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IB AI HL

2. Functions 2.2 Further Functions & Graphs







IB Maths DP

2.Functions

CONTENTS

- 2.1 Linear Functions & Graphs
 - 2.1.1 Equations of a Straight Line
- 2.2 Further Functions & Graphs
 - 2.2.1 Functions
 - 2.2.2 Graphing Functions
 - 2.2.3 Properties of Graphs
- 2.3 Modelling with Functions
 - 2.3.1 Linear Models
 - 2.3.2 Quadratic & Cubic Models
 - 2.3.3 Exponential Models
 - 2.3.4 Direct & Inverse Variation
 - 2.3.5 Sinusoidal Models
 - 2.3.6 Strategy for Modelling Functions
- 2.4 Functions ToolkitAM PAPERS PRACTICE
 - 2.4.1 Composite & Inverse Functions
- 2.5 Transformations of Graphs
 - 2.5.1 Translations of Graphs
 - 2.5.2 Reflections of Graphs
 - 2.5.3 Stretches of Graphs
- 2.5.4 Composite Transformations of Graphs
 - 2.6 Further Modelling with Functions
 - 2.6.1 Properties of Further Graphs
 - 2.6.2 Natural Logarithmic Models
 - 2.6.3 Logistic Models
 - 2.6.4 Piecewise Models



2.1 Linear Functions & Graphs

2.1.1 Equations of a Straight Line

Equations of a Straight Line

How do I find the gradient of a straight line?

- Find two points that the line passes through with coordinates (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2)
- The gradient between these two points is calculated by

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

- This is given in the formula booklet
- The gradient of a straight line measures its **slope**
 - A line with gradient 1 will go up 1 unit for every unit it goes to the right
 - A line with gradient -2 will go down two units for every unit it goes to the right

What are the equations of a straight line?

- y = mx + c
 - This is the gradient-intercept form
 - It clearly shows the gradient m and the y-intercept (0, c)
- $y y_1 = m(x x_1)$
 - This is the point-gradient form
 - It clearly shows the gradient m and a point on the line (x_1, y_1)
- ax + by + d = 0
 - This is the general form

• You can quickly get the x-intercept
$$\left(-\frac{d}{a}, 0\right)$$
 and y-intercept $\left(0, -\frac{d}{b}\right)$

How do I find an equation of a straight line?

- You will need the gradient
 - $\circ~$ If you are given two points then first find the gradient
- It is easiest to start with the point-gradient form
 - then rearrange into whatever form is required
 - multiplying both sides by any denominators will get rid of fractions
- You can check your answer by using your GDC
 - Graph your answer and check it goes through the point(s)
 - If you have two points then you can enter these in the **statistics mode** and find the regression line y = ax + b



Exam Tip

- A sketch of the graph of the straight line(s) can be helpful, even if not demanded by the question
 - Use your GDC to plot them
- · Ensure you state equations of straight lines in the format required
 - Usually y = mx + c or ax + by + d = 0
 - Check whether coefficients need to be integers (they usually are for ax + by + d = 0)

Worked Example

The line I passes through the points (-2, 5) and (6, -7).

Find the equation of I, giving your answer in the form ax + by + d = 0 where a, b and c are integers to be found.

Find the gradient between (-2,5) and (6,-7) Formula booklet $m = \frac{-7}{6} - \frac{5}{-2} = -\frac{3}{2}$ Gradient formula $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ Use the point gradient formula Formula booklet $(x_1, y_1) = (-2, 5)$ $m = -\frac{3}{2}$ $y_1 - 5 = -\frac{3}{2}(x_1 - \frac{2}{2})$ Simplify $y_1 - 5 = -\frac{3}{2}(x_1 + 2)$ $2(y_1 - 5) = -3(x_1 - \frac{2}{2})$ Multiply by denominator $<math>2(y_1 - 5) = -3(x_1 - \frac{2}{2})$ Multiply by denominator $<math>3x_1 + 2y_1 - 4 = 0$ Rearrange



Parallel Lines

How are the equations of parallel lines connected?

- Parallel lines are always equidistant meaning they never intersect
- Parallel lines have the same gradient
 - If the gradient of line l_1 is m_1 and gradient of line l_2 is m_2 then...
 - $m_1 = m_2 \Rightarrow l_1 \& l_2$ are parallel
 - $l_1 \& l_2$ are parallel $\Rightarrow m_1 = m_2$
- To determine if two lines are parallel:
 - Rearrange into the gradient-intercept form y = mx + c
 - Compare the coefficients of X
 - If they are equal then the lines are parallel







Worked Example

The line *I* passes through the point (4, -1) and is parallel to the line with equation 2x - 5y = 3.

Find the equation of 1, giving your answer in the form y = mx + c.

Rearrange into
$$y=mx+c$$
 to find the gradient
 $5y = 2x - 3 \implies y = \frac{2}{5}x - \frac{3}{5}$: gradient = $\frac{2}{5}$
Parallel lines => $m_1 = m_2$
 $m = \frac{2}{5}$

Use the point-gradient formula Formula booklet Equations of a straight $y-y_1 = m(x-x_1)$ $(x_1, y_1) = (4, -1)$ $m = \frac{2}{5}$ $y + 1 = \frac{2}{5}(x - 4)$ $y + X = \frac{2}{5}x - \frac{8}{5}$ PERS PRACTICE $y = \frac{2}{5}x - \frac{13}{5}$



Perpendicular Lines

How are the equations of perpendicular lines connected?

- Perpendicular lines intersect at right angles
- The gradients of two perpendicular lines are negative reciprocals
 - If the gradient of line l_1 is m_1 and gradient of line l_2 is m_2 then...
 - $m_1 \times m_2 = -1 \Rightarrow l_1 \& l_2$ are perpendicular

•
$$l_1 \& l_2$$
 are perpendicular $\Rightarrow m_1 \times m_2 = -1$

- To determine if two lines are perpendicular:
 - Rearrange into the gradient-intercept form y = mx + c
 - Compare the coefficients of X
 - If their product is -1 then they are perpendicular
- Be careful with horizontal and vertical lines
 - x = p and y = q are perpendicular where p and q are constants









2.2 Further Functions & Graphs

2.2.1 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 **PAPERS PRACTICE**
 - 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

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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
 - $\circ~$ 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 RS PRACTION
 - 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 ≤ 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
 - $f(x) \ge 0$
- 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:
 - $\circ \; \mathbb{R}$ 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 $b \neq 0$
 - ∘ Z represents all the integers (positive, negative and zero)
 - Z⁺ represents positive integers
 - ∘ N represents the natural numbers (0,1,2,3...)

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Exam Tip

 \mathbf{C}

- Questions may refer to "the largest possible domain"
 - This would usually be $x \in \mathbb{R}$ unless natural numbers, integers or quotients has already been stated
 - There are usually some exceptions
 - e.g. for functions involving a square root (so the function can be 1-to-1 and have an inverse)
 - e.g. $x \neq 2$ for a reciprocal function with denominator x-2







Piecewise Functions

What are piecewise functions?

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

• E.g.
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x+1 & x \le 5 \\ 2x-4 & 5 < x < 10 \end{cases}$$

- The region for the individual functions **cannot overlap**
- To evaluate a piecewise function for a particular value x = k
 - \circ Find which interval includes k
 - Substitute x = k into the corresponding function





2.2.2 Graphing Functions

Graphing Functions

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

- Apoint (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 fine 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 **CTICE**
- 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





- 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











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 luse graphs to solve equations? **PRACTICE**

- 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

- 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





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





2.2.3 Properties of Graphs

Quadratic Functions & Graphs

What are the key features of quadratic graphs?

- A quadratic graph is of the form $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ where $a \neq 0$.
- The value of a affects the shape of the curve
 - $\circ \ \ \text{If} \ a \ \text{is positive the shape is} \ U$
 - If a is negative the shape is ∩
- The y-intercept is at the point (0, c)
- The zeros or roots are the solutions to $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$
 - These can be found using your GDC or the quadratic formula
 - These are also called the x-intercepts
 - There can be 0, 1 or 2x-intercepts
- There is an **axis of symmetry** at $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$
 - This is given in your formula booklet
 - If there are two x-intercepts then the axis of symmetry goes through the midpoint of them
- The vertex lies on the axis of symmetry
 - The x-coordinate is $-\frac{b}{2a}$
 - The y-coordinate can be found using the GDC or by calculating y when $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$
 - If a is positive then the vertex is the minimum point
 - If a is negative then the vertex is the maximum point



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- Use your GDC to find the roots and the turning point of a quadratic function
 You do not need to factorise or complete the square
 - It is good exam technique to sketch the graph from your GDC as part of your working





Cubic Functions & Graphs

What are the key features of cubic graphs?

- A cubic graph is of the form $y = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$ where $a \neq 0$.
- The value of a affects the shape of the curve
 - If a is positive the graph goes from bottom left to top right
 - If a is negative the graph goes from top left to bottom right
- The y-intercept is at the point (0, d)
- The zeros or roots are the solutions to $ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d = 0$
 - These can be found using your GDC
 - These are also called the x-intercepts
 - There can be 1, 2 or 3 x-intercepts
 - There is always at least 1
- There are either 0 or 2 local minimums/maximums
 - If there are 0 then the curve is monotonic (always increasing or always decreasing)
 - If there are 2 then one is a local minimum and one is a local maximum



- Use your GDC to find the roots, the local maximum and local minimum of a cubic function
- When drawing/sketching the graph of a cubic function be sure to label all the key features
 - x and y axes intercepts
 - the local maximum point
 - the local minimum point







Exponential Functions & Graphs

What are the key features of exponential graphs?

- An exponential graph is of the form
 - $y = ka^{x} + c$ or $y = ka^{-x} + c$ where a > 0
 - $\circ y = ke^{rx} + c$
 - Where e is the mathematical constant 2.718...
- The y-intercept is at the point (0, k+c)
- There is a horizontal asymptote at y = c
- The value of k determines whether the graph is above or below the asymptote
 - If k is positive the graph is above the asymptote
 - So the range is y > c
 - If k is negative the graph is below the asymptote
 - So the range is y < c
- The coefficient of x and the constant k determine whether the graph is **increasing or decreasing**
 - If the coefficient of x and k have the same sign then graph is increasing
 - If the coefficient of x and k have different signs then the graph is decreasing
- There is at most l root
 - It can be found using your GDC



- You may have to change the viewing window settings on your GDC to make asymptotes clear
 - A small scale can make it look as though the curve and an asymptote intercept
- Be careful about how two exponential graphs drawn on the same axes look
 - · Particularly which one is "on top" either side of the y-axis







Sinusoidal Functions & Graphs

What are the key features of sinusoidal graphs?

- A sinusoidal graph is of the form
 - $\circ \quad y = a\sin(b(x-c)) + d$
 - $y = a\cos(b(x-c)) + d$
- The **y-intercept** is at the point where **x** = **0**
 - (0, -asin(bc) + d) for y = asin(b(x c)) + d
 - (0, $a\cos(bc) + d$) for $y = a\cos(b(x c)) + d$
- The **period** of the graph is the length of the interval of a full cycle

• This is
$$\frac{360^{\circ}}{b}$$
 (in degrees) or $\frac{2\pi}{b}$

- The maximum value is y = a + d
- The minimum value is y = -a + d
- The principal axis is the horizontal line halfway between the maximum and minimum values
 This is y = d
- The **amplitude** is the vertical distance from the principal axis to the maximum value
 - This is a
- The **phase shift** is the horizontal distance from its usual position





- Make sure your angle setting is in the correct mode (degrees or radians) at the start of a question involving sinusoidal functions
- Pay careful attention to the angles between which you are required to use or draw/sketch a sinusoidal graph
 - e.g. 0° ≤ x ≤ 360°







2.3 Modelling with Functions

2.3.1 Linear Models

Linear Models

What are the parameters of a linear model?

- A linear model is of the form f(x) = mx + c
- The m represents the rate of change of the function
 - This is the amount the function increases/decreases when x increases by 1
 - If the function is increasing *m* is positive
 - If the function is decreasing *m* is negative
 - When the model is represented as a graph this is the gradient of the line
- The c represents the value of the function when x = 0
 - This is the value of the function when the independent variable is not present
 - This is usually referred to as the initial value
 - When the model is represented as a graph this is the **y-intercept** of the line

What can be modelled as a linear model?

- If the graph of the data resembles a straight line
- Anything with a constant rate of change PRACTICE
 - C(d) is the taxi charge for a journey of d km
 - B(m) is the monthly mobile phone bill when m minutes have been used
 - R(d) is the rental fee for a car used for d days
 - d(t) is the distance travelled by a car moving at a constant speed for t seconds

What are possible limitations of a linear model?

- · Linear models continuously increase (or decrease) at the same rate
 - In real-life this might not be the case
 - The function might reach a maximum (or minimum)
- If the value of *m* is negative then for some inputs the function will predict negative values
 - In some real-life situations negative values will not make sense
 - To overcome this you can decide on an appropriate domain so that the outputs are never negative

Exam Tip

• Make sure that you are equally confident in working with linear models both algebraically and graphically as it may be easier using one method over the other when tackling a particular exam question







2.3.2 Quadratic & Cubic Models

Quadratic Models

What are the parameters of a quadratic model?

- A quadratic model is of the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$
- The c represents the value of the function when x = 0
 - This is the value of the function when the independent variable is not present
 - This is usually referred to as the initial value
- The a has the biggest impact on the rate of change of the function
 - If a has a large absolute value then the rate of change varies rapidly
 - $\circ~$ If a has a small absolute value then the rate of change varies slowly
- The maximum (or minimum) of the function occurs when $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$
 - This is given in the formula booklet as the axis of symmetry

What can be modelled as a quadratic model?

- If the graph of the data resembles a U or ∩ shape
- These can be used if the graph has a single maximum or minimum
 - H(t) is the vertical height of a football t seconds after being kicked
 - A(x) is the area of rectangle of length x cm that can be made with a 20 cm length of string

What are possible limitations of a quadratic model?

- A quadratic has either a maximum or a minimum but **not both**
 - This means one end is **unbounded**
 - In real-life this might not be the case
 - The function might have both a maximum and a minimum
 - To overcome this you can decide on an appropriate domain so that the outputs are within a range
- Quadratic graphs are **symmetrical**
 - This might not be the case in real-life

- Read and re-read the question carefully, try to get involved in the context of the question!
 - Imagine what happens to a stone as you throw it from a cliff, what would the path look like?
 - What would it be like to manage a toy factory, would you expect profit to rise or fall as you increase the price of the toy?
- Sketch a graph of the function being used as the model, use your GDC to help you
- If you are completely stuck try "doing something" with the quadratic function sketch it, factorise it, solve it







Cubic Models

What are the parameters of a cubic model?

- A cubic model is of the form $f(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$
- The d represents the value of the function when x = 0
 - This is the value of the function when the independent variable is not present
 - This is usually referred to as the initial value
- The a has the biggest impact on the rate of change of the function
 - If a has a large absolute value then the rate of change varies rapidly
 - If a has a small absolute value then the rate of change varies slowly

What can be modelled as a cubic model?

- If the graph of the data has exactly one maximum and one minimum within an interval
- If the graph is monotonic with no maximum or minimum
 - D(t) is the vertical distance below starting point of a bungee jumper t seconds after jumping
 - *V(x)* is the volume of a cuboid of length *x* cm that can be made with a 200 cm² of cardboard

What are possible limitations of a cubic model?

- Cubic graphs have no global maximum or minimum
 - This means the function is **unbounded**
 - In real-life this might not be the case
 - The function might have a maximum or minimum ACTICE
 - To overcome this you can decide on an appropriate domain so that the outputs are within a range

- Read and re-read the question carefully, try to get involved in the context of the question!
- Always sketch the graph using your GDC to help
- Pay particular attention to the domain of the question
 - If the domain is given, make sure that you focus only on that section when you sketch the graph
 - If the domain is not given, think about whether or not it needs to be restricted based on the context of the question, e.g. can time be negative?







2.3.3 Exponential Models

Exponential Models

What are the parameters of an exponential model?

- An exponential model is of the form
 - $f(x) = ka^{x} + c$ or $f(x) = ka^{-x} + c$ for a > 0
 - $\circ \quad f(x) = k \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{r} x} + c$
 - Where e is the mathematical constant 2.718...
 - The crepresents the **boundary** for the function
 - It can never be this value
 - The a or r describes the rate of growth or decay
 - The bigger the value of a or the absolute value of r the faster the function increases/decreases

What can be modelled as an exponential model?

- Exponential growth or decay
 - Exponential growth is represented by
 - *a^x* where *a* > 1
 - a^{-x} where 0 < a < 1
 - e^{rx} where r > 0
 - Exponential decay is represented by
 - a^x where 0 < a < 1
 - *a^{-x}* where *a*>1
 e^x where *r*<0
 - e^{tx} where r < 0
- They can be used when there a constant percentage increase or decrease
 - Such as functions generated by geometric sequences
- Examples include:
 - \circ V(t) is the value of car after t years
 - S(t) is the amount in a savings account after t years
 - B(t) is the amount of bacteria on a surface after t seconds
 - T(t) is the temperature of a kettle t minutes after being boiled

What are possible limitations of an exponential model?

- An exponential growth model does not have a maximum
 - In real-life this might not be the case
 - The function might reach a maximum and stay at this value
- Exponential models are monotonic
 - In real-life this might not be the case
 - The function might fluctuate

How can I find the half-life using an exponential model?

- You may need to find the half-life of a substance
 - This is the time taken for the mass of a substance to halve
- Given an exponential model $f(t) = ka^{-t}$ or $f(t) = ke^{-rt}$ the half-life is the value of t such that:

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$$\circ \quad f(t) = \frac{k}{2}$$

• For $f(t) = ka^{-t}$ the half-life is given by $t = \frac{\ln 2}{\ln a}$

$$\circ \ \frac{k}{2} = ka^{-t}$$

$$\circ a^t = 2$$

$$\circ t \ln a = \ln 2$$

• For $f(t) = ke^{-rt}$ the half-life is given by $t = \frac{\ln 2}{r}$

$$\circ \ \frac{k}{2} = k e^{-rt}$$

$$\circ e^{rt} = 2$$

 $\circ rt = \ln 2$



Exam Tip

- Look out for the word "initial" or similar, as a way of asking you to make the power equal to zero to simplify the equation
- Questions regarding the boundary of the exponential model are also frequently asked

EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE







2.3.4 Direct & Inverse Variation

Direct Variation

What is direct variation?

- Two variables are said to vary directly if their ratio is constant (k)
 - This is also called direct proportion
- If yand xⁿ (for positive integer n) vary **directly** then:
 - It is denoted as $y \propto x^n$
 - $y = kx^n$ for some constant k
 - This can be written as $\frac{y}{x^n} = k$
- The graphs of these models always start at the origin

How do I solve direct variation problems?

- Identify which two variables vary directly
 - It might not be x and y
 - It could be x^3 and y
- Use the given information to find their constant ratio k
 - Also called constant of proportionality
 - Substitute the given values of x and y into your formula
 - Solve to find k
- Write the equation which models their relationship
 - $\circ y = kx^n$
- You can then use the equation to solve problems

PRACTICE





A computer program sorts a list of numbers into ascending order. The time it takes, t milliseconds, varies directly with the square of the number of items, n, in the list. The computer program takes 48 milliseconds to order a list with 8 items.



Find an equation connecting t and n.





Inverse Variation

What is inverse variation?

- Two variables are said to vary inversely if their product is constant (k) This is also called inverse proportion
- If y and xⁿ (for positive integer n) vary inversely then:
 - It is denoted $y \propto \frac{1}{x^n}$

•
$$y = \frac{k}{x^n}$$
 for some constant k

- This can be written $x^n y = k$
- The graphs of these models all have a vertical asymptote at the y-axis
 - This means that as x gets closer to 0 the absolute value of y gets further away from 0
 - x can never equal 0

How do I solve inverse variation problems?

- · Identify which two variables vary inversely
 - It might not be x and y
 - It could be x^3 and y
- Use the given information to find their constant product k
 - Also called constant of proportionality
 - Substitute the given values of x and y into your formula
 - Solve to find k//
- M DADEDS DRAC Write the equation which models their relationship

$$\circ y = \frac{k}{x^n}$$

You can then use the equation to solve problems

Exam Tip

- Reciprocal graphs generally have two parts/curves
 - · Only one usually the positive may be relevant to the model
 - Think about why $x/t/\theta$ can only take positive values refer to the context of the question





Worked Example

The time, t hours, it takes to complete a project varies inversely to the number of people working on it, n. If 4 people work on the project it takes 70 hours to complete.

a)

Write an equation connecting t and n.



b)

Given that the project needs to be completed within 18 hours, find the minimum number of people needed to work on it.





2.3.5 Sinusoidal Models

Sinusoidal Models

What are the parameters of a sinusoidal model?

- A sinusoidal model is of the form
 - $\circ \quad f(x) = a\sin(b(x-c)) + d$
 - $\circ \quad f(x) = a\cos(b(x-c)) + d$
- The a represents the amplitude of the function
 - The bigger the value of a the bigger the range of values of the function
- The b determines the period of the function
 - The bigger the value of b the quicker the function repeats a cycle

• The period is
$$\frac{360^{\circ}}{b}$$
 (in degrees) or $\frac{2\pi}{b}$ (in radians)

- The c represents the phase shift
 - This is a horizontal translation by c units
- The d represents the principal axis
 - This is the line that the function fluctuates around

What can be modelled as a sinusoidal model?

- Anything that oscillates (fluctuates periodically)
- Examples include:
 - D(t) is the depth of water at a shore thours after midnight
 - T(d) is the temperature of a city d days after the 1st January
 - \circ H(t) is vertical height above ground of a person t second after entering a Ferris wheel

What are possible limitations of a sinusoidal model?

- The amplitude is the same for each cycle
 - In real-life this might not be the case
 - The function might get closer to the principal axis over time
- The period is the same for each cycle
 - In real-life this might not be the case
 - The time to complete a cycle might change over time

Exam Tip

- Read and re-read the question carefully, try to get involved in the context of the question!
- Sketch a graph of the function being used as the model, use your GDC to help you and focus on the given domain
- Remember that if the model is adjusted, horizontal translations happen **before** horizontal stretches







2.3.6 Strategy for Modelling Functions

Modelling with Functions

What is a mathematical model?

- A mathematical model simplifies a real-world situation so it can be described using mathematics
 - The model can then be used to make predictions
- Assumptions about the situation are made in order to simplify the mathematics
- Models can be **refined** (improved) if further information is available or if the model is compared to real-world data

How do I set up the model?

- The question could:
 - give you the equation of the model
 - · tell you about the relationship
 - It might say the relationship is linear, quadratic, etc
 - ask you to suggest a suitable model
 - Use your knowledge of each model
 - E.g. if it is compound interest then an exponential model is the most appropriate
- · You may have to determine a reasonable domain
 - Consider real-life context
 - E.g. if dealing with hours in a day then
 PRACTICE
 - E.g. if dealing with physical quantities (such as length) then
 - Consider the possible ranges
 - If the outcome cannot be negative then you want to choose a domain which corresponds to a range with no negative values
 - Sketching the graph is helpful to determine a suitable domain

Which models do I need to know?

- Linear
- Piecewise (linear & non-linear)
- Quadratic
- Cubic
- Exponential
- Natural logarithmic
- Logistic
- Direct variation
- Inverse variation
- Sinusoidal





```
b)
```

Determine the domain of h(t).



95



Finding Parameters

What do I do if some of the parameters are unknown?

- For some models you can use your knowledge to find unknown parameters directly from the information given
 - For a linear model f(x) = mx + c
 - *m* is the rate of change, or gradient
 - c is the initial value
 - For a quadratic model, $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$
 - $x = \frac{-b}{2a}$ is the axis of symmetry (this is given in the formula booklet) and is the x-

value of the minimum/maximum point

- c is the initial value
- For a cubic model, $f(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$
 - *d* is the initial value
- For an **exponential** model, $f(x) = ka^{x} + c$
 - k+c is the initial value
 - y = c is the horizontal asymptote, so c is a boundary of the model
- For a sinusoidal model $f(x) = a\sin(bx) + d$
 - *a* is the amplitude
 - y = d is the principal axis
 - EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE • $\frac{360}{b}$ is the period
- A general method is to form equations by substituting in given values
 - You can form multiple equations and solve them simultaneously using your GDC
 - You could be expected to solve a system of up to three simultaneous equations of three unknowns
 - This method works for all models
- The initial value is the value of the function when x (or the independent variable) is 0
 - This is often one of the parameters in the equation of the model

Exam Tip





The temperature, $T \approx$, of a cup of coffee is monitored. Initially the temperature is 80°C and 5 minutes later it is 40°C. It is suggested that the temperature follows the model:

$$T(t) = ka^{-t} + 16, t \ge 0$$

where t is the time, in minutes, after the coffee has been made.





2.4 Functions Toolkit

2.4.1 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
 - $\circ (f \circ g)(x)$
 - $\circ fg(x)$
 - $\circ f(g(x))$
- 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

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- 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
- The link between the domains and ranges of a function and its inverse can act as a check for your solution
- ff(x) is not the same as $[f(x)]^2$









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
 - $\circ~$ Any horizontal line will intersect with the graph at most once
- The identity function id maps each value to itself
 - $\circ \operatorname{id}(x) = x$
- 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)
 o 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

Can many-to-one functions ever have inverses?

- You can restrict the domain of a many-to-one function so that it has an inverse
- Choose a subset of the domain where the function is one-to-one
 - The inverse will be determined by the restricted domain
 - Note that a many-to-one function can **only** have an inverse if its domain is restricted first
- For quadratics use the vertex as the upper or lower bound for the restricted domain
 - For $f(x) = x^2$ restrict the domain so 0 is either the maximum or minimum value = For example: x > 0 or x < 0
 - For example: $x \ge 0$ or $x \le 0$
 - For $f(x) = a(x h)^2 + k$ restrict the domain so h is either the maximum or minimum value
 - For example: $x \ge h$ or $x \le h$
- For trigonometric functions use part of a cycle as the restricted domain
 - For $f(x) = \sin x$ restrict the domain to half a cycle between a maximum and a minimum
 - For example: $-\frac{\pi}{2} \le x \le \frac{\pi}{2}$
 - For f(x) = cosx restrict the domain to half a cycle between maximum and a minimum
 For example: 0 ≤ x ≤ π
 - For $f(x) = \tan x$ restrict the domain to one cycle between two asymptotes
 - For example: $-\frac{\pi}{2} < x < \frac{\pi}{2}$

How do I find the inverse function after restricting the domain?

- The range of the inverse is the same as the restricted domain of the original function
- The inverse function is determined by the restricted domain
 - Restricting the domain differently will change the inverse function
- Use the range of the inverse to help find the inverse function
 - Restricting the domain of $f(x) = x^2$ to $x \ge 0$ means the range of the inverse is $f^{-1}(x) \ge 0$
 - Therefore $f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt{x}$
 - Restricting the domain of $f(x) = x^2$ to $x \le 0$ means the range of the inverse is $f^{-1}(x) \le 0$
 - Therefore $f^{-1}(x) = -\sqrt{x}$





- Remember that an inverse function is a reflection of the original function in the line v = 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 $\frac{1}{f(x)}$









Use inverse $f(a) = b \iff a = f^{-1}(b)$ $k = f^{-1}(9) = 2 - \sqrt{9 - 5}$ k=0





2.5 Transformations of Graphs

2.5.1 Translations of Graphs

Translations of Graphs

What are translations of graphs?

- When you alter a function in certain ways, the effects on the graph of the function can be described by **geometrical transformations**
- For a translation:
 - the graph is moved (up or down, left or right) in the xy plane
 - Its position changes
 - the shape, size, and orientation of the graph remain unchanged
- A particular translation (how far left/right, how far up/down) is specified by a translation

vector

• x is the horizontal displacement

- Positive moves right
- Negative moves left
- y is the vertical displacement PERS PRACTICE
 - Positive moves up
 - Negative moves down





What effects do horizontal translations have on the graphs and functions?

• A horizontal translation of the graph y = f(x) by the vector $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ is represented by

 $\circ \quad y = f(x - a)$

- The x-coordinates change
 - The value *a* is **subtracted** from them
- The y-coordinates stay the same
- The coordinates (x, y) become (x + a, y)
- Horizontal asymptotes stay the same
- Vertical asymptotes change
 - x = k becomes x = k + a









What effects do vertical translations have on the graphs and functions?

• A vertical translation of the graph y = f(x) by the vector $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ b \end{pmatrix}$ is represented by

 $\circ \quad y - b = f(x)$

- This is often rearranged to y = f(x) + b
- The x-coordinates stay the same
- The y-coordinates change
 - The value b is **added** to them
- The coordinates (x, y) become (x, y+b)
- · Horizontal asymptotes change
 - y = k becomes y = k + b
- Vertical asymptotes stay the same



🕨 Exam Tip

- To get full marks in an exam make sure you use correct mathematical terminology
 - For example: Translate by the vector













2.5.2 Reflections of Graphs

Reflections of Graphs

What are reflections of graphs?

- When you alter a function in certain ways, the effects on the graph of the function can be described by **geometrical transformations**
- For a reflection:
 - the graph is flipped about one of the coordinate axes
 - Its orientation changes
 - the size of the graph remains unchanged
- A particular reflection is specified by an axis of symmetry:



What effects do horizontal reflections have on the graphs and functions?

- A horizontal reflection of the graph y = f(x) about the y-axis is represented by • y = f(-x)
- The x-coordinates change
 - Their sign changes
- The y-coordinates stay the same
- The coordinates (x, y) become (-x, y)
- Horizontal asymptotes stay the same
- Vertical asymptotes change
 - x = k becomes x = -k





What effects do vertical reflections have on the graphs and functions?

• A vertical reflection of the graph y = f(x) about the x-axis is represented by

$$\circ -y = f(x)$$

- This is often rearranged to y = -f(x)
- The x-coordinates stay the same
- The y-coordinates change
 - Their sign changes



- The coordinates (x, y) become (x, -y)
- Horizontal asymptotes change
 - y = k becomes y = -k
- Vertical asymptotes stay the same









2.5.3 Stretches of Graphs

Stretches of Graphs

What are stretches of graphs?

- When you alter a function in certain ways, the effects on the graph of the function can be described by **geometrical transformations**
- For a stretch:
 - the graph is **stretched** about one of the coordinate axes by a scale factor
 - Its size changes
 - the orientation of the graph remains unchanged
- A particular stretch is specified by a **coordinate axis** and a **scale factor**:
 - The distance between a point on the graph and the specified coordinate axis is multiplied by the constant scale factor
 - The graph is stretched in the direction which is parallel to the other coordinate axis
 - For scale factors bigger than 1
 - the points on the graph get further away from the specified coordinate axis
 - For scale factors between 0 and 1
 - the points on the graph get closer to the specified coordinate axis
 - This is also sometimes called a compression but in your exam you must use the term stretch with the appropriate scale factor



What effects do horizontal stretches have on the graphs and functions?

• A horizontal stretch of the graph y = f(x) by a scale factor q centred about the y-axis is represented by

$$\circ \quad y = f\left(\frac{x}{q}\right)$$

- The x-coordinates change
 - They are **divided** by q
- The y-coordinates stay the same
- The coordinates (x, y) become (qx, y)
- Horizontal asymptotes stay the same
- Vertical asymptotes change
 - x = k becomes x = qk





What effects do vertical stretches have on the graphs and functions?

• A vertical stretch of the graph y = f(x) by a scale factor p centred about the x-axis is represented by

$$\circ \quad \frac{y}{p} = f(x)$$

• This is often rearranged to y = pf(x)



- The x-coordinates stay the same
- The y-coordinates change
 - They are multiplied by p
- The coordinates (x, y) become (x, py)
- Horizontal asymptotes change
 - y = k becomes y = pk
- Vertical asymptotes stay the same



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Exam Tip

- To get full marks in an exam make sure you use correct mathematical terminology
 - For example: Stretch vertically by scale factor ¹/₂
 - Do not use the word "compress" in your exam













2.5.4 Composite Transformations of Graphs

Composite Transformations of Graphs

What transformations do I need to know?

- y = f(x + k) is horizontal translation by vector $\begin{pmatrix} -k \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$
 - If k is positive then the graph moves left
 - If k is negative then the graph moves right
- y = f(x) + k is vertical translation by vector $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ k \end{pmatrix}$
 - If k is **positive** then the graph moves **up**
 - If k is **negative** then the graph moves **down**
- y = f(kx) is a horizontal stretch by scale factor $\frac{1}{k}$ centred about the y-axis
 - If k > 1 then the graph gets closer to the y-axis
 - If **0 < k < 1** then the graph gets **further** from the y-axis
- y = kf(x) is a vertical stretch by scale factor k centred about the x-axis
 - If k > 1 then the graph gets further from the x-axis
 - If **0 < k < 1** then the graph gets **closer** to the x-axis
- y = f(-x) is a horizontal reflection about the y-axis
 - $\circ~$ A horizontal reflection can be viewed as a special case of a horizontal stretch
- y = f(x) is a vertical reflection about the x-axis
 - A vertical reflection can be viewed as a special case of a vertical stretch


How do horizontal and vertical transformations affect each other?

- · Horizontal and vertical transformations are independent of each other
 - The horizontal transformations involved will need to be applied in their correct order
 - The vertical transformations involved will need to be applied in their correct order
- Suppose there are **two horizontal** transformation **H₁ then H₂** and **two vertical** transformations **V₁ then V₂** then they can be applied in the following orders:
 - Horizontal then vertical:
 - H₁H₂V₁V₂
 - Vertical then horizontal:
 - V₁V₂H₁H₂
 - Mixed up (provided that H_1 comes before H_2 and V_1 comes before V2):
 - $\bullet H_1V_1H_2V_2$
 - H₁V₁V₂H₂
 - V₁H₁V₂H₂
 - V₁H₁H₂V₂

Exam Tip

• In an exam you are more likely to get the correct solution if you deal with one transformation at a time and sketch the graph after each transformation

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Composite Vertical Transformations af(x)+b

How do I deal with multiple vertical transformations?

- Order matters when you have more than one vertical transformations
- If you are asked to find the equation then **build up the equation** by looking at the transformations in order
 - A vertical stretch by scale factor *a* followed by a translation of $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ b \end{pmatrix}$
 - Stretch: y = af(x)
 - Then translation: y = [af(x)] + b
 - Final equation: y = af(x) + b
 - A translation of $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ b \end{pmatrix}$ followed by a vertical stretch by scale factor *a*
 - Translation: y = f(x) + b
 - Then stretch: y = a[f(x) + b]
 - Final equation: y = af(x) + ab
- If you are asked to determine the order
 - The order of vertical transformations follows the order of operations
 - First write the equation in the form y = af(x) + b
 - First stretch vertically by scale factor a
 - If a is negative then the reflection and stretch can be done in any order
 - Then translate by $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ b \end{pmatrix}$ PERS PRACTICE







Composite Horizontal Transformations f(ax+b)

How do I deal with multiple horizontal transformations?

- Order matters when you have more than one horizontal transformations
- If you are asked to find the equation then **build up the equation** by looking at the transformations in order
 - A horizontal stretch by scale factor $\frac{1}{a}$ followed by a translation of $\begin{pmatrix} -b \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$
 - Stretch: y = f(ax)

0

- Then translation: y = f(a(x + b))
- Final equation: y = f(ax + ab)

A translation of
$$\begin{pmatrix} -b\\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 followed by a horizontal stretch by scale factor $\frac{1}{a}$

- Translation: y = f(x + b)
- Then stretch: y = f((ax) + b)
- Final equation: y = f(ax + b)
- If you are asked to determine the **order**
 - First write the equation in the form y = f(ax + b)
 - The order of horizontal transformations is the reverse of the order of operations
 - First translate by $\begin{pmatrix} -b \\ PO \end{pmatrix}$ PERS PRACTICE
 - Then stretch by scale factor $\frac{1}{a}$
 - If a is negative then the reflection and stretch can be done in any order







2.6 Further Modelling with Functions

2.6.1 Properties of Further Graphs

Logarithmic Functions & Graphs

What are the key features of logarithmic graphs?

- A logarithmic function is of the form $f(x) = a + b \ln x$, x > 0
- Remember the natural logarithmic function $\ln x \equiv \log_{a}(x)$
 - This is the inverse of $f(x) = e^x$
 - $\ln(e^x) = x$ and $e^{\ln x} = x$
 - The graphs do not have a y-intercept
 - The graphs have a **vertical asymptote** at the y-axis:
 - _<u>a</u>
 - The graphs have **one root** at e^{-b} ,
 - This can be found using your GDC
 - The graphs do not have any minimum or maximum points
 - The value of b determines whether the graph is increasing or decreasing
 - If b is positive then the graph is increasing
 - If b is negative then the graph is decreasing





Logistic Functions & Graphs

What are the key features of logistic graphs?

- A logistic function is of the form $f(x) = \frac{L}{1 + Ce^{-kx}}$
 - \circ L, C & k are positive constants
- Its domain is the set of all real values
- Its range is the set of real positive values less than L

• The y-intercept is at the point
$$\left(0, \frac{L}{1+C}\right)$$

- There are **no roots**
- There is a **horizontal asymptote** at y = L
 - This is called the carrying capacity
 - This is the upper limit of the function
 - For example: it could represent the limit of a population size
- There is a horizontal asymptote at y = 0
- The graph is **always increasing**





2.6.2 Natural Logarithmic Models

Natural Logarithmic Models

What are the parameters of natural logarithmic models?

- A natural logarithmic model is of the form $f(x) = a + b \ln x$
- The *a* represents the value of the function when *x* = 1
- The b determines the rate of change of the function
 - $\circ~$ A bigger absolute value of b leads to a faster rate of change

What can be modelled as a natural logarithmic model?

- A **natural logarithmic model** can be used when the variable increases rapidly for a period followed by a much slower rate of increase with no limiting value
 - M(I) is the magnitude of an earthquake with an intensity of I
 - d(I) is the decibels measured of a noise with an intensity of I

What are possible limitations a natural logarithmic model?

- A natural logarithmic graph is unbounded
 - However in real-life the variable might have a limiting value

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2.6.3 Logistic Models

Logistic Models

What are the parameters of logistic models?

- A logistic model is of the form $f(x) = \frac{L}{1 + Ce^{-kx}}$
- The L represents the limiting capacity
 - This is the value that the model tends to as x gets large
- The C (along with the L) helps to determine the initial value of the model
 - The initial value is given by $\frac{L}{1+C}$
 - Once L has been determined you can then determine C
- The k determines the rate of increase of the model

What can be modelled using a logistic model?

- A logistic model can be used when the variable initially increases exponentially and then tends towards a limit
 - H(t) is the height of a giraffe t weeks after birth
 - P(t) is the number of bacteria on an apple t seconds after removing from protective packaging
 - *P*(*t*) is the population of rabbits in a woodlands area *t* weeks after releasing an initial amount into the area

What are possible limitations of a logistic model?

- A logistic graph is **bounded** by the limit L
 - However in real-life the variable might be unbounded
 - For example: the cumulative total number of births in a town over time
- A logistic graph is always increasing
 - However in real-life there could be periods where the variable decreased or fluctuates







2.6.4 Piecewise Models

Linear Piecewise Models

What are the parameters of a piecewise linear model?

- A piecewise linear model is made up of multiple linear models $f_i(x) = m_i x + c_i$
- For each linear model there will be
 - The rate of change for that interval m_i
 - $\circ~$ The value if the independent variable was not present c_i

What can be modelled as a piecewise linear model?

- Piecewise linear models can be used when the rate of change of a function changes for different intervals
 - These commonly apply when there are different tariffs or levels of charges
- Anything with a constant rate of change for set intervals
 - C(d) is the taxi charge for a journey of d km
 - The charge might double after midnight
 - R(d) is the rental fee for a car used for d days
 - The daily fee might triple if the car is rented over bank holidays
 - s(t) is the speed of a car travelling for t seconds with constant acceleration
 - The car might reach a maximum speed PRACTICE

What are possible limitations of a piecewise linear model?

- Piecewise linear models have a constant rate of change (represented by a straight line) in each interval
 - In real-life this might not be the case
 - The data in some intervals might have a continuously variable rate of change (represented by a curve) rather than a constant rate
 - Or the transition from one constant rate of change to another may be gradual-i.e. a curve rather than a sudden change in gradient

Exam Tip

• Make sure that you know how to plot a piecewise model on your GDC







Non-Linear Piecewise Models

What are the parameters of non-linear piecewise models?

- A non-linear piecewise model is made up of multiple functions $f_i(x)$
 - Each function will be defined for a range of values of x
- The individual functions can contain **any function**
 - For example: quadratic, cubic, exponential, etc
- When graphed the individual functions should join to make a continuous graph
 - This fact can be used to find unknown parameters

• If
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f_1(x) & a \le x < b \\ f_2(x) & b \le x < c \end{cases}$$
 then $f_1(b) = f_2(b)$

What can be modelled as a non-linear piecewise model?

- Piecewise models can be used when different functions are needed to represent the output for different intervals of the variable
 - S(x) is the standardised score on a test with x raw marks
 - For small values of x there might be a quadratic model
 - For large values of x there might be a linear model
 - H(t) is the height of water in a bathtub with after t minutes
 - Initially a cubic model might be a appropriate if the bottom of the bathtub is curved
 - Then a linear model might be a appropriate if the sides of top of the bathtub has the shape of a prism

What are possible limitations a non-linear piecewise model?

- Piecewise models can be used to model real-life accurately
- Piecewise models can be difficult to analyse or apply mathematical techniques to



Exam Tip

- Read and re-read the question carefully, try to get involved in the context of the question!
- Pay particular attention to the domain of each section, if it is not given think carefully about any restrictions there may be as a result of the context of the question
- If sketching a piecewise function, make sure to include the coordinates of all key points including the point at which two sections of the piecewise model meet



