

**Activity Lab #1 (Group set)**  
25 points – Due Monday, February 13

Each group must have at least 2 students and may not be more than 3 students. Individual efforts will not be accepted. Make sure you SHOW AND JUSTIFY YOUR WORK in order to get credit.

Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1) Let  $A(-7, -4)$  and  $B(4, -1)$  be two points in a plane. Find the following and sketch an appropriate figure:

a) An equation of the circle with diameter  $AB$ . Show how you obtain the equation.

Center  $M(x_M, y_M)$

$$x_M = \frac{x_A + x_B}{2} = \frac{-7 + 4}{2} = \frac{-3}{2}$$

$$y_M = \frac{y_A + y_B}{2} = \frac{-4 + (-1)}{2} = \frac{-5}{2}$$

$M\left(\frac{-3}{2}, \frac{-5}{2}\right)$  the center

Radius:  $r = \frac{AB}{2}$

$$AB^2 = (\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2$$

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

$$= (-11)^2 + (-3)^2$$

$$= 121 + 9 = 130$$

$AB^2 = 130$   
 $AB = \sqrt{130}$   
 $r = \frac{\sqrt{130}}{2}$  the radius

Circle:  $(x-h)^2 + (y-k)^2 = r^2$   
where  $(h, k) = \text{center}$

$$\left(x - \frac{-3}{2}\right)^2 + \left(y - \frac{-5}{2}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{\sqrt{130}}{2}\right)^2$$

$$\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 + \left(y + \frac{5}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{130}{4}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 + \left(y + \frac{5}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{65}{2}$$

equation of the circle

b) Which point "A" or "B" is closer to the point  $\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1\right)$ ? Justify your reasoning with appropriate work.

Calculate the distance between  
 $A(-7, -4)$  and  $\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1\right)$

$$\sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2} =$$

$$= \sqrt{\left(-7 - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + (-4 - 1)^2} =$$

$$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{15}{2}\right)^2 + 5^2} = \sqrt{\frac{225}{4} + 25}$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{325}{4}} = \frac{5}{2}\sqrt{13} \approx 9.01$$

Calculate the distance between

$B(4, -1)$  and  $\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1\right)$

$$\sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2} = \sqrt{\left(4 - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + (-1 - 1)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{7}{2}\right)^2 + 4} = \sqrt{\frac{49}{4} + 4}$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{65}{4}} = \frac{\sqrt{65}}{2} \approx 4.03$$

Therefore, B is closer to  $\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1\right)$

$$\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 + \left(y + \frac{5}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{65}{2}$$

c) Find the exact x-intercepts (if any).

$$y=0 \quad \left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{65}{2}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 + \frac{25}{4} = \frac{65}{2}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{65}{2} - \frac{25}{4}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{130 - 25}{4}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{105}{4}$$

$$\sqrt{\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{105}{4}}$$

$$\left|x + \frac{3}{2}\right| = \frac{\sqrt{105}}{2}$$

$$x + \frac{3}{2} = \pm \frac{\sqrt{105}}{2}$$

$$x = -\frac{3}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{105}}{2}$$

The x-intercepts are

$$\left(-\frac{3}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{105}}{2}, 0\right) \text{ and}$$

$$\left(-\frac{3}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{105}}{2}, 0\right)$$

$$(-6.6, 0)$$

$$(3.62, 0)$$

d) Find the exact y-intercepts (if any).

$$x=0 \quad \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 + \left(y + \frac{5}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{65}{2}$$

$$\frac{9}{4} + \left(y + \frac{5}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{65}{2}$$

$$\left(y + \frac{5}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{65}{2} - \frac{9}{4}$$

$$\left(y + \frac{5}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{121}{4}$$

$$\sqrt{\left(y + \frac{5}{2}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{121}{4}}$$

$$\left|y + \frac{5}{2}\right| = \frac{11}{2}$$

$$y + \frac{5}{2} = \pm \frac{11}{2}$$

$$y = -\frac{5}{2} \pm \frac{11}{2}$$

$$y = -\frac{5}{2} - \frac{11}{2} = \frac{-16}{2} = -8$$

OR

$$y = -\frac{5}{2} + \frac{11}{2} = \frac{6}{2} = 3$$

The y-intercepts are

$$(0, -8) \text{ and } (0, 3)$$

e) Find the equation of the line tangent to the circle at the point  $(4, -1)$ . (Hint: the tangent to the circle is perpendicular to the radius at the point  $(4, -1)$ )

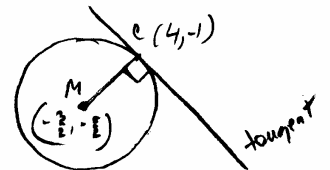
Line tangent  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{slope } m = ? \\ \text{point } (4, -1) \end{array} \right.$

Find the slope of the radius MC,  $M\left(-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{5}{2}\right)$ ,  $C(4, -1)$

$$m = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{-1 - \left(-\frac{5}{2}\right)}{4 - \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)} = \frac{-1 + \frac{5}{2}}{4 + \frac{3}{2}}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{-2}{2} + \frac{5}{2}}{\frac{11}{2}} = \frac{3}{11}$$

$m = \frac{3}{11}$ , therefore the slope of the tangent is  $m_{\perp} = -\frac{11}{3}$



The equation of the tangent:

$$y - (-1) = -\frac{11}{3}(x - 4)$$

$$y + 1 = -\frac{11}{3}(x - 4)$$

2. Astronomers use a numerical scale called magnitude to measure the brightness of a star, with brighter stars assigned smaller magnitudes. When we view a star from earth, molecules and dust in the air scatter and absorb some of the light, making the star appear fainter than it really is. Thus, the observed magnitude of a star depends on the distance its light rays must travel through the earth's atmosphere. The observed magnitude,  $m$ , is given by

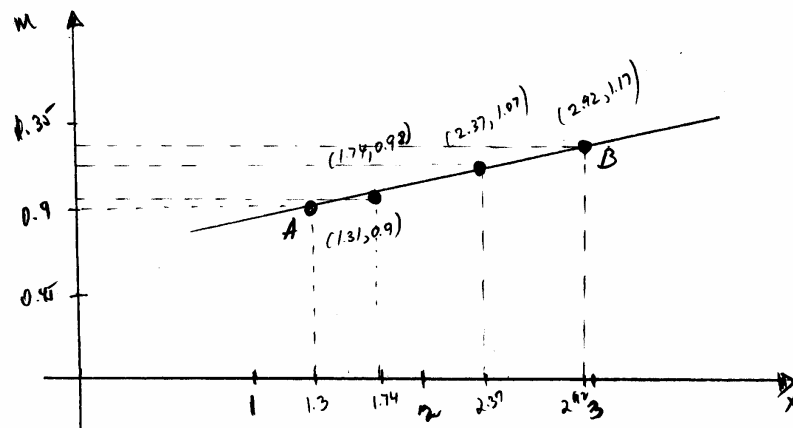
$$m = m_0 + kx,$$

where  $m_0$  is the apparent magnitude of the star outside the atmosphere,  $x$  is the air mass (a measure of the distance through the atmosphere), and  $k$  is called the extinction coefficient. To calculate  $m_0$ , astronomers observe the same object several times during the night at different positions in the sky, and hence different values of  $x$ . Here are data from such observations.

Altitude	Air mass, $x$	Magnitude, $m$
$50^\circ$	1.31	0.90
$35^\circ$	1.74	0.98
$25^\circ$	2.37	1.07
$20^\circ$	2.92	1.17

$x = \text{air mass} - \text{independent variable}$   
 $m = \text{magnitude} - \text{dependent variable}$

a) Plot magnitude against air mass, and draw a line of best fit through the data.



b) Find the equation of your line of best fit.

$$\text{slope} = k = \frac{\Delta m}{\Delta x} = \frac{1.17 - 0.9}{2.92 - 1.31} = \frac{0.27}{1.61} \approx 0.165$$

$$m - 0.9 = 0.165(x - 1.31)$$

$$m = 0.165x + 0.68$$

c) What is the value of the extinction coefficient? What is the apparent magnitude of the star outside the earth's atmosphere?

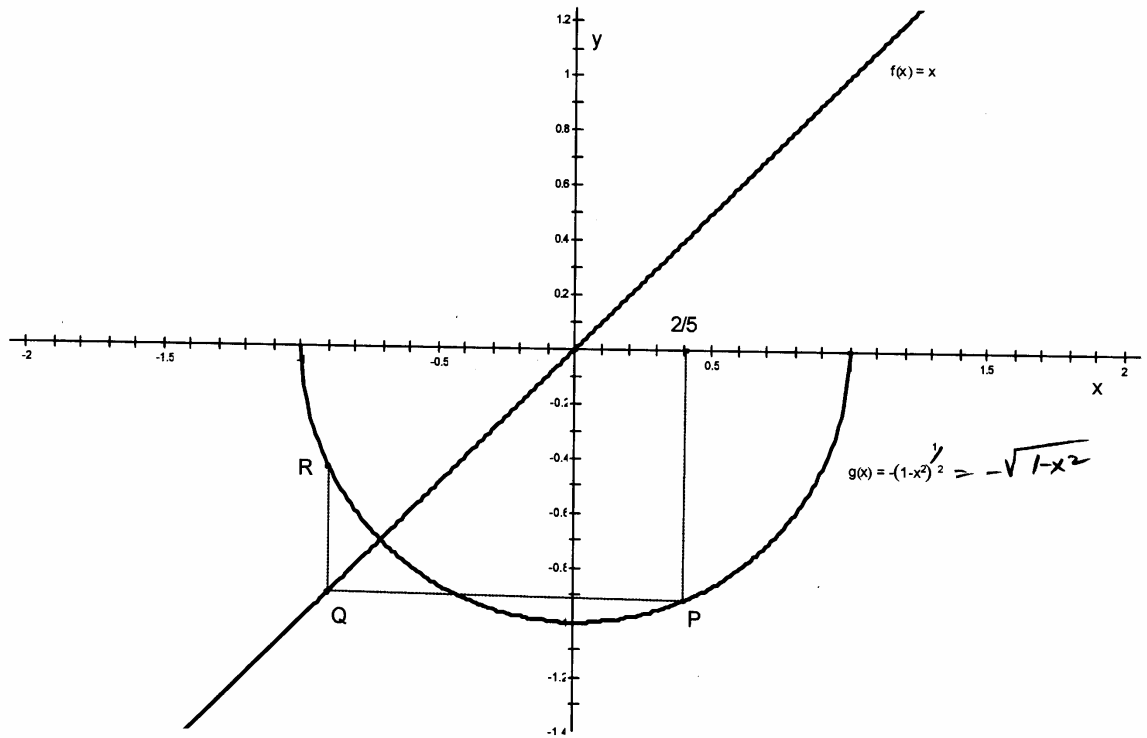
$$m = 0.165x + 0.68$$

extinction coefficient =  $k$  = the slope of the line

$$k = 0.165$$

apparent magnitude =  $m_0 = 0.68$

3. Determine the coordinates of the points P, Q, and R in the figure; give an exact expression and also a calculator approximation rounded to three decimal places. Assume that each dashed line is parallel to one of the coordinate axes.



$$P(x_P, y_P) \quad x_P = \frac{2}{5} \Rightarrow y_P = -\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^2} = -\sqrt{1 - \frac{4}{25}} = -\sqrt{\frac{21}{25}} = -\frac{\sqrt{21}}{5}$$

$$\boxed{P\left(\frac{2}{5}, -\frac{\sqrt{21}}{5}\right)} \quad P \in \text{graph of } g(x)$$

$$Q(x_Q, y_Q) \quad y_Q = y_P = -\frac{\sqrt{21}}{5} \Rightarrow x_Q = y_Q = -\frac{\sqrt{21}}{5}$$

$$\boxed{Q\left(-\frac{\sqrt{21}}{5}, -\frac{\sqrt{21}}{5}\right)} \quad Q \in \text{graph of } f(x)$$

$$R(x_R, y_R) \quad x_R = x_Q = -\frac{\sqrt{21}}{5} \Rightarrow y_R = -\sqrt{1 - \left(-\frac{\sqrt{21}}{5}\right)^2} = -\sqrt{1 - \frac{21}{25}} = -\sqrt{\frac{4}{25}} = -\frac{2}{5}$$

$$\boxed{R\left(-\frac{\sqrt{21}}{5}, -\frac{2}{5}\right)}$$

4. Sketch the graph of the following piece-defined function. Show all work.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} |x+1|, & -2 \leq x < 0 \\ \sqrt{x}, & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ x^3, & 1 < x < 2 \end{cases}$$

$$f(x) = |x+1| \text{ if } -2 \leq x < 0$$

$$|x+1| = \begin{cases} x+1 & \text{if } x+1 \geq 0 \\ -x-1 & \text{if } x+1 < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$|x+1| = \begin{cases} x+1 & \text{if } -1 \leq x < 0 \\ -x-1 & \text{if } -2 \leq x < -1 \end{cases}$$

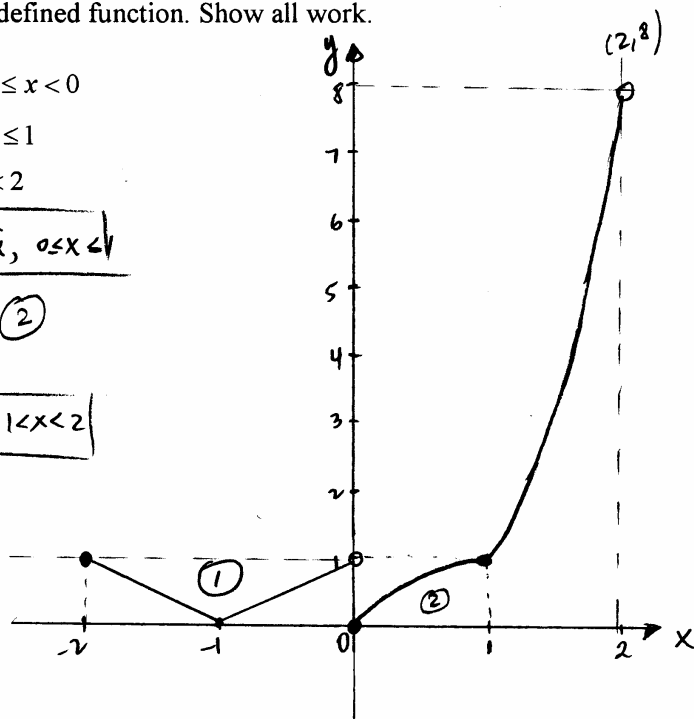
x	y	x	y
-1	0	-2	1
0	1	-1	0

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x}, 0 \leq x \leq 1$$

x	y
0	0
1	1

$$f(x) = x^3, 1 < x < 2$$

x	y
1	1
2	8



Answer the following questions:

a) What is the domain of the function?

$$x \in [-2, 2)$$

b) What is the range of the function?

$$y \in [0, 8)$$

c) Find  $f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$ ,  $f\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)$ , and  $f\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)$ .

$$f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \quad \text{b/c } x = \frac{1}{2} \in [0, 1]$$

$$f\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = \left|-\frac{1}{2} + 1\right| = \left|\frac{1}{2}\right| = \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{b/c } x = -\frac{1}{2} \in [-2, 0)$$

$$f\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^3 = \frac{27}{8} \quad \text{b/c } x = \frac{3}{2} \in (1, 2)$$

d) On what intervals is the function increasing?

$$x \in [-1, 2)$$

e) On what intervals is the function decreasing?

$$x \in [-2, -1)$$