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**VCE Specialist Mathematics ½**  
**Modulus & Partial Fractions [1.1]**  
**Workbook**

**Outline:**

<b>Modulus Functions</b>	Pg 2-8	<b>Partial Fractions</b>	Pg 19-25
➤ Solving Modulus Equations		➤ Introduction to Partial Fractions	
➤ Solving Modulus Inequalities		➤ Case 1	
<b>Graphing Modulus Functions</b>	Pg 9-18	➤ Case 2	
➤ Solving Modulus Functions		➤ Case 3	
➤ Graphing Composite of Modulus Functions			

## Section A: Modulus Functions

*What is a Modulus Function?*

### Modulus functions

► Definition:

$$f(x) = |x| = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

► Is a hybrid function.

► Purpose: Always return a non-negative number.

► Range:  $[0, \infty)$ .

### Question 1

Evaluate the following:

a.  $|-7|$

$$= -(-7)$$

$$= 7$$

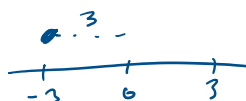
b.  $|3^2 - 2(3) - 2| = |9 - 6 - 2| = |1| = 1$

Discussion: What's the point of modulus?



*negative*

*(size)*



Exploration: Alternative definition of modulus functions



➤ What happens when you square  $-2$  and square root it?

$$-2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 2$$

➤ So, what is squaring a number and then square rooting it the same as?

$$\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$$

Alternative definition of Modulus Functions



$$\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$$

**NOTE:** Important not to forget the modulus in the exams!



Space for Personal Notes

## Sub-Section: Solving Modulus Equations

**Discussion:** How do we solve for modulus equations like  $|f(x)| = 2$ ?

$$f(x) = \pm 2$$



### Solving equations involving modulus functions



$$|f(x)| = b$$

$$f(x) = \pm b$$

#### ► Interpretation:

☞ The size of  $f(x)$  equals to  $b$ .

☞  $f(x)$  can be either  $b$  or  $-b$

#### Question 2 Walkthrough.

Solve the following equation below.

$$|x - 3| = 2$$

$$x - 3 = 2 \quad \text{or} \quad x - 3 = -2$$

$$x = 5 \quad \text{or} \quad x = 1$$

*Your turn!*



**Question 3**

Solve the following equations for  $x$ :

a.  $|x + 2| = 5$

$$\begin{array}{ll} x + 2 = 5 & \text{or} \quad x + 2 = -5 \\ x = 3 & \text{or} \quad x = -7 \end{array}$$

b.  $|3 - \sqrt{x}| = 1$

$$\begin{array}{ll} 3 - \sqrt{x} = 1 & \text{or} \quad 3 - \sqrt{x} = -1 \\ \sqrt{x} = 2 & \text{or} \quad \sqrt{x} = 4 \\ x = 4 & \text{or} \quad x = 16 \end{array}$$

**TIP:** Check your solutions by substituting it back into the equation!



## Sub-Section: Solving Modulus Inequalities

*How far is the number 5 from 2?*

**Discussion:** What does  $|5 - 2|$  equal to? What does this mean?

$$|5 - 2| = 3 \quad \text{Distance of 3 bt. 5 and 2}$$

$$|2 - 5| = 3$$

**Exploration:** Solving modulus inequalities

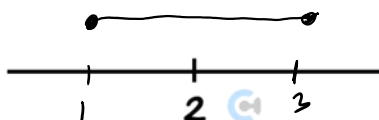
► Understanding:

$$|x - 2| = \text{distance between } x \text{ and } 2$$

► Interpretation:

$$|x - 2| \leq 1 \rightarrow \text{distance between } x \text{ and } 2 \text{ is [less] / [greater] than or equal to } 1$$

► Solving: Use the number line below to solve  $|x - 2| \leq 1$ .



$$x \in [1, 3]$$

Space for Personal Notes



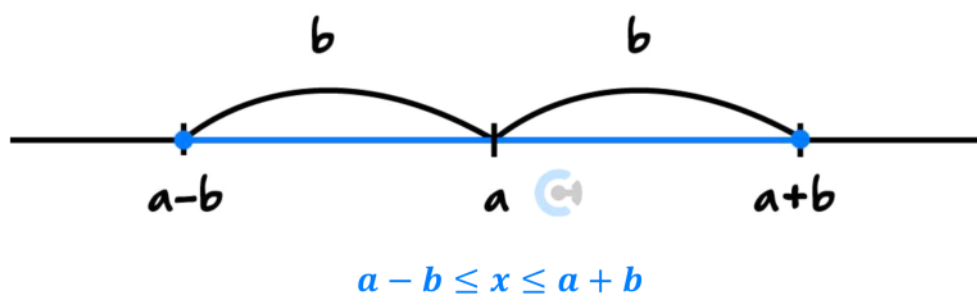
### Solving modulus inequalities

$$|x - a| \leq b$$

► Interpretation:

$x$  has a distance from ' $a$ ' that is less than or equal to ' $b$ '

► Visualise:



TIP: Always sketch a number line!

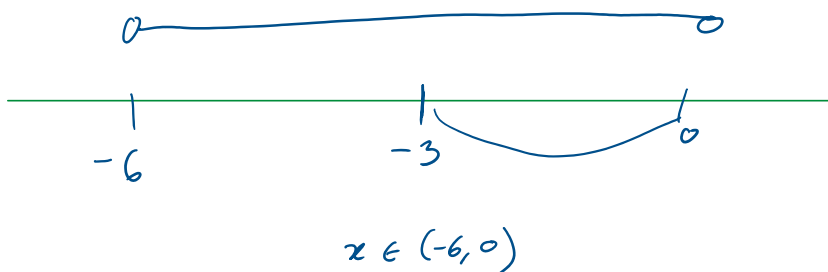


### Question 4 Walkthrough.

Solve the following inequality.

$$|x + 3| < 3$$

$$|x - (-3)| < 3$$



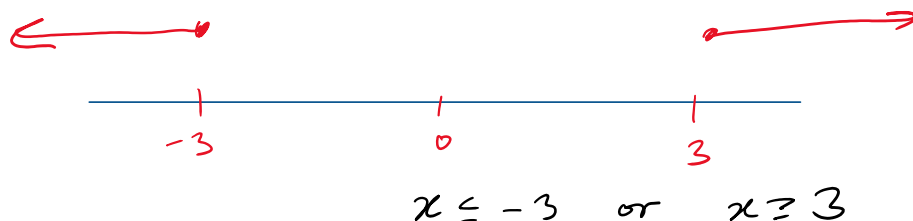


Question 5

Solve each of the following inequalities for  $x$ :

a.  $|x| \geq 3$

$$|x - 0| \geq 3$$

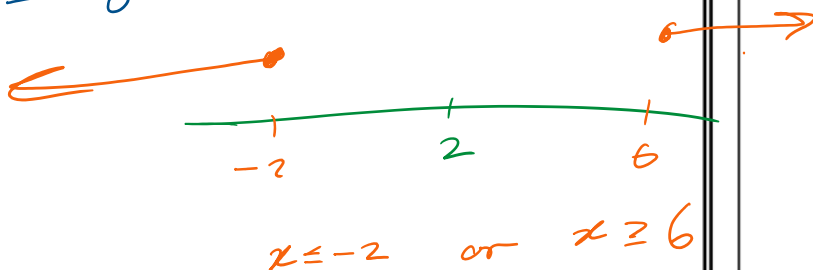


b.  $|2x - 4| - 3 \geq 5$

$$|2x - 4| \geq 8$$

$$2|x - 2| \geq 8$$

$$|x - 2| \geq 4$$



Key Takeaways

- ✓ Modulus finds a size of things.
- ✓  $|a - b|$  is a distance between  $a$  and  $b$ .
- ✓  $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$
- ✓ For simple modulus equations, remove modulus and put  $\pm$ .

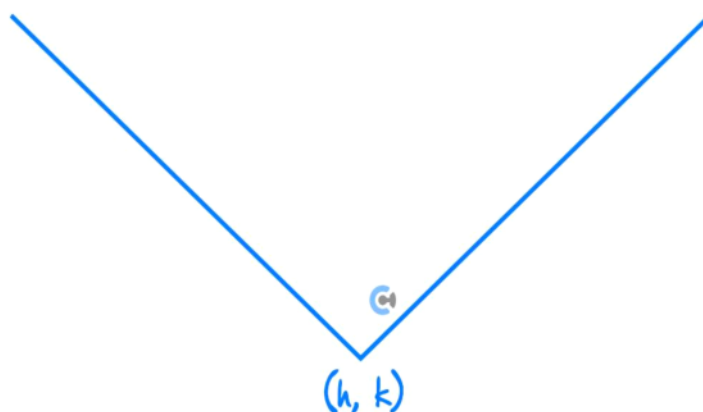


**Section B: Graphing Modulus Functions**

**Sub-Section: Sketching Modulus Functions**

*Let's now consider the graph of Modulus Functions!*

Graph of the modulus function



► General form:

$$y = a|x - h| + k$$

► Vertex is at  $(h, k)$ .

► Hybrid form:

$$y = \begin{cases} a(x - h) + k, & x \geq h \\ -a(x - h) + k, & x < h \end{cases}$$

Space for Personal Notes

**Question 6 Walkthrough.**

Consider the function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f(x) = 2|x - 1| - 2$ .

a. Find the vertex.

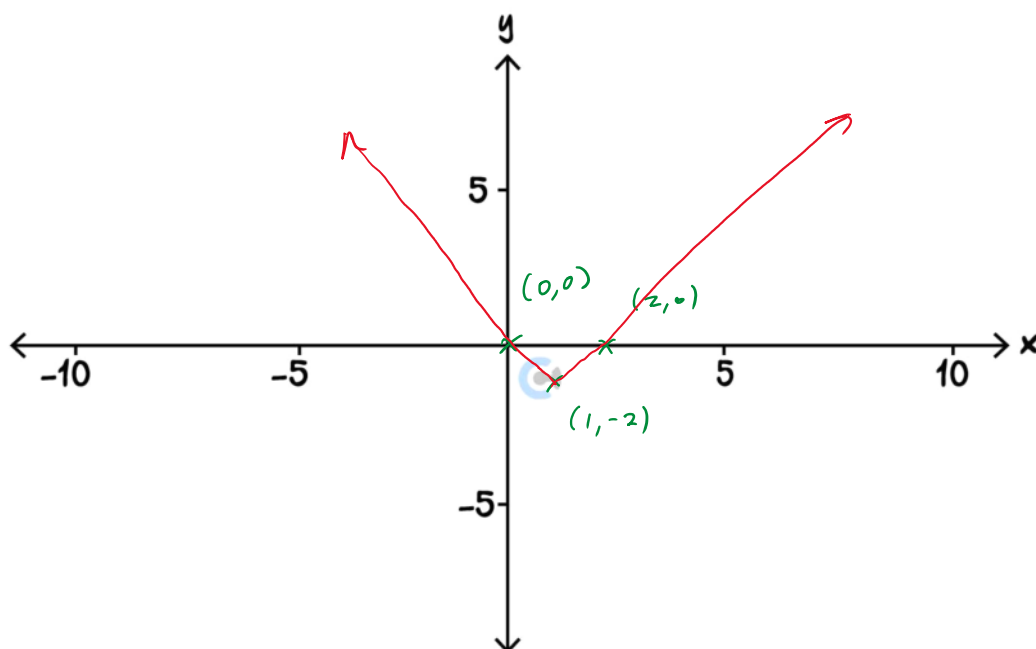
$(1, -2)$

b. Find the axes intercepts.

x-int  $y = 0$   
 $0 = 2|x - 1| - 2$   
 $|x - 1| = 1$   $(0, 0)$   
 $x - 1 = \pm 1$   $(2, 0)$   
 $x = 0, 2$

y-int  $x = 0$   
 $f(0) = 2|0 - 1| - 2$   
 $= 0$   
 $(0, 0)$

c. Sketch the graph of  $y = f(x)$ . Label all axes intercepts and the vertex.



**TIP:** Think of modulus functions as a "Straightened quadratic".



**Question 7**

Consider the function  $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $g(x) = -3|x + 2| + 6$ .

- a. Find the vertex.

$$(-2, 6)$$

- b. Find the axes intercept(s).

$$\underline{x\text{-int}} \quad y = 0$$

$$-3|x + 2| + 6 = 0$$

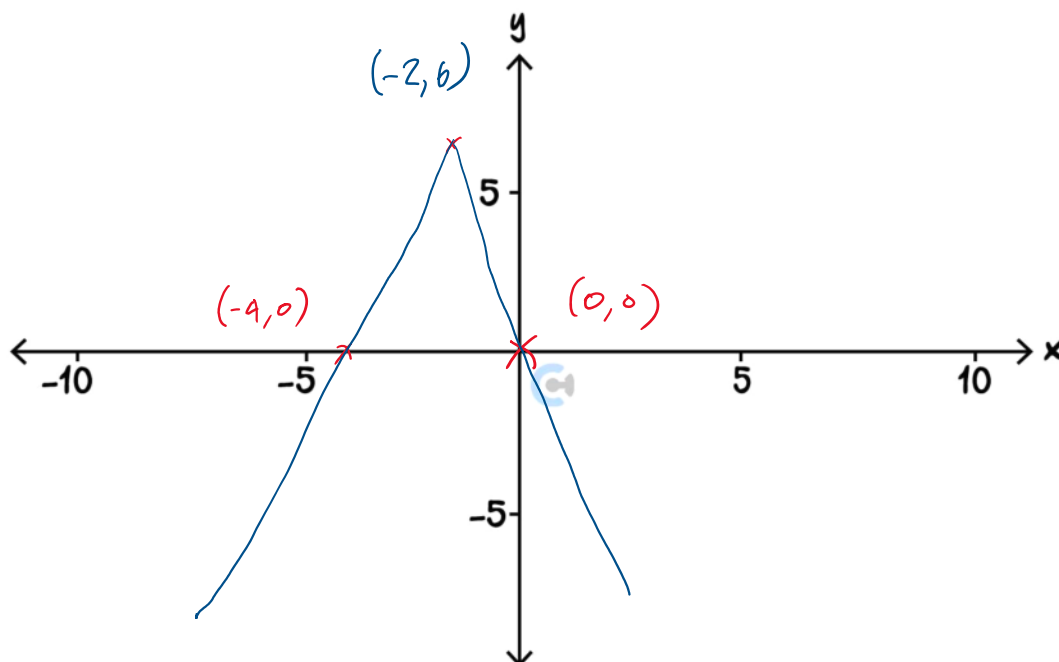
$$(0, 0)$$

$$|x + 2| = 2$$

$$x + 2 = \pm 2, \quad x = -4, 0$$

$$(-4, 0)$$

- c. Sketch the graph of  $y = g(x)$ . Label all axes intercepts and the vertex.



## Sub-Section: Graphing Composite of Modulus Functions

REMINDER: Don't forget!

- ▶  $|-6| = 6$  ✓
  - ▶  $|6| = 6$  ✓
- } +ve

Discussion: Could  $|f(x)|$  be negative? <sup>No</sup> Hence what does the graph of  $|f(x)|$  look like?

- ▶ The output of  $y = |f(x)|$  must be:  $\geq 0$  can't be negative

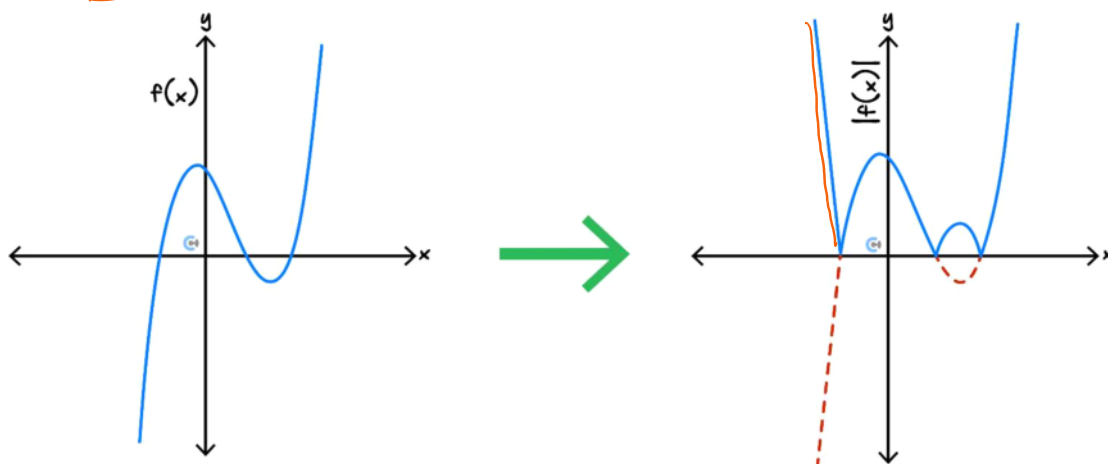
$$|f(x)| = \begin{cases} f(x) & , f(x) \geq 0 \\ -f(x) & , f(x) < 0 \end{cases}$$

### Graphs of composite modulus functions

- ▶ Modulus is the Outer Function.

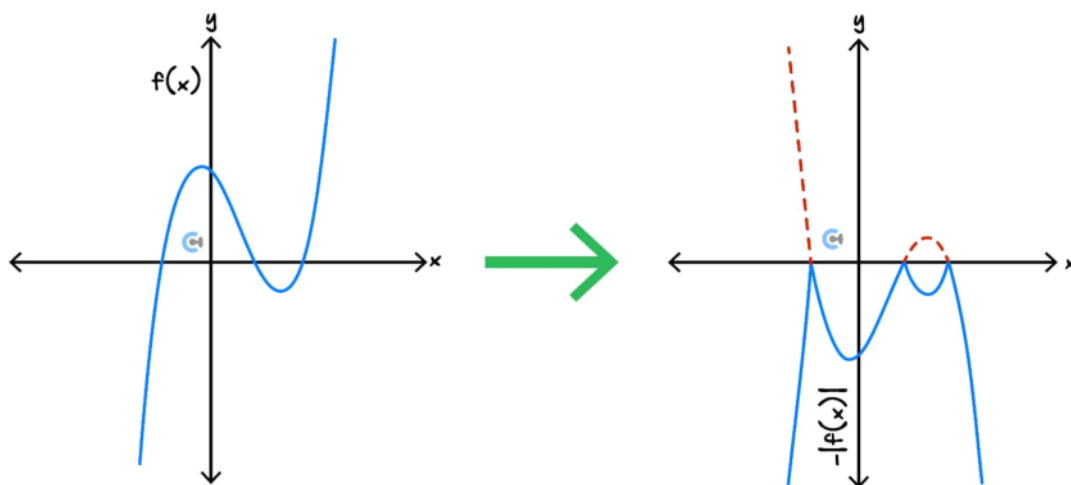
$$y = |f(x)|$$

- ▶ All negative y values are flipped to be positive.



$$y = -|f(x)|$$

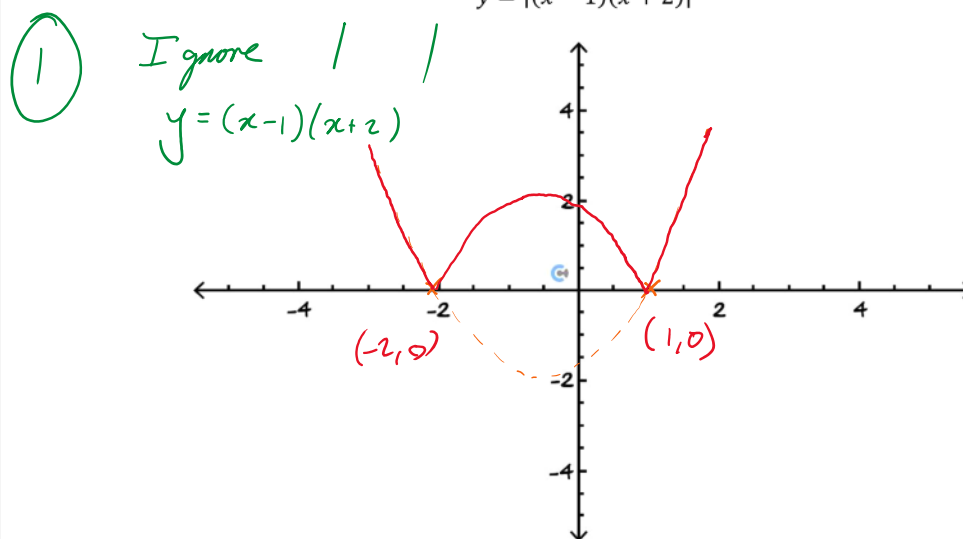
The graph of  $y = |f(x)|$  has undergone a reflection in the  $[x\text{-axis}]$  /  $[y\text{-axis}]$



### Question 8 Walkthrough.

Sketch the following graph over the specified domain. Label all key intercepts.

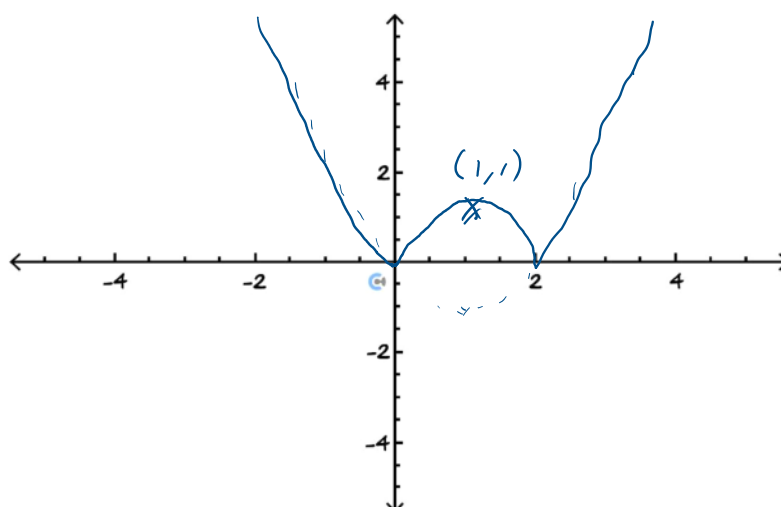
$$y = |(x - 1)(x + 2)|$$



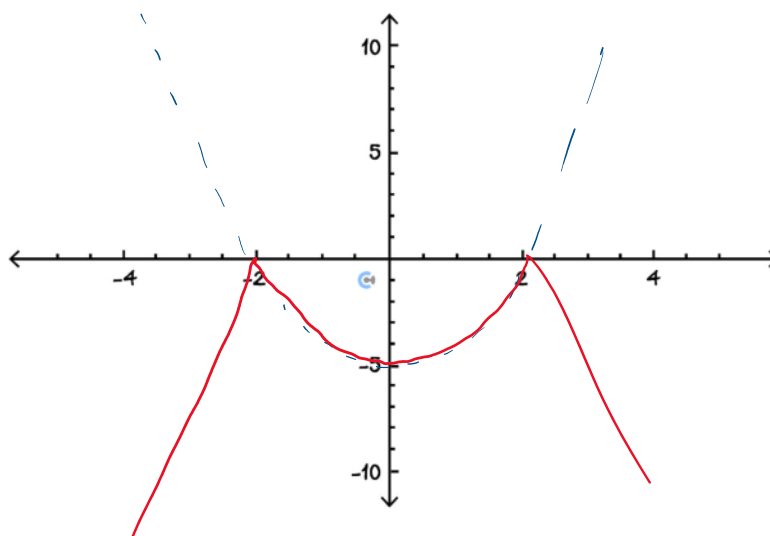
**Question 9**

Sketch the following graphs over the specified domain. Label all key intercepts.

a.  $y = |(x - 1)^2 - 1|$



b.  $y = -|(x + 2)(x - 2)|$





**Discussion:** What would happen if  $f(x)$  turned into  $f(|x|)$ ?

- $f$  will always take a [positive] / [negative] value, even if the  $x$  value is negative.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} x & \rightarrow & |x| & \rightarrow & f(|x|) \\ \text{(anything)} & & [0, \infty) & & \uparrow \\ & & & & [0, \infty) \end{array}$$

► At:

$$\begin{array}{l} x = -2: f(|-2|) = f(2) \\ x = 2: f(|2|) = f(2) \end{array}$$



**Discussion:** Since  $f(|-2|) = f(|2|)$ , where is  $f(|x|)$  symmetrical about?

*y-axis*

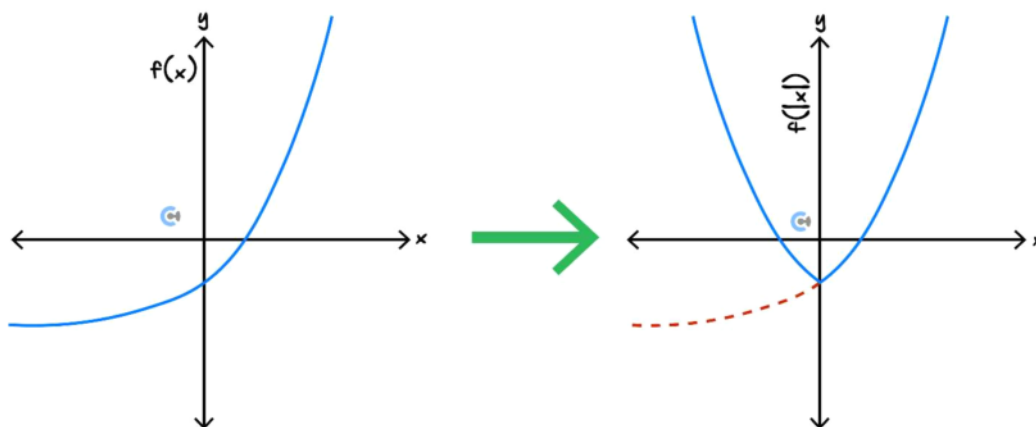


### Graphs of composite modulus functions

- Modulus is the Inside Function

$$y = f(|x|)$$

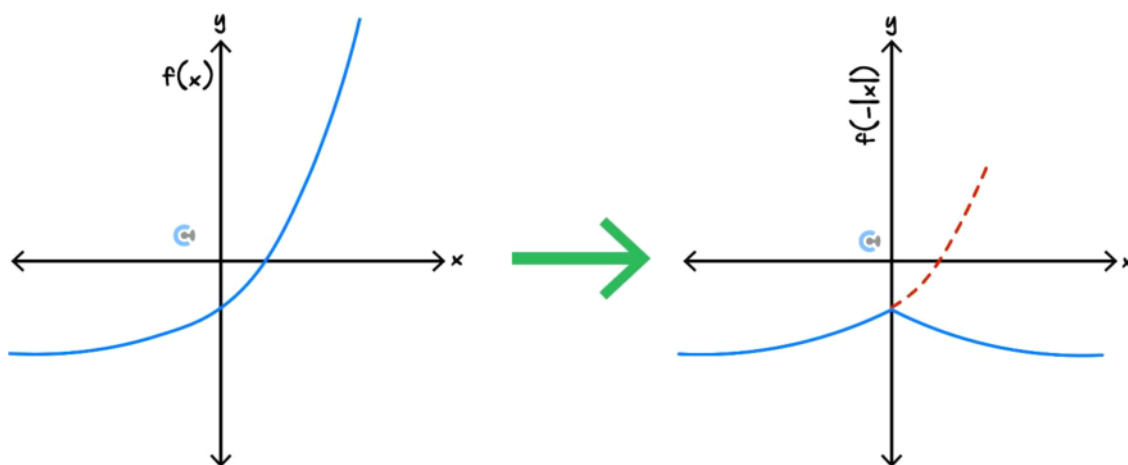
- Take the positive side and flip it to the other side.





Take the negative side and flip it to the other side.

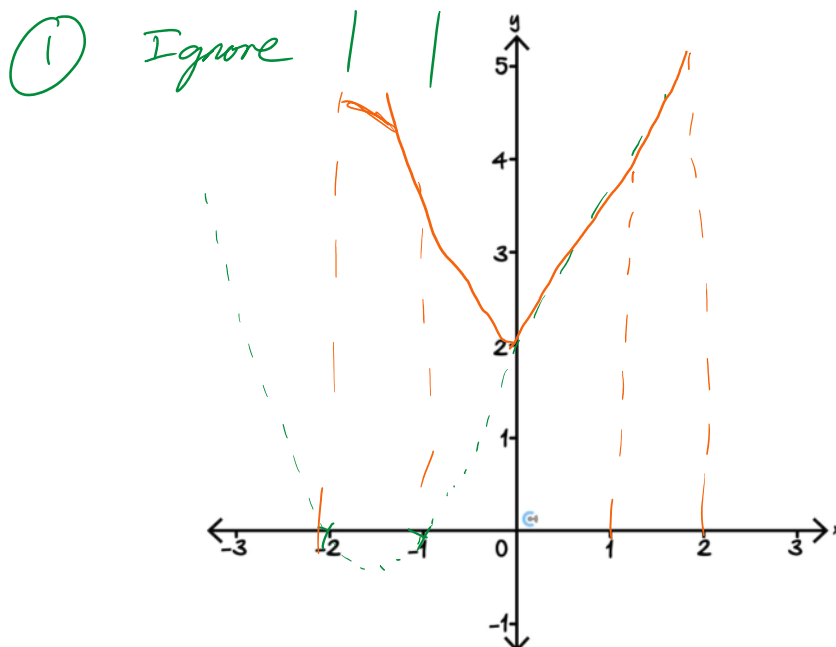
$$y = f(-|x|)$$



### Question 10 Walkthrough.

Sketch the graph below.

$$y = f(|x|), \text{ where } f(x) = (x + 1)(x + 2)$$

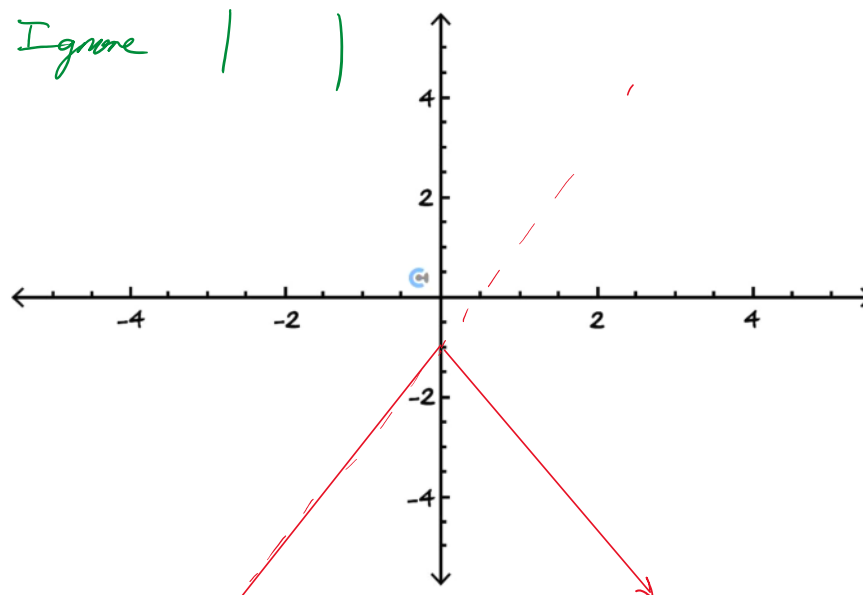


Question 11

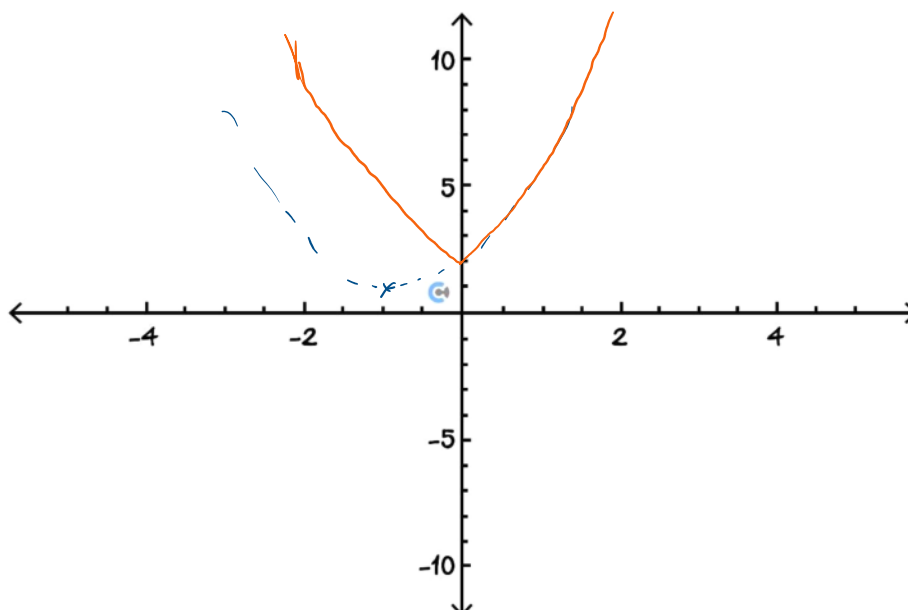
Sketch the graph below.

a.  $y = f(-|x|)$ , where  $f(x) = 2x - 1$ .

① Ignore | |



b.  $y = f(|x|)$ , where  $f(x) = (x + 1)^2 + 1$ .





### Key Takeaways

- ✓ Graph of a simple modulus graph  $a|x - h| + k$  is like a straightened quadratic.
- ✓ Wrapping modulus around the function makes the  $y$  value always non negative.
- ✓ Wrapping the modulus around the  $x$  value makes the function symmetrical around the  $y$ -axis.
- ✓  $f(|x|)$  take the RHS and make it symmetrical about the  $y$ -axis.
- ✓  $f(-|x|)$  take the LHS and make it symmetrical about the  $y$ -axis.

Space for Personal Notes

## Section C: Partial Fractions

### Sub-Section: Introduction to Partial Fractions

Discussion: What are partial fractions?

Splitting up fractions

$$\frac{\Delta}{\square \square \square} = \frac{\square}{\square} + \frac{\square}{\square} + \frac{\square}{\square}$$

### Partial fractions

► The rules for partial fractions:

For every factor of this form in the denominator of the function...	There will be partial fraction(s) of this form:
Linear factors: $\frac{1}{(ax+b)(cx+d)}$	$= \frac{A}{ax+b} + \frac{B}{cx+d}$
Repeated linear factor: $\frac{1}{(cx+d)^n}$	$\frac{A}{cx+d} + \frac{B}{(cx+d)^2} + \dots + \frac{Z}{(cx+d)^n}$
Irreducible quadratic: $\frac{1}{(ax^2+bx+c)}$	$= \frac{Dx+E}{ax^2+bx+c}$

► Must do long division before using any of the rules above.

Sub-Section: Case 1

Let's consider when we have two linear factors in the denominator!

Question 12 Walkthrough.

Perform partial fraction decomposition for  $f(x) = \frac{2x-1}{(x-3)(x+2)}$ .

$$\cancel{x(x-3)(x+2)} \left( \frac{2x-1}{(x-3)(x+2)} \right) = \left( \frac{A}{x-3} + \frac{B}{x+2} \right)$$

$$2x-1 = A(x+2) + B(x-3)$$

Let  $x = -2$ ,

$$-5 = A(\cancel{x}) + B(-5)$$

$$B = 1$$

Let  $x = 3$

$$5 = A(5) + B(\cancel{x-3})$$

$$A = 1$$

$$\therefore \frac{2x-1}{(x-3)(x+2)} = \frac{1}{x-3} + \frac{1}{x+2}$$

NOTE: ALWAYS factorise the denominator by its factors first!

Question 13

Perform partial fraction decomposition for the following functions.

a.  $\frac{4x+2}{(x-1)(x-5)}$

$$\frac{4x+2}{(x-1)(x-5)} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{B}{x-5} = -\frac{3}{2(x-1)} + \frac{11}{2(x-5)}$$

$$4x+2 = A(x-5) + B(x-1)$$

Let  $x = 5,$

$$22 = 4B,$$

$$B = \frac{11}{2}$$

Let  $x = 1$

$$6 = -4A,$$

$$A = -\frac{3}{2}$$

b.  $\frac{5x+6}{x(x-3)}$

$$\frac{5x+6}{x(x-3)} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x-3} = \frac{-2}{x} + \frac{7}{x-3}$$

$$5x+6 = A(x-3) + Bx$$

$$= Ax - 3A + Bx$$

$$5x+6 = (A+B)x - 3A$$

$$A+B=5$$

$$-3A=6 \Rightarrow A=-2$$

$$B=7$$

Sub-Section: Case 2

How about repeated linear factors?

Question 14 Walkthrough.

Perform partial fraction decomposition for  $f(x) = \frac{3x^2 - 7x + 4}{x(x-2)^2}$ .

$$x(x-2)^2 \left( \frac{3x^2 - 7x + 4}{x(x-2)^2} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x-2} + \frac{C}{(x-2)^2} \right)$$

$$3x^2 - 7x + 4 = A(x-2)^2 + Bx(x-2) + Cx$$

Let  $x=0$

$$4 = A(-2)^2 + 0 + 0$$

$$A = 1$$

Let  $x=2$

$$12 - 14 + 4 = 0 + 0 + 2C$$

$$C = 1$$

Let  $A=1, C=1, x=1$

$$3 - 7 + 4 = 1(-1)^2 + B(1)(-1) + 1$$

$$0 = 1 - B + 1$$

$$B = 2$$

$$\therefore \frac{3x^2 - 7x + 4}{x(x-2)^2} = \frac{1}{x} + \frac{2}{x-2} + \frac{1}{(x-2)^2}$$

**NOTE:** When a linear factor is repeated, we repeat the splitting by that power.

Question 15

Perform partial fraction decomposition for the following functions.

a.  $\frac{4}{(x-1)(x+1)^2} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{B}{x+1} + \frac{C}{(x+1)^2}$

$$\begin{aligned} 4 &= A(x+1)^2 + B(x-1)(x+1) + C(x-1) \\ &= A(x^2+2x+1) + B(x^2-1) + C(x-1) \\ &= Ax^2 + 2Ax + A + Bx^2 - B + Cx - C \\ &= (A+B)x^2 + (2A+C)x + (A-B-C) \end{aligned}$$

$A+B=0$

$2A+C=0 \rightarrow C=-2A$

$A-B-C=4 \rightarrow A-B+2A=4$   
 $B=3A-4$

$\frac{1}{x-1} - \frac{1}{x+1} - \frac{2}{(x+1)^2}$

$A+3A-4=0$

$A=1$

$C=-2$

$B=-1$

b.  $\frac{8x+8}{(x-1)(x+3)^2}$

$\frac{8x+8}{(x-1)(x+3)^2} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{B}{x+3} + \frac{C}{(x+3)^2} = \frac{1}{x-1} - \frac{1}{x+3} + \frac{4}{(x+3)^2}$

$8x+8 = A(x+3)^2 + B(x-1)(x+3) + C(x-1)$

Let  $x=1$

$16 = 16A$   
 $A=1$

Let  $x=-3$

$-16 = -4C$   
 $C=4$

Let  $x=0, A=1, C=4$

$8 = 3^2 - 3B - 4$

$8 = 9 - 4 - 3B$

$-3B = 3$

$B=-1$



Sub-Section: Case 3

Finally, non-factorisable quadratic factors!

Question 16 Walkthrough.

Perform partial fraction decomposition for  $f(x) = \frac{2x^2}{(x-1)(x^2+1)}$ .

$$(x-1)(x^2+1) \left( \frac{2x^2}{(x-1)(x^2+1)} = \frac{A}{x-1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+1} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{x-1} + \frac{x+1}{x^2+1}$$

$$2x^2 = A(x^2+1) + (Bx+C)(x-1)$$

$$= Ax^2 + A + Bx^2 - Bx + Cx - C$$

$$2x^2 = (A+B)x^2 + (-B+C)x + (A-C)$$

By equ. coeff.  $A+A=2 \rightarrow A=1$

$$\begin{aligned} A+B &= 2 \\ -B+C &= 0 \rightarrow C=B \\ A-C &= 0 \rightarrow C=A \end{aligned} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \end{array} \right\} A=B$$

$B=1$   $C=1$

NOTE: For quadratic factors that cannot be factorised, we split it as it is.

### Question 17

Perform partial fraction decomposition for the following functions.

a.  $\frac{2x-2}{(x+1)(x^2+1)}$

$$\frac{2x-2}{(x+1)(x^2+1)} = \frac{A}{x+1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+1} = \frac{2}{x+1} - \frac{2x}{x^2+1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2x-2 &= A(x^2+1) + (Bx+C)(x+1) \\ &= Ax^2+A+Bx^2+Bx+Cx+C \\ &= (A+B)x^2 + (B+C)x + (A+C) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} A+B &= 0 \rightarrow B=-A \\ B+C &= 2 \quad -A+C=2 \\ A+C &= -2 \quad A+C=-2 \end{aligned} \quad \text{---} \quad \begin{aligned} 2A &= -4, \quad A=-2 \\ B &= 2, \\ C &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

b.  $\frac{15}{(x+1)(x^2+9)}$

$$\frac{15}{(x+1)(x^2+9)} = \frac{A}{x+1} + \frac{Bx+C}{x^2+9} = \frac{3}{2(x+1)} + \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{-x+1}{x^2+9} \right)$$

$$15 = A(x^2+9) + (Bx+C)(x+1)$$

$$15 = Ax^2+9A+Bx^2+Bx+Cx+C$$

$$15 = (A+B)x^2 + (B+C)x + (9A+C)$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} A &= \frac{3}{2} \\ B &= -\frac{3}{2} \\ C &= \frac{3}{2} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

### Key Takeaways

- ✓ Partial fractions is the process of splitting the factors in the denominator.
- ✓ Must factorise fully before doing partial fractions.
- ✓ Must do long division before doing partial fractions.
- ✓ Linear factors always have a constant at the top.
- ✓ Irreducible quadratic factors have a linear function at the top.



Do feedback form :)

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## Contour Check

### Learning Objective: [1.1.1]

#### Study Design

Graphs of sum, difference, product and composite functions involving functions of the types specified above (not including composite functions that result in reciprocal or quotient functions).

#### Key Takeaways

- Modulus finds a size of things.
- $|a - b|$  is a distance between  $a$  and  $b$ .
- $\sqrt{x^2} = |x|$ .
- For simple modulus equations, remove modulus and put  $\pm$ .

$$|x - 2| = 4, \quad x - 2 = \pm 4$$

### Learning Objective: [1.1.2]

#### Study Design

Graphs of sum, difference, product and composite functions involving functions of the types specified above (not including composite functions that result in reciprocal or quotient functions).

#### Key Takeaways

- Graph of a simple modulus graph  $a|x - h| + k$  is like a straightened quadratic.
- Wrapping modulus around the function makes the  $y$  value always non negative.
- Wrapping the modulus around the  $x$  value makes the function symmetrical around the  $y$  axis.
- $f(|x|)$  take the RHS and make it symmetrical about the  $y$ -axis.
- $f(-|x|)$  take the LHS and make it symmetrical about the  $y$ -axis.

**Learning Objective: [1.1.3]**

**Key Takeaways**

- Partial fractions is the process of splitting the factors in the denominator.
- Must factorise fully before doing partial fractions.
- Must do long division before doing partial fractions.
- Linear factors always have a constant at the top.  $\frac{A}{x+1}$
- Irreducible quadratic factors have a linear function at the top.  $\frac{Bx+C}{x^2+1}$

$$\frac{x^4}{x^3+1}$$