FST 3-4 Notes
Topic: Symmetries of Graphs
GOAL: Review the ideas of reflection and rotation symmetry, apply them to graphs of functions, and to the ideas of even and odd functions.

SPUR Objectives

D Describe the effects of translations on functions and their graphs.

E Describe and identify symmetries and asymptotes of graphs.

I Recognize functions and their properties from their graphs.

Vocabulary

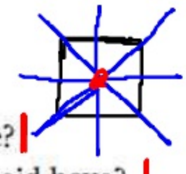
reflection-symmetric
axis of symmetry
line of symmetry
symmetric about a point
point symmetry
even function
odd function

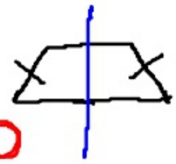
The **line of symmetry** can be any line in the plane.

Center of symmetry for a figure = the center of rotation of 180° under which the figure is mapped onto itself.

Warm-Up

1. How many symmetry lines does a square have? 4
2. How many centers of symmetry does a square have? 1
3. How many symmetry lines does an isosceles trapezoid have? 1
4. How many centers of symmetry does an isosceles trapezoid have? 0





Activity 1

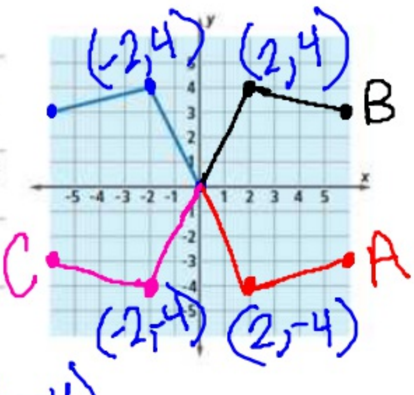
The diagram at the right shows half of a graph.

Step 1 Copy the diagram. Draw the other half of the graph so that the result is point-symmetric about the origin. Label this half *A*.

Step 2 Draw the other half of the original graph so that the result is symmetric with respect to the *y*-axis. Label this half *B*.

Step 3 Draw the other half of the original graph so that it is symmetric over the *x*-axis. Label the graph *C*.

Step 4 What symmetries does the union of graphs *A*, *B*, and *C* and the original graph possess?



The reflection image of (x, y) over the x-axis is $(x,-y)$

The reflection image of (x, y) over the y-axis is $(-x,y)$

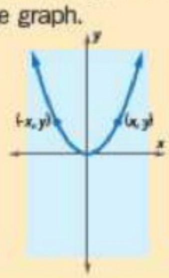
The image of (x, y) under a rotation of 180° about the origin is $(-x,-y)$

The union of these graphs is reflection-symmetric over both axes and point-symmetric about the origin

Symmetries of Graphs

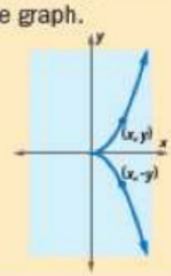
Theorem (Symmetry over y-axis)

A graph is symmetric with respect to the y-axis if and only if for every point (x, y) on the graph, $(-x, y)$ is also on the graph.



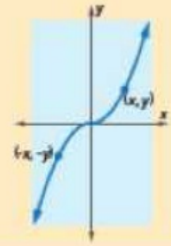
Theorem (Symmetry over x-axis)

A graph is symmetric with respect to the x-axis if and only if for every point (x, y) on the graph, $(x, -y)$ is also on the graph.



Theorem (Symmetry about the Origin)

A graph is symmetric to the origin if and only if for every point (x, y) on the graph, $(-x, -y)$ is also on the graph.



x changes, y same   x same, y changes   x changes, y changes

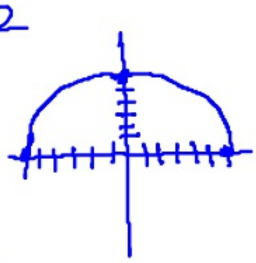
Proving that a graph has symmetry:

Example 1: Prove that the graph of $y = \sqrt{36 - x^2}$ is symmetric to the y-axis.

y-axis: $(x, y) \rightarrow (-x, y)$ $(-x)^2 = x^2$

$\sqrt{36 - x^2} = \sqrt{36 - (-x)^2}$

$\sqrt{36 - x^2} = \sqrt{36 - x^2}$



yes, symmetric to y-axis

Is $y = \sqrt{36 - x^2}$ symmetric with respect to the x-axis? The origin?

X-axis: $(x, y) \rightarrow (x, -y)$

$y = \sqrt{36 - x^2}$ $-y = \sqrt{36 - x^2}$

$y = \sqrt{36 - x^2} \neq y = -\sqrt{36 - x^2}$

No, Not symmetric to x-axis

origin $(x, y) \rightarrow (-x, -y)$

$y = \sqrt{36 - x^2}$ $-y = \sqrt{36 - (-x)^2}$

$y = \sqrt{36 - x^2} \neq y = -\sqrt{36 - x^2}$

Not symmetric to origin

Even and Odd Functions

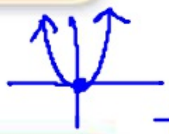
Definition of Even Function

A function is an **even function** if and only if for all values of x in its domain, $f(-x) = f(x)$.

Transformation

$(x, y) \rightarrow (-x, y)$

* An even function has symmetry with respect to the y-axis.



Ex: $y = x^2$

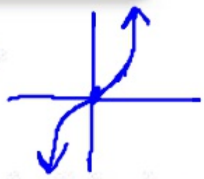
Definition of Odd Function

A function f is an **odd function** if and only if for all values of x in its domain, $f(-x) = -f(x)$.

Transformation

$(x, y) \rightarrow (-x, -y)$

* An odd function has symmetry with respect to the origin.



Ex: $y = x^3$

Example 2: Determine (algebraically, not graphically) whether the function

$f(x) = x^3 - 5x$ is odd, even, or neither.

odd: $f(-x) = -f(x)$

$(-x)^3 - 5(-x) \quad -(x^3 - 5x)$

$-x^3 + 5x = -x^3 + 5x$

yes, odd function

even: $f(-x) = f(x)$

$(-x)^3 - 5(-x) \quad x^3 - 5x$

$-x^3 + 5x \neq x^3 - 5x$

No, Not an even function

Example 3: Consider the function H with $y = H(x) = \dfrac{3}{x-8} + 9.5$

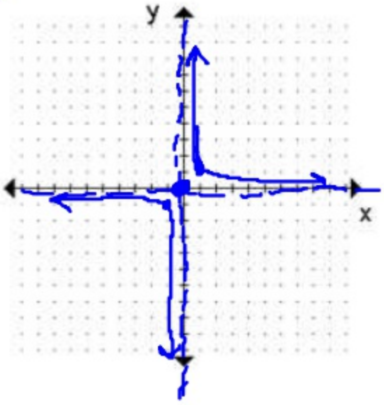
stretch 3
right 8
up 9.5

a. Give equations for the **asymptotes** of its graph.

* Hint: Identify the parent function first!

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

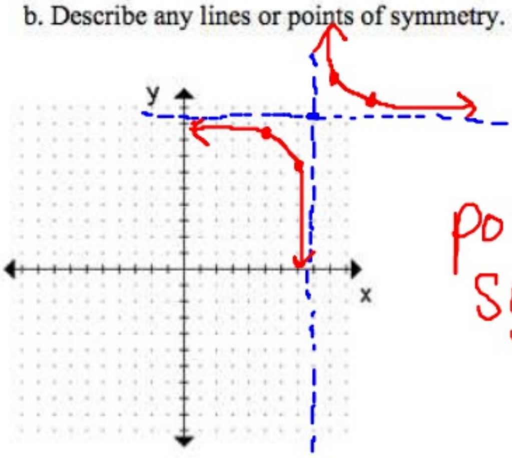
$x = 0$
$y = 0$



Symmetric to the origin
point symmetric about $(0,0)$

b. Describe any lines or points of symmetry.

VA: $x = 8$
HA: $y = 9.5$



point symmetric about $(8, 9.5)$