

Math 48A, Lesson 10: Transformations of Functions (Part 1)

1. VERTICAL SHIFTS OF A QUADRATIC FUNCTION

1A. Consider the following quadratic functions

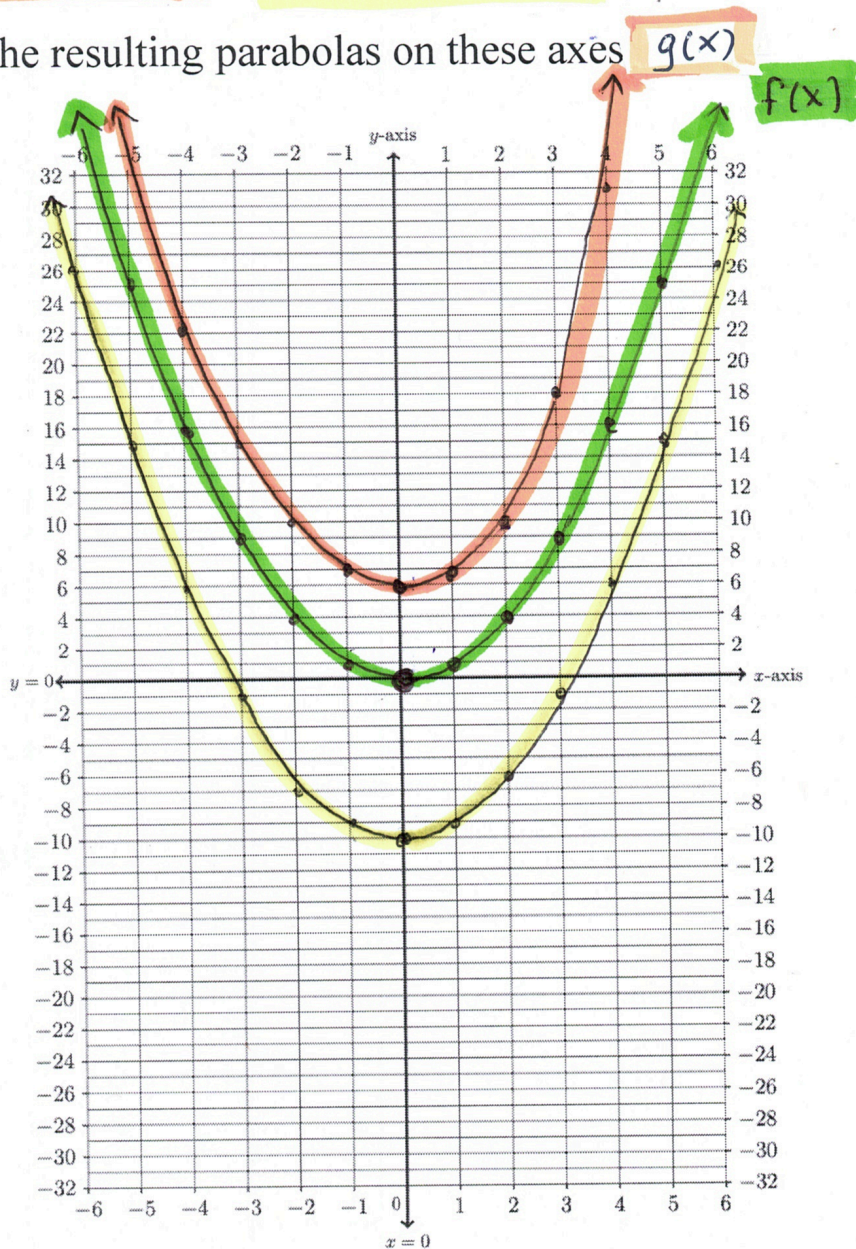
$$f(x) = x^2$$

$$g(x) = f(x) + 6$$

$$h(x) = f(x) - 10$$

Create a table of values and graph the resulting parabolas on these axes

Input	Output		
x	$f(x)$	$g(x)$	$h(x)$
-6	36	42	26
-5	25	31	15
-4	16	22	6
-3	9	15	-1
-2	4	10	-6
-1	1	7	-9
0	0	6	-10
1	1	7	-9
2	4	10	-6
3	9	15	-1
4	16	22	6
5	25	31	15
6	36	42	26



$$g(x) = f(x) + 6$$

$$\Rightarrow g(x) = x^2 + 6$$

to get the orange value from green values, we add 6

$$h(x) = f(x) - 10$$

$$= x^2 - 10$$

parabolas are symmetric around the vertex

①

Problem 1B

Notice:

$$\text{for } g(x) = f(x) + 6$$

- the "starting" point (vertex) of the orange parabola is 6 units above the vertex of the green parabola

(vertex is the point in the center of parabola at the bottom)

$$\text{for } h(x) = f(x) - 10$$

- do they share the same slope?
- they all share x^2
- they are all symmetric about their minimum value
- take the vertex of green and subtract 10 to get yellow (shift the graph down by 10)

1C. Make a conjecture (a mathematical guess) about what happens in the following scenario:

Assume we have a function $f(x)$ and a positive constant $c > 0$.
Suppose we define functions

$$g(x) = f(x) + c \quad \text{and} \quad h(x) = f(x) - c$$

What is the relationship between $f(x)$, $g(x)$, and $h(x)$?

when we take

$$g(x) = f(x) + c$$

we do the following:

□ we shift the graph of $f(x)$ upwards by c amount of units to get the graph of $g(x)$

□ we shift the green graph vertically by c units to get the orange graph

2. VERTICAL SHIFTS OF AN ABSOLUTE VALUE FUNCTION

2A. Let's test your conjecture from Problem 1C on a different type of function. Consider the following absolute value functions

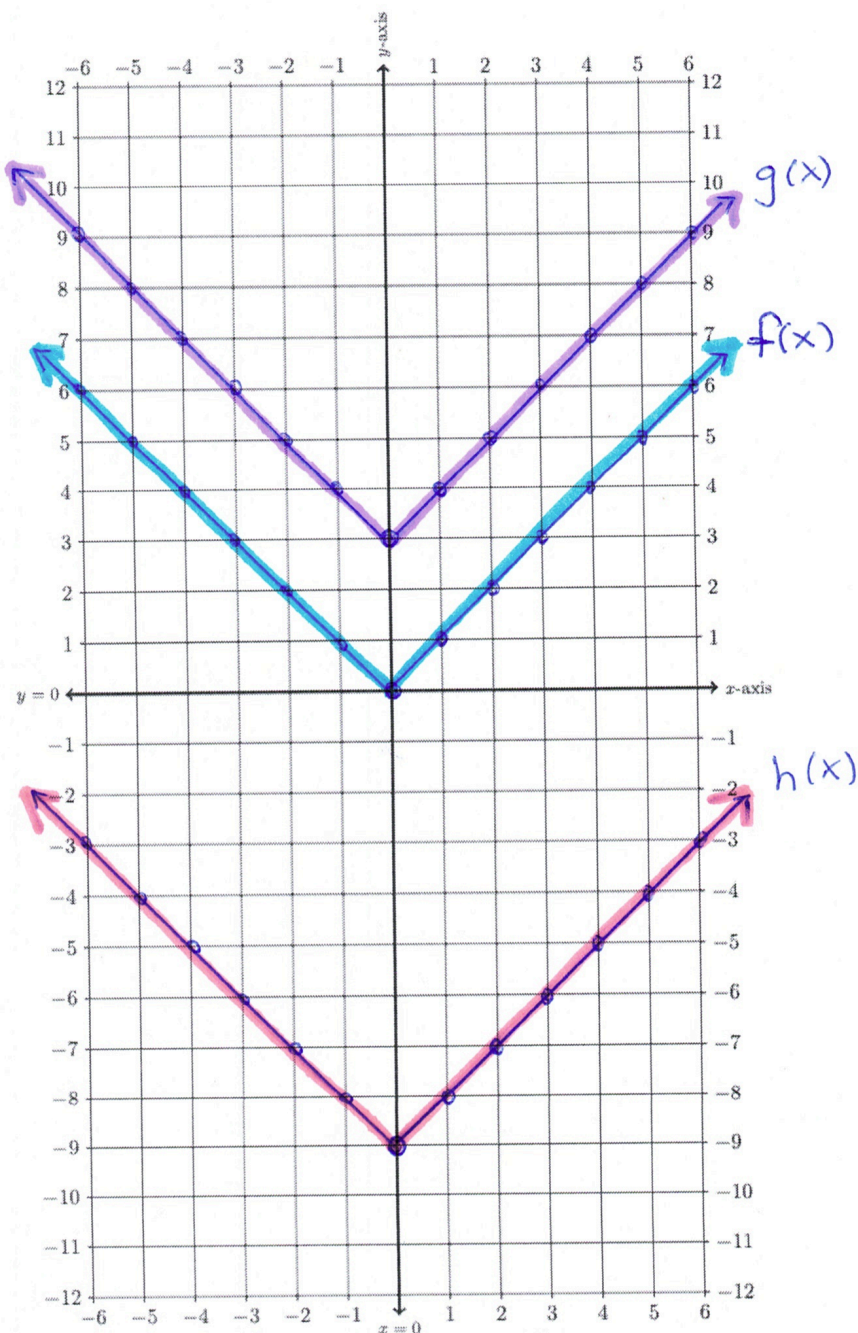
$$f(x) = |x|,$$

$$g(x) = f(x) + 3,$$

$$h(x) = f(x) - 9$$

For each function, specifically identify the value of positive constant $c > 0$. Then, create a table of values and graph the resulting curves on these axes below

Input	Output		
x	$f(x)$	$g(x)$	$h(x)$
-6	6	9	-3
-5	5	8	-4
-4	4	7	-5
-3	3	6	-6
-2	2	5	-7
-1	1	4	-8
0	0	3	-9
1	1	4	-8
2	2	5	-7
3	3	6	-6
4	4	7	-5
5	5	8	-4
6	6	9	-3



- 2B. Look back at both the graphs and the table of values from Problem 2A. What do you notice about the relationship between the output values of the functions

$$f(x),$$

$$g(x) = f(x) + 3,$$

$$h(x) = f(x) - 9$$

Notice for

$$g(x) = f(x) + 3$$

- the "starting" point (vertex) of the purple absolute value curve is three units above the blue absolute value curve
- the purple graph of function $g(x)$ is shifted three units above the blue graph of function $f(x)$

For $h(x) = f(x) - 9$

- the starting point (vertex) of the pink absolute value curve is nine units below the blue absolute value curve.
- the pink graph of function $h(x)$ is shifted nine units below the blue graph of function $f(x)$

2C. Revise and update your conjecture (a mathematical guess) about what happens in the following scenario:

Assume we have a function $f(x)$ and a positive constant $c > 0$.
Suppose we define functions

$$\text{I. } g(x) = f(x) + c \quad \text{and} \quad \text{II. } h(x) = f(x) - c$$

What is the relationship between $f(x)$, $g(x)$, and $h(x)$? Try to put this in both nerdy mathematical language and abuelita language

I. When we take $c > 0$ and form $g(x) = f(x) + c$

□ we shift the graph of $f(x)$ upwards by c units to get the graph of $g(x)$

□ this is equivalent to moving all output values of $f(x)$ vertically in the positive direction (upwards) by c units (also known as a vertical shift).

II. When we take $c > 0$ and form $h(x) = f(x) - c$

□ we shift the graph of $f(x)$ down by c units to get the graph of $h(x)$

□ this is the same as subtracting from each output value of $f(x)$ the number c which moves these points downwards by c units and is known as a vertical shift in negative direction.

3. VERTICAL SHIFTS OF A ROOT FUNCTION

3A. Let's test the second draft of your conjecture from Problem 2C on a different type of function. Consider the following absolute value functions

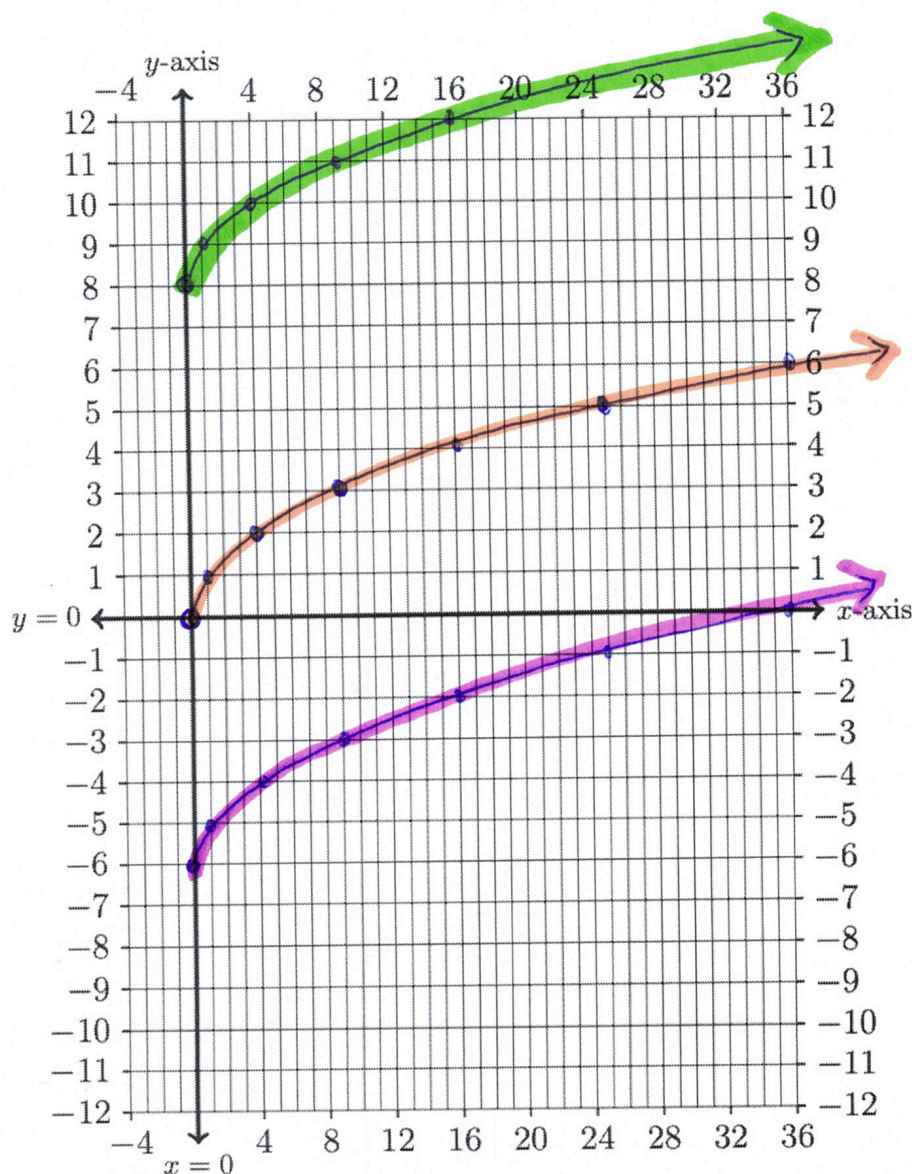
$$f(x) = \sqrt{x}$$

$$g(x) = f(x) + 8,$$

$$h(x) = f(x) - 6$$

For each function, specifically identify the value of positive constant $c > 0$. Then, create a table of values for $f(x)$. Without creating a table for $g(x)$ or $h(x)$, see if you can graph the resulting root function on the axes below.

Input	Output
x	$f(x)$
-1	undefined
0	0
1	1
4	2
9	3
16	4
25	5
36	6



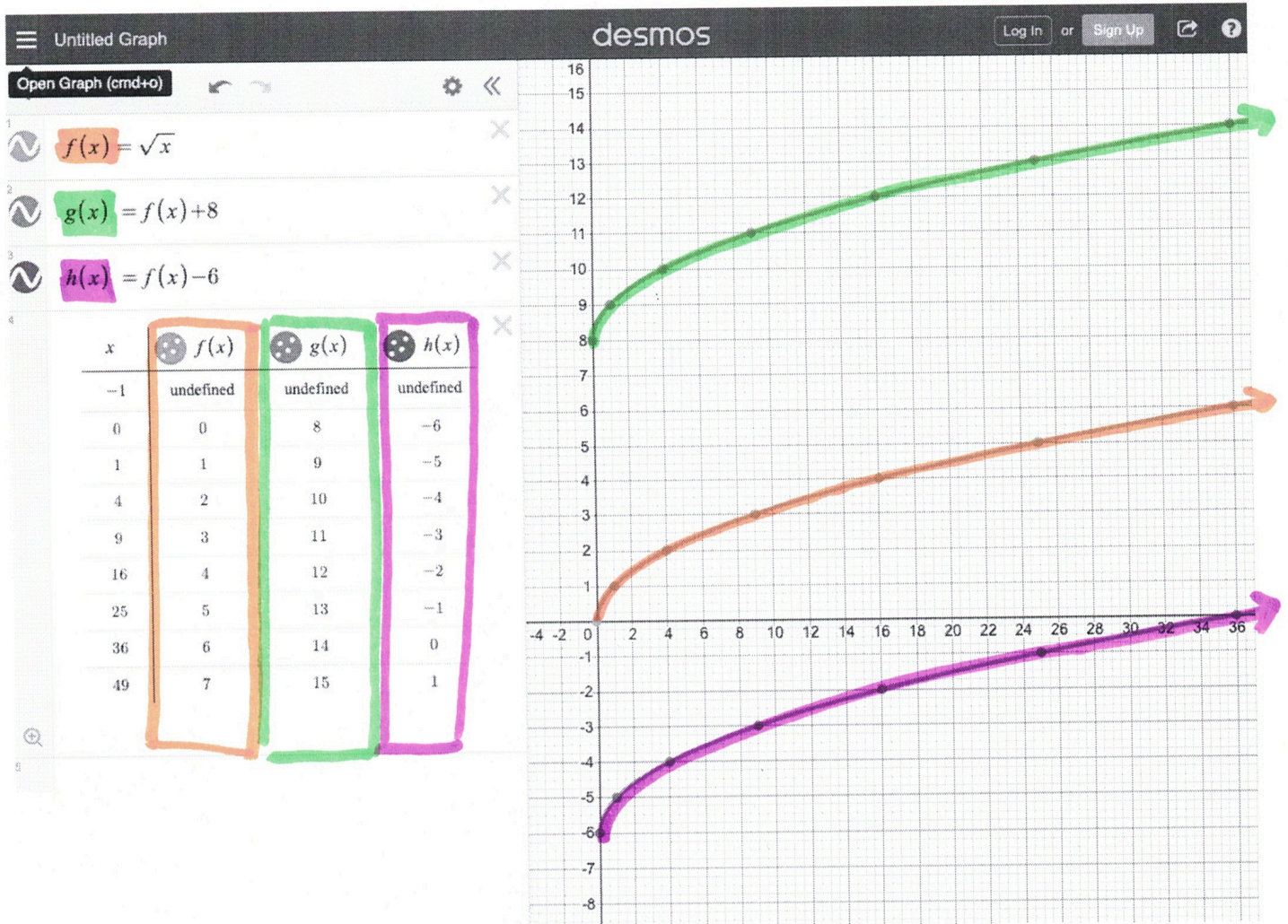
Recall: if $x = -1$, then $f(x) = f(-1) = y = \sqrt{-1}$

$$\Leftrightarrow y^2 = -1 \leftarrow \text{NOT possible}$$

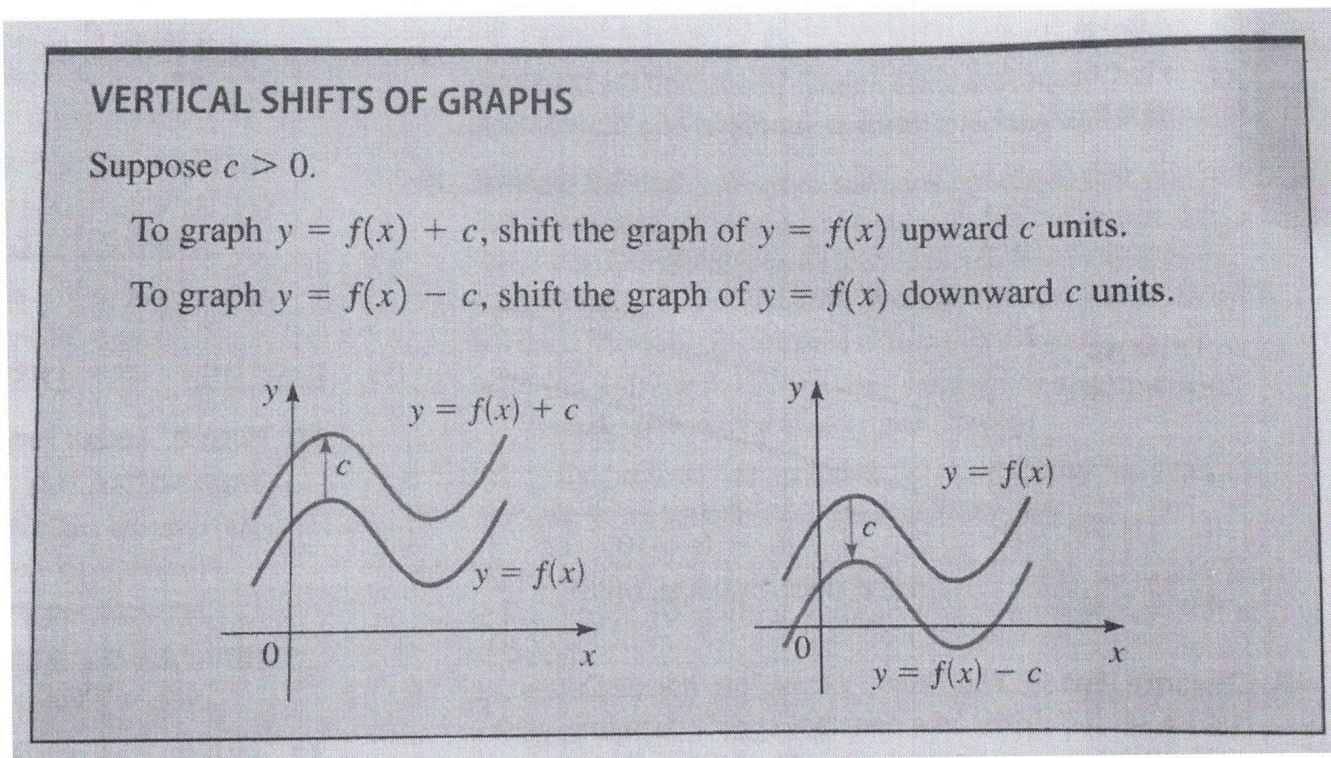
⑦

Problem 3B)

Below we confirm our work from problem 3A using Desmos.com.



3C. Take a look at the call out box below:



Translate this into abuelita language for yourself (simple non-technical language that describes what the math is saying so that your abuelita can understand). Really push yourself to make the description simple.

if we let $c > 0$ so that the letter c is a positive number, then

□ for $g(x) = f(x) + c$ we notice our addition happens outside the parentheses which effects the output values.

□ To create the graph of $g(x)$, we grab the entire graph of $f(x)$ and drag it upwards by c units.

□ for $h(x) = f(x) - C$ we notice the subtraction happens outside the parenthesis which effects the output values

□ To create the graph of $h(x)$, we pull the graph of $f(x)$ straight downwards by C units.

Then notice the features

$$g(x) = f(x) + C$$

↑
Shift outside parenthesis effects the output

$$h(x) = f(x) - C$$

↓
downward movement