Section 1.3: Graphing Equations

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Graphs

Graphs

The **graph** of an equation in the variables x and y is the set of all points (x, y) in the plane that satisfy the equation. A point (x, y) will satisfy an equation in x and y if the equation is true when the coordinates of the point are substituted into the equation.

Example Problem 1:

Sketch the graph of the equation y = 3x - 1.

Solution:

Make a table of values and then graph the points from the table.

x	у	(x, y)
-2	3(-2) - 1 = -7	(2,7)
-1	3(-1) - 1 = -4	(-1, -4)
0	3(0) - 1 = -1	(0, -1)
1	3(1) - 1 = 2	(1, 2)
2	3(2) - 1 = 5	(2, 5)



Example Problem 2:

Sketch the graph of the equation $y = x^2 - 4$.

Solution:

Make a table of values and then graph the points from the table.



Example Problem 3:

Sketch the graph of the equation y = |x-1|.

Solution:

Make a table of values and then graph the points from the table.

x	у	(x, y)
-1	-1-1 =2	(-1, 2)
0	0-1 = 1	(0, 1)
1	1-1 =0	(1, 0)
2	2-1 =1	(2, 1)
3	3-1=2	(3, 2)



Additional Example 1:

Determine which of the points (1,-2), (0,-1), (3,3) are on the graph of the equation 1+xy = 2y+3.

Solution:

To determine if the point (1,-2) is on the graph of the equation 1+xy = 2y+3, substitute x = 1 and y = -2 into the equation.

$$1 + xy = 2y + 3$$

?
$$1 + (1)(-2) = 2(-2) + 3$$

?
$$1 + (-2) = -4 + 3$$

$$-1 = -1$$

The point (1,-2) lies on the graph of the equation 1+xy = 2y+3 since for x = 1 and y = -2, LHS = -1 = RHS.

To determine if the point (0,-1) is on the graph of the equation 1+xy=2y+3, substitute x=0 and y=-1 into the equation.

$$1 + xy = 2y + 3$$

?
$$1 + (0)(-1) = 2(-1) + 3$$

?
$$1 + 0 = -2 + 3$$

$$1 = 1$$

The point (0,-1) lies on the graph of the equation 1+xy = 2y+3 since for x = 0 and y = -1, LHS = 1 = RHS.

To determine if the point (3,3) is on the graph of the equation 1+xy = 2y+3, substitute x = 3 and y = 3 into the equation.

$$1 + xy = 2y + 3$$

?
$$1 + (3)(3) = 2(3) + 3$$

?
$$1 + 9 = 6 + 3$$

$$10 \neq 9$$

The point (3,3) does not lie on the graph of the equation 1 + xy = 2y + 3 since for x = 3 and y = 3, LHS = $10 \neq 9 =$ RHS.

Additional Example 2:

Sketch the graph of the equation y = 3x - 2.

Solution:

Make a table of values.

x	y = 3x - 2	(x, y)
-2	3(-2) - 2 = -8	(2,8)
-1	3(-1) - 2 = -5	(-1, -5)
0	3(0) - 2 = -2	(0, -2)
1	3(1) - 2 = 1	(1, 1)
2	3(2) - 2 = 4	(2, 4)

Plot the points shown in the table of values.



The points lie on a line. Sketch the graph by drawing a line through the plotted points.



Additional Example 3:

Sketch the graph of the equation y = |x| + 2.

Solution:

Make a table of values.

x	у	(x, y)
-2	-2 +2=4	(2, 4)
-1	-1 + 2 = 3	(-1, 3)
0	0 +2=2	(0, 2)
1	1 + 2 = 3	(1, 3)
2	2 +2=4	(2, 4)

Plot the points shown in the table of values.



Plot additional points if necessary to sketch the graph.



Additional Example 4:

Sketch the graph of the equation $y = 4 - x^2$.

Solution:

Make a table of values.

x	у	(x, y)
-2	$4 - (-2)^2 = 0$	(2, 0)
-1	$4 - (-1)^2 = 3$	(-1, 3)
0	$4 - 0^2 = 4$	(0, 4)
1	$4 - 1^2 = 3$	(1, 3)
2	$4-2^2=0$	(2, 0)

Plot the points shown in the table of values.



Plot additional points if necessary to sketch the graph.



Intercepts of Graphs

Intercepts of Graphs

An x-intercept of a graph is the x-coordinate of a point where the graph intersects the xaxis. To find the x-intercepts of a graph set y = 0 into the equation of the graph and solve for x.

A *y*-intercept of a graph is the *y*-coordinate of a point where the graph intersect the *y*-axis. To find the *y*-intercepts of a graph set x = 0 into the equation of the graph and solve for *y*.



The graph below has three x-intercepts: -3, 1, and 2

The graph below has two y-intercepts: -2 and 2



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Example Problem: Find the x- and y-intercepts of the graph of the equation $y = 4 - x^2$.

Solution:

Find the x-intercepts by substituting y = 0 into the equation $y = 4 - x^2$ and solving for x.

 $y = 4 - x^{2}$ $0 = 4 - x^{2}$ $x^{2} = 4$ $x = \pm \sqrt{4}$ $x = \pm 2$

The x-intercepts are ± 2 .

Find the y-intercepts by substituting x = 0 into the equation $y = 4 - x^2$ and solving for y. $y = 4 - x^2$ $y = 4 - 0^2$ y = 4

The y-intercept is 4.

The graph is shown below.



Additional Example 1:

Find the x- and y-intercepts of the graph of the equation 2x - 3y = 6.

Solution:

To find the x-intercepts of the graph of the equation, substitute y = 0 into the equation and solve for x.

2x - 3y = 62x - 3(0) = 62x = 6x = 3

To find the y-intercepts of the graph of the equation, substitute x = 0 into the equation and solve for y.

2x - 3y = 62(0) - 3y = 6- 3y = 6y = -2

The x-intercepts is 3 and the y-intercept is -2. The graph of the equation 2x-3y = 6 is shown below.



Additional Example 2:

Find the x- and y-intercepts of the graph of the equation $x = 1 - y^2$.

Solution:

To find the x-intercepts of the graph of the equation, substitute y = 0 into the equation and solve for x.

 $x = 1 - y^2$ $x = 1 - 0^2$ x = 1

To find the y-intercepts of the graph of the equation, substitute x = 0 into the equation and solve for y.

$$x = 1 - y^{2}$$
$$0 = 1 - y^{2}$$
$$y^{2} = 1$$
$$y = \pm \sqrt{1}$$
$$y = \pm 1$$

The x-intercept is 1 and the y-intercepts are -1 and 1. The graph of the equation



Additional Example 3:

Find the x- and y-intercepts of the graph of the equation $y = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 2$.

Solution:

To find the x-intercepts of the graph of the equation, substitute y = 0 into the equation and solve for x.

$$y = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 2$$
$$0 = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 2$$
$$2 = \frac{1}{2}x^2$$
$$4 = x^2$$
$$\pm \sqrt{4} = x$$
$$\pm 2 = x$$

To find the y-intercepts of the graph of the equation, substitute x = 0 into the equation and solve for y.

$$y = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 2$$
$$y = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0^2 - 2$$
$$y = 0 - 2$$
$$y = -2$$

The x-intercepts are 2 and -2 and the y-intercept is -2. The graph of the equation $y = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 2$ is shown below.



Symmetry

Symmetry

If the point (x, -y) is on the graph of an equation whenever the point (x, y) is on the graph, then the graph is symmetric with respect to the x-axis.

If the point (-x, y) is on the graph of an equation whenever the point (x, y) is on the graph, then the graph is symmetric with respect to the y-axis.

If the point (-x, -y) is on the graph of an equation whenever the point (x, y) is on the graph, then the graph is symmetric with respect to the *origin*.

The graph below is symmetric with respect to the x-axis. The part of the graph above the x-axis is the mirror image of the part below the x-axis.



The graph below is symmetric with respect to the y-axis. The part of the graph to the left of the y-axis is the mirror image of the part to the right of the y-axis.



The graph below is symmetric with respect to the origin.



Example Problem:

Test the equation $y = x^4 + 1$ for symmetry with respect to the x-axis, the y-axis and the origin.

Solution:

To check for symmetry with respect to the x-axis, replace y by -y in the equation.

$$y = x^4 + 1$$
$$-y = x^4 + 1$$

The graph is not symmetric with respect to the x-axis since the equation $-y = x^4 + 1$ is not the same as the original equation $y = x^4 + 1$.

To check for symmetry with respect to the y-axis, replace x by -x in the equation.

$$y = x^{4} + 1$$
$$y = (-x)^{4} + 1$$
$$y = x^{4} + 1$$

The graph is symmetric with respect to the y-axis since the original equation is unchanged.

To check for symmetry with respect to the origin, replace x by -x and y by -y in the equation.

 $y = x^4 + 1$ $-y = (-x)^4 + 1$ $-y = x^4 + 1$

The graph is not symmetric with respect to the origin since the equation $-y = x^4 + 1$ is not the same as the original equation $y = x^4 + 1$.

The graph of the equation $y = x^4 + 1$ is shown below.



Additional Example 1:

In the following problem, only part of the graph is given. Complete the graph using the given symmetry.



Solution:

Points on the graph are reflections of each other about the x-axis. The part of the graph below the x-axis is the mirror image of the part above the x-axis.



Additional Example 2:

In the following problem, only part of the graph is given. Complete the graph using the given symmetry.



Solution:

Points on the graph are reflections of each other about the y-axis. The part of the graph to the left of the y-axis is the mirror image of the part to the right of the y-axis.



Additional Example 3:

Test the equation $x^2 + y = 5$ for symmetry with respect to the x-axis, the y-axis, and the origin.

Solution:

To check for symmetry with respect to the x-axis, replace y by -y in the equation.

$$x^{2} + y = 5$$
$$x^{2} + (-y) = 5$$
$$x^{2} - y = 5$$

The graph is not symmetric with respect to the x-axis since the equation $x^2 - y = 5$ is not the same as the original equation $x^2 + y = 5$.

To check for symmetry with respect to the y-axis, replace x by -x in the equation.

$$x^{2} + y = 5$$
$$(-x)^{2} + y = 5$$
$$x^{2} + y = 5$$

The graph is symmetric with respect to the y-axis since the original equation is unchanged.

To check for symmetry with respect to the origin, replace x by -x and y by -y in the equation.

$$x^{2} + y = 5$$
$$(-x)^{2} + (-y) = 5$$
$$x^{2} - y = 5$$

The graph is not symmetric with respect to the origin since the equation $x^2 - y = 5$ is not the same as the original equation $x^2 + y = 5$.

The graph of the equation $x^2 + y = 5$ is shown below.



Additional Example 4:

Test the equation $y = x^3 + x$ for symmetry with respect to the x-axis, the y-axis, and the origin.

Solution:

To check for symmetry with respect to the x-axis, replace y by -y in the equation.

$$y = x^3 + x$$
$$-y = x^3 + x$$

The graph is not symmetric with respect to the x-axis since the equation $-y = x^3 + x$ is not the same as the original equation $y = x^3 + x$.

To check for symmetry with respect to the y-axis, replace x by -x in the equation.

$$y = x^{3} + x$$
$$y = (-x)^{3} + (-x)$$
$$y = -x^{3} - x$$

The graph is not symmetric with respect to the y-axis since the equation $y = -x^3 - x$ is not the same as the original equation $y = x^3 + x$.

To check for symmetry with respect to the origin, replace x by -x and y by -y in the equation.

 $y = x^{3} + x$ $-y = (-x)^{3} + (-x)$ $-y = -x^{3} - x$ $y = x^{3} + x$

The graph is symmetric with respect to the origin since the original equation is unchanged.

The graph of the equation $y = x^3 + x$ is shown below.



Circles

Circles

A circle is the set of all points P(x, y) in the planes that are at a fixed distance r from a fixed point C(h, k). The number r is called the **radius** of the circle. The point C(h, k) is called the **center** of the circle.

The equation of a circle in standard form is given by $(x-h)^2 + (y-k)^2 = r^2.$



Example Problem 1: Find an equation of the circle with radius 2 and center (-1, 3). Sketch the graph.

Solution:

Substitute r = 2, h = -1, and k = 3 into the standard form of the equation of a circle.

$$(x-(-1))^{2} + (y-3)^{2} = 2^{2}$$
$$(x+1)^{2} + (y-3)^{2} = 4$$



Example Problem 2: The equation $x^2 + y^2 - 6x + 10y - 2 = 0$ represents a circle. Find its center and radius.

Solution:

Group the x terms and y terms. $(x^2 - 6x^-) + (y^2 + 10y^-) = 2$ Complete the square for $x^2 - 6x$ by adding $\left(\frac{1}{2}(-6)\right)^2 = (-3)^2 = 9$. Complete the square for $y^2 + 10y$ by adding $\left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot 10\right)^2 = 5^2 = 25$. $(x^2 - 6x + 9) + (y^2 + 10y + 25) = 2 + 9 + 25$ $(x - 3)^2 + (y + 5)^2 = 36$

The center is (3, -5) and the radius is 6.

Additional Example 1:

The graph of the equation $(x+1)^2 + (y-1)^2 = 4$ is a circle. Identify the center and radius and sketch the graph.

Solution:

The equation of a circle in standard form is given by $(x-h)^2 + (y-k)^2 = r^2$, where the center is the point (h,k) and the radius is r.

Rewrite the given equation in standard form.

$$(x+1)^{2} + (y-1)^{2} = 4$$
$$(x - (-1))^{2} + (y-1)^{2} = 2^{2}$$

We see that h = -1, k = 1, and r = 2. Thus, the center is the point (-1, 1) and the radius is 2.

To sketch the graph, begin by plotting the points (-3,1), (-1,3), (1,1), and (-1,-1). These points lie on the circle since the distance between these points and the point (-1, 1), the center of the circle, is 2.

The graph is shown below.



Additional Example 2:

Write an equation of the circle with center (-3, -2) and radius 4.

Solution:

The equation of a circle in standard form is given by $(x-h)^2 + (y-k)^2 = r^2$, where (h,k) is the center and r is the radius. To find an equation of the circle with center (-3, -2) and radius 4, substitute h = -3, k = -2, and r = 4 into the standard form.

$$(x-h)^{2} + (y-k)^{2} = r^{2}$$
$$(x-(-3))^{2} + (y-(-2))^{2} = 4^{2}$$
$$(x+3)^{2} + (y+2)^{2} = 16$$

Additional Example 3:

Find an equation of the circle that satisfies the conditions that the endpoints of a diameter are (-6, 7) and (4, 5).

Solution:

The center of the circle is the midpoint of the line segment connecting the points (-6, 7) and (4, 5).



To find the center of the circle, substitute $x_1 = -6$, $y_1 = 7$, $x_2 = 4$, and $y_2 = 5$ into the midpoint formula.

Center =
$$\left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2}\right)$$

= $\left(\frac{-6 + 4}{2}, \frac{7 + 5}{2}\right)$
= $\left(\frac{-2}{2}, \frac{12}{2}\right)$
= $\left(-1, 6\right)$

The radius of the circle is one-half the distance between the points (-6,7) and (4,5).



To find the radius substitute $x_1 = -6$, $y_1 = 7$, $x_2 = 4$, and $y_2 = 5$ into the distance formula and multiply the result by $\frac{1}{2}$.

$$r = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

= $\frac{1}{2} \cdot \sqrt{(4 - (-6))^2 + (5 - 7)^2}$
= $\frac{1}{2} \cdot \sqrt{(4 + 6)^2 + (-2)^2}$
= $\frac{1}{2} \cdot \sqrt{(10)^2 + 4}$
= $\frac{1}{2} \cdot \sqrt{100 + 4}$
= $\frac{1}{2} \cdot \sqrt{104}$
= $\frac{1}{2} \cdot 2\sqrt{26}$
= $\sqrt{26}$

The center of the circle is the point (-1, 6) and the radius is $\sqrt{26}$. Substitute h = -1, k = 6, and $r = \sqrt{26}$ into the standard form for the equation of a circle.

$$(x-h)^{2} + (y-k)^{2} = r^{2}$$
$$(x-(-1))^{2} + (y-6)^{2} = \left(\sqrt{26}\right)^{2}$$
$$(x+1)^{2} + (y-6)^{2} = 26$$

Additional Example 4:

The equation $x^2 + y^2 + 6x - 2y - 1 = 0$ represents a circle. Put the equation in standard form and identify the center and the radius.

Solution:

Group the x-terms and the y-terms.

$$\left(\begin{array}{c}x^2+6x\end{array}\right)+\left(\begin{array}{c}y^2-2y\end{array}\right)=1$$

Complete the square for $x^2 + 6x$ by adding $\left[\frac{1}{2} \cdot 6\right]^2 = 3^2 = 9$. Complete the square for $y^2 - 2y$ by adding $\left[\frac{1}{2}(-2)\right]^2 = (-1)^2 = 1$.

$$(x^{2}+6x+9)+(y^{2}-2y+1)=1+9+1$$

 $(x+3)^{2}+(y-1)^{2}=11$

Put the equation in the form $(x-h)^2 + (y-k)^2 = r^2$ to find the center (h,k) and the radius r.

$$(x - (-3))^{2} + (y - 1)^{2} = \left(\sqrt{11}\right)^{2}$$

The center of the circle is (-3, 1) and the radius is $\sqrt{11}$.

Determine which of the following points are on the graph of the given equation.

- 1. x + y = 5; (1, 4), (3, -7), $\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{7}{2}\right)$ 2. 2x - y = 7; (0, -5), (-3, -13), $\left(\frac{5}{2}, -2\right)$ 3. xy - x + 3y = 7; (2, -5), (-1, 3), $\left(6, \frac{2}{3}\right)$ 4. $x^2 - y^2 = x + y;$ (3, 2), (5, 4), (-7, -6) 5. $x^2y(3 + 2xy) = x + 5;$ (1, 1), (-2, 3), (-5,0)
- **6.** $-2y(x^2 xy) = 40;$ (4, -1), (-3, -2), (3, -5)

Sketch the graphs of the following equations by plotting points.

7. y = 2x-58. y = -3x+49. y = |x+3|10. y = |x|-511. $y = \sqrt{x}$ 12. $y = x^2 + 1$ 13. $y = 3 - x^2$ 14. $y = x^3$ 15. $y = \frac{12}{x}$ 16. $y = -\frac{8}{x}$

Find the *x*- and *y*-intercepts of the graph of each of the following equations.

- **17.** y = 4x 5
- **18.** y = -3x 7
- **19.** 5x + 2y = 20
- **20.** 3x 4y = -24
- **21.** $y = x^2 16$
- **22.** $x = 25 y^2$

23.
$$y = \frac{7}{x}$$

24. $xy = 6$
25. $y = x^2 + 9$
26. $y = \sqrt{x+3}$
27. $x^2 + y^2 = 25$
28. $4x^2 - y^2 = 9$
29. $x^2 + 2xy + 3y = 12$
30. $4x^2 - 5xy + 3y = 36$

In the following questions, only part of the graph is given. Complete each graph using the given symmetry.



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Test the following equations for symmetry with respect to the *x*-axis, the *y*-axis, and the origin.

35.
$$y = x^{2} + x^{4}$$

36. $x = y^{2} + y^{4}$
37. $y = 5x^{3}$
38. $y = \frac{10}{x}$
39. $5x + x^{2}y^{4} = y^{2}$
40. $x^{2} + y^{2} = xy$
41. $y = 3x^{2} + 5x$
42. $x^{2} + y^{2} = 25y$
43. $|x| + 3y = 5$
44. $3x - 7|y| = 4$

For each of the following equations:

- (a) Test the equation for symmetry.
- (b) Find and plot the intercepts.
- (c) Plot a few intermediate points in order to complete the graph. (Keep symmetry in mind to minimize the length of this step.)

45.
$$y = x^2 - 4$$

46. $y = 5 - x^2$

47.
$$y = \sqrt{9 - x^2}$$

48. $y = -\sqrt{25 - x^2}$

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49.
$$y = x^3 - 4x$$

50.
$$y = |x| + 3$$

The following equations represent circles. Identify the center and radius of each circle.

51.
$$(x-3)^2 + (y+5)^2 = 49$$

52. $(x+7)^2 + (y-1)^2 = 81$
53. $x^2 + (y-6)^2 = 28$
54. $(x+8)^2 + y^2 = 23$

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Identify the center and radius, and then sketch the graph of the equation.

55.
$$x^{2} + y^{2} = 36$$

56. $x^{2} + y^{2} = 17$
57. $(x-2)^{2} + (y+3)^{2} = 10$
58. $(x+2)^{2} + (y-4)^{2} = 4$

Write an equation of the circle that satisfies the given conditions.

- **59.** Center (-4, -3); radius 5
- **60.** Center (7, 0); radius 3
- **61.** Center (-2, 5); radius $\sqrt{7}$
- **62.** Center at the origin; radius $2\sqrt{3}$
- **63.** Endpoints of a diameter are (-3, 6) and (5, 2)
- **64.** Endpoints of a diameter are (5, -3) and (-9, 11)
- **65.** Center (2, 5); passes through (-6, 4)
- **66.** Center (-3, 1); passes through (5, -2)
- **67.** Center (-2,4); tangent to the *x*-axis.
- **68.** Center (3, -1); tangent to the *y*-axis.

Write an equation for each of the following circles.



Show that the following equations represent circles by writing them in standard form: .2

$$(x-h)^2 + (y-k)^2 = r$$

Then identify the center and radius of the circle.

71.
$$x^{2} + y^{2} + 4x - 12y - 9 = 0$$

72. $x^{2} + y^{2} - 2x + 8y - 20 = 0$
73. $x^{2} + y^{2} - 10y + 1 = 0$
74. $x^{2} + y^{2} - 14x + 39 = 0$
75. $x^{2} + y^{2} + x - 6y + 7 = 0$

76.
$$x^2 + y^2 - \frac{1}{3}x + \frac{1}{3}y - \frac{7}{36} = 0$$