-1})(x) = (f^{-1} \circ f)(x) = x$



What are the connections between a function and its inverse function?

- The **domain of a function** becomes the **range of its inverse**
- The **range of a function** becomes the **domain of its inverse**
- The graph of $y = f^{-1}(x)$ is a **reflection** of the graph $y = f(x)$ in the line $y = x$
  - Therefore solutions to $f(x) = x$ or $f^{-1}(x) = x$ will also be solutions to $f(x) = f^{-1}(x)$
    - There could be other solutions to $f(x) = f^{-1}(x)$ that don't lie on the line $y = x$



How do I find the inverse of a function?

- STEP 1: **Swap** the *x* and *y* in $y = f(x)$
  - If $y = f^{-1}(x)$ then $x = f(y)$
- STEP 2: **Rearrange** $x = f(y)$ to make y the subject
- Note this can be done in any order
  - Rearrange $y = f(x)$ to make x the subject
  - Swap x and y

Exam Tip

- Remember that an inverse function is a reflection of the original function in the line $y = x$
  - Use your GDC to plot the function and its inverse on the same graph to visually check this
- $f^{-1}(x)$ is not the same as $\frac{1}{f(x)}$

Worked example

For the function $f(x)=\dfrac{2x}{x-1},\ x>1$:

a) Find the inverse of $f(x)$.

Let $y=f^{-1}(x)$ and rearrange $x=f(y)$

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

$x(y-1)=2y$

$xy-x=2y$

$xy-2y=x$

$y(x-2)=x$

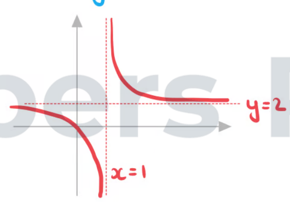
$y=\dfrac{x}{x-2}$

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

b) Find the domain of $f^{-1}(x)$.

Domain of f^{-1} is the range of f

Sketch $y=f(x)$ to see range



For $x>1$, $f(x)>2$

Domain of f^{-1} : $x>2$

c) Find the value of k such that $f(k)=6$.

Use inverse $f(a)=b \Leftrightarrow a=f^{-1}(b)$

$k=f^{-1}(6)=\dfrac{6}{6-2}$

$k=\dfrac{3}{2}$

2.3.3 Graphing Functions

Graphing Functions

How do I graph the function $y = f(x)$?

- A point (a, b) lies on the graph $y = f(x)$ if $f(a) = b$
- The **horizontal axis** is used for the **domain**
- The **vertical axis** is used for the **range**
- You will be able to graph some functions by hand
- For some functions you will need to use your GDC
- You might be asked to graph the **sum** or **difference** of two functions
  - Use your GDC to graph $y = f(x) + g(x)$ or $y = f(x) - g(x)$
  - Just type the functions into the graphing mode

What is the difference between "draw" and "sketch"?

- If asked to sketch you should:
  - Show the general shape
  - Label any key points such as the intersections with the axes
  - Label the axes
- If asked to draw you should:
  - Use a pencil and ruler
  - Draw to scale
  - Plot any points **accurately**
  - Join points with a straight line or smooth curve
  - Label any key points such as the intersections with the axes
  - Label the axes

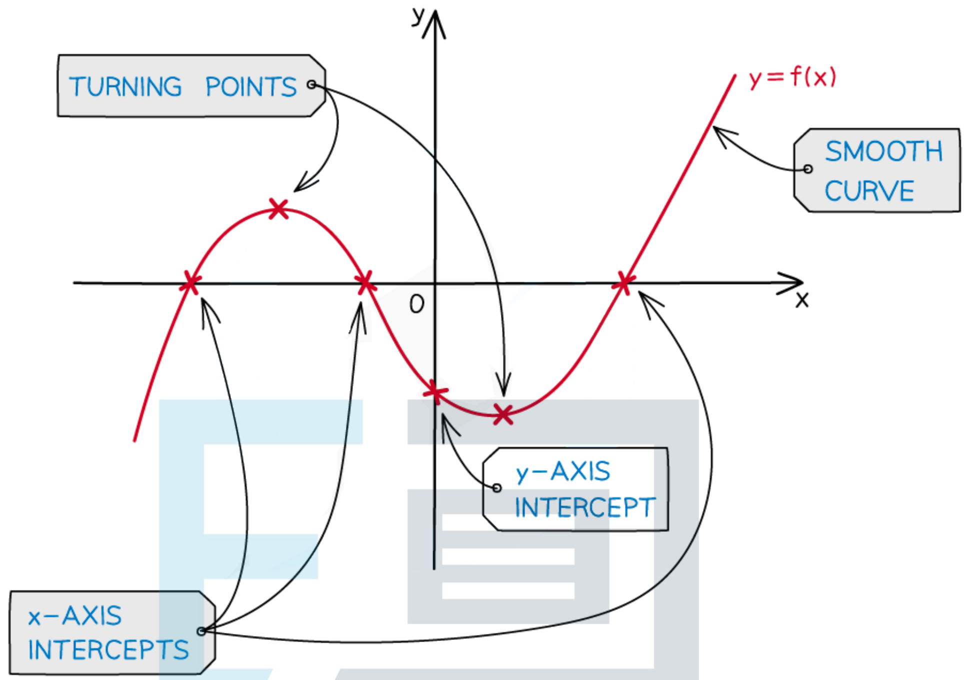
How can my GDC help me sketch/draw a graph?

- You use your GDC to plot the graph
  - Check the scales on the graph to make sure you see the full shape
- Use your GDC to find any key points
- Use your GDC to check specific points to help you plot the graph

Key Features of Graphs

What are the key features of graphs?

- You should be familiar with the following key features and know how to use your GDC to find them
- Local minimums/maximums
  - These are points where the graph has a minimum/maximum for a small region
  - They are also called **turning points**
    - This is where the graph changes its direction between upwards and downwards directions
  - A graph can have multiple local minimums/maximums
  - A local minimum/maximum is not necessarily the minimum/maximum of the whole graph
    - This would be called the **global** minimum/maximum
  - For quadratic graphs the minimum/maximum is called the **vertex**
- Intercepts
  - y – intercepts are where the graph crosses the y-axis
    - At these points $x = 0$
  - x – intercepts are where the graph crosses the x-axis
    - At these points $y = 0$
    - These points are also called the **zeros of the function** or **roots of the equation**
- Symmetry
  - Some graphs have lines of symmetry
    - A quadratic will have a vertical line of symmetry
- Asymptotes
  - These are lines which the graph will get closer to but not cross
  - These can be horizontal or vertical
    - Exponential graphs have horizontal asymptotes
    - Graphs of variables which vary inversely can have vertical and horizontal asymptotes



Exam Tip

- Most GDC makes/models will not plot/show asymptotes just from inputting a function
  - Add the asymptotes as additional graphs for your GDC to plot
  - You can then check the equations of your asymptotes visually
  - You may have to zoom in or change the viewing window options to confirm an asymptote
- Even if using your GDC to plot graphs and solve problems sketching them as part of your working is good exam technique
  - Label the key features of the graph and anything else relevant to the question on your sketch

Worked example

Two functions are defined by

$$f(x) = x^2 - 4x - 5 \text{ and } g(x) = 2 + \frac{1}{x+1}.$$

a) Draw the graph $y = f(x)$.

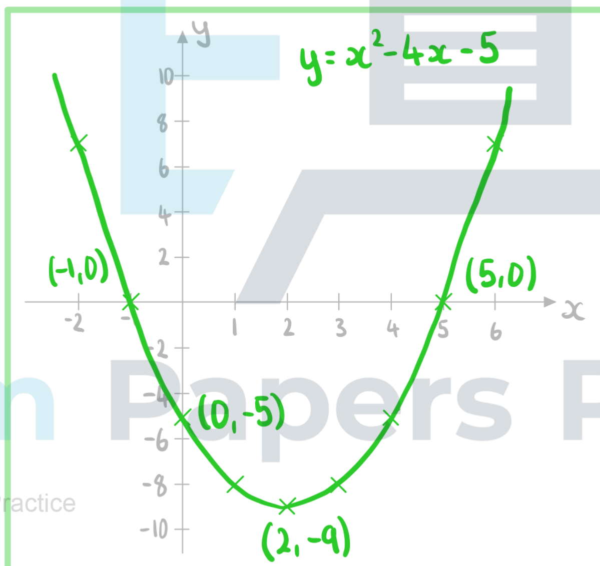
Draw means accurately

Use GDC to find vertex, roots and y-intercepts

Vertex = (2, −9)

Roots = (−1, 0) and (5, 0)

y-intercept = (0, −5)



b) Sketch the graph $y = g(x)$.

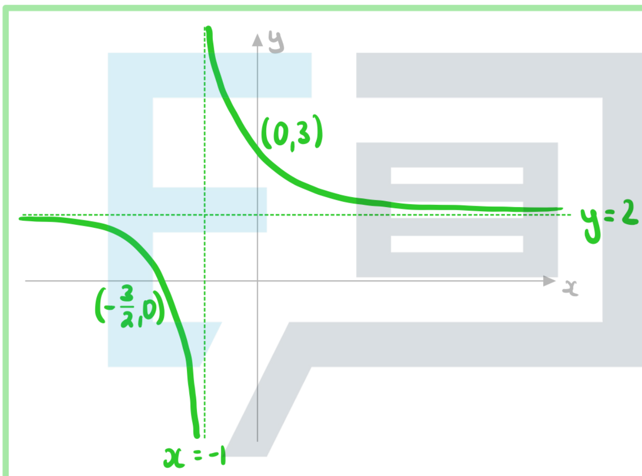
Sketch means rough but showing key points

Use GDC to find x and y-intercepts and asymptotes

x-intercept $= \left(-\frac{3}{2}, 0\right)$

y-intercept $= (0, 3)$

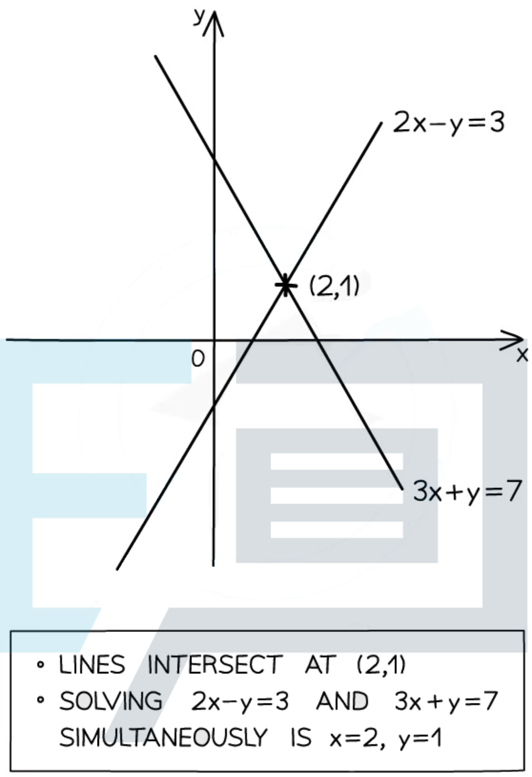
Asymptotes : $x = -1$ and $y = 2$



Intersecting Graphs

How do I find where two graphs intersect?

- Plot both graphs on your GDC
- Use the intersect function to find the intersections
- Check if there is more than one point of intersection



How can I use graphs to solve equations?

- One method to solve equations is to use graphs
- To solve $f(x) = a$
  - Plot the two graphs $y = f(x)$ and $y = a$ on your GDC
  - Find the points of intersections
  - The ***x*-coordinates** are the **solutions** of the equation
- To solve $f(x) = g(x)$
  - Plot the two graphs $y = f(x)$ and $y = g(x)$ on your GDC
  - Find the points of intersections
  - The ***x*-coordinates** are the **solutions** of the equation
- Using graphs makes it easier to see **how many solutions** an equation will have

Exam Tip

- You can use graphs to solve equations
  - Questions will not necessarily ask for a drawing/sketch or make reference to graphs
  - Use your GDC to plot the equations and find the intersections between the graphs

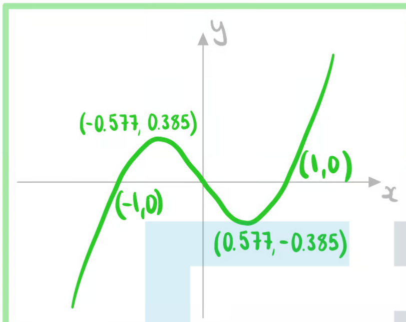
Worked example

Two functions are defined by

$$f(x) = x^3 - x \text{ and } g(x) = \frac{4}{x}.$$

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

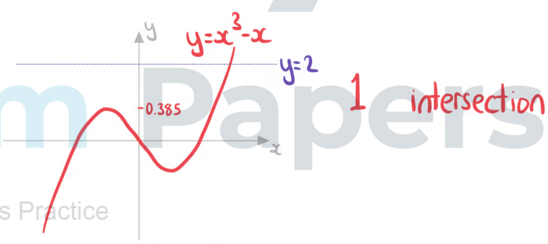
Use GDC to find max, min, intercepts



b) Write down the number of real solutions to the equation $x^3 - x = 2$.

Identify the number of intersections between

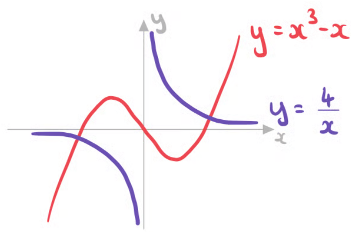
$y = x^3 - x$ and $y = 2$



1 solution

c) Find the coordinates of the points where $y = f(x)$ and $y = g(x)$ intersect.

Use GDC to sketch both graphs



$(-1.60, -2.50)$ and $(1.60, 2.50)$

d) Write down the solutions to the equation $x^3 - x = \frac{4}{x}$.

Solutions to $x^3 - x = \frac{4}{x}$ are the x coordinates of the points of intersection.

$x = -1.60$ and $x = 1.60$