

An INVERSE RELATION (or FUNCTION) “undoes” the original relation.

We will use the symbol $f^{-1}(x)$ to represent the inverse of $f(x)$.

We can find the inverse of a relation by switching the $x \leftrightarrow y$ coordinates.

Relation

Is the relation a function?

x	y
-3	5
2	3
1	3

Inverse of the Relation

Is the inverse relation a function?

x	y

We can find the inverse of a function by switching the $x \leftrightarrow y$, then solve for y .

We can use the horizontal line on $f(x)$ test to see if $f^{-1}(x)$ is a function.

Find the inverse of $f(x) = x^2 - 2$. Is the inverse a function?

Find the inverse of $f(x) = 4x - 7$. Is the inverse a function?

$$\frac{f(x)}{\text{Domain}} \\ \text{Range}$$

$$\frac{f^{-1}(x)}{\text{Domain} = \mathbf{Range} \text{ of } f(x)} \\ \text{Range} = \mathbf{Domain} \text{ of } f(x)$$

Example:

a. Find the domain and range of $f(x) = \sqrt{x+2}$

Domain:

Range:

b. Find the inverse of $f(x) = \sqrt{x+2}$

c. Find the domain and range of $f^{-1}(x)$

Domain:

Range:

Composition of Inverse Functions

$$(f^{-1} \circ f)(x) = x \quad \mathbf{AND} \quad (f \circ f^{-1})(x) = x$$

Example: Show that the given functions are inverses of each other.

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x + 5$$

$$f^{-1}(x) = 2x - 10$$