

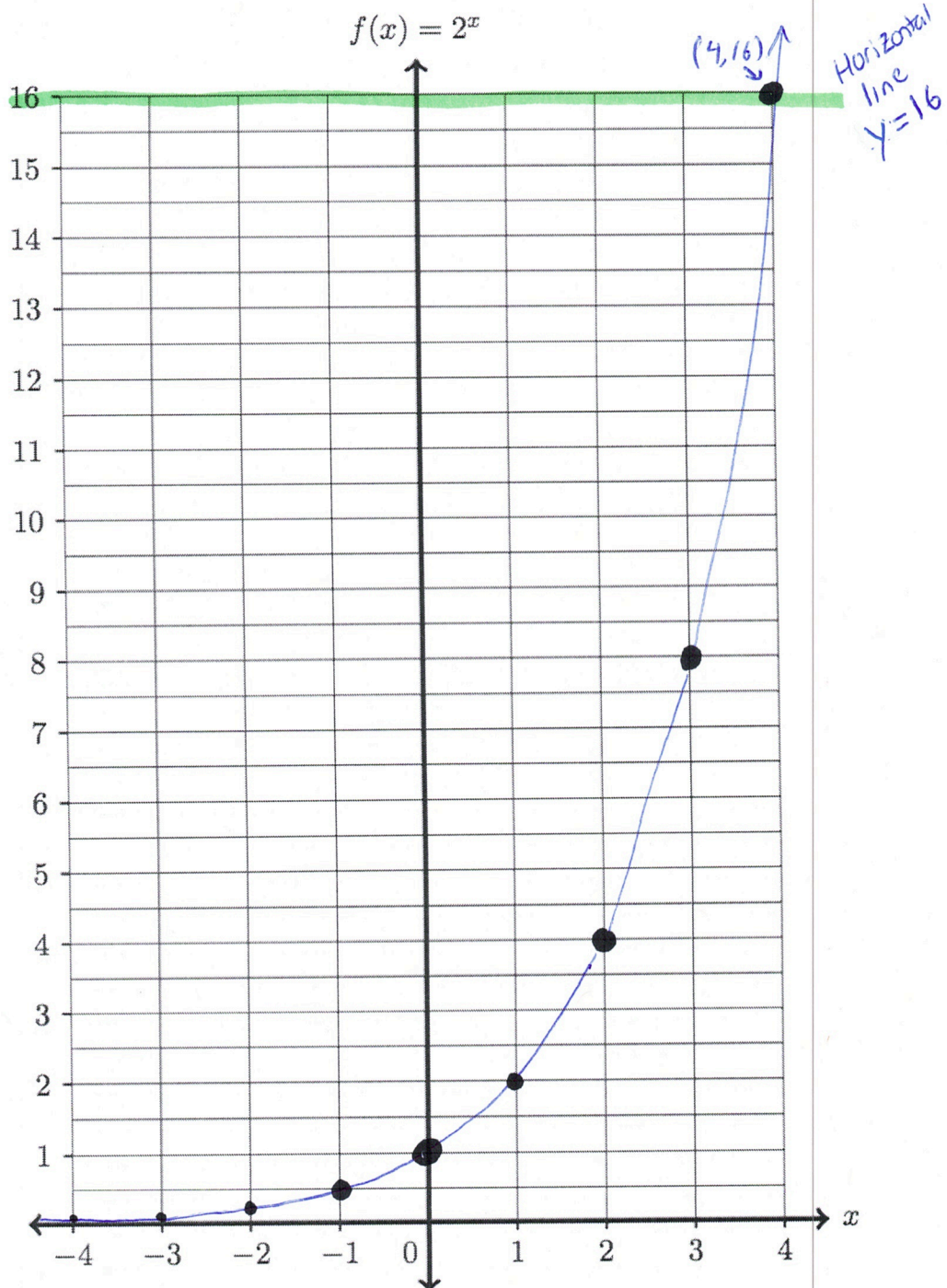
## 4. VISUALIZE A FORWARD PROBLEMS USING A GRAPH

4A. Consider the function

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

Fill out the table below to graph the forward problem for this function.

Input	Output
$x$	$f(x) = 2^x$
-4	$\frac{1}{16}$
-3	$\frac{1}{8}$
-2	$\frac{1}{4}$
-1	$\frac{1}{2}$
0	1
1	2
2	4
3	8
4	16
5	32
6	64

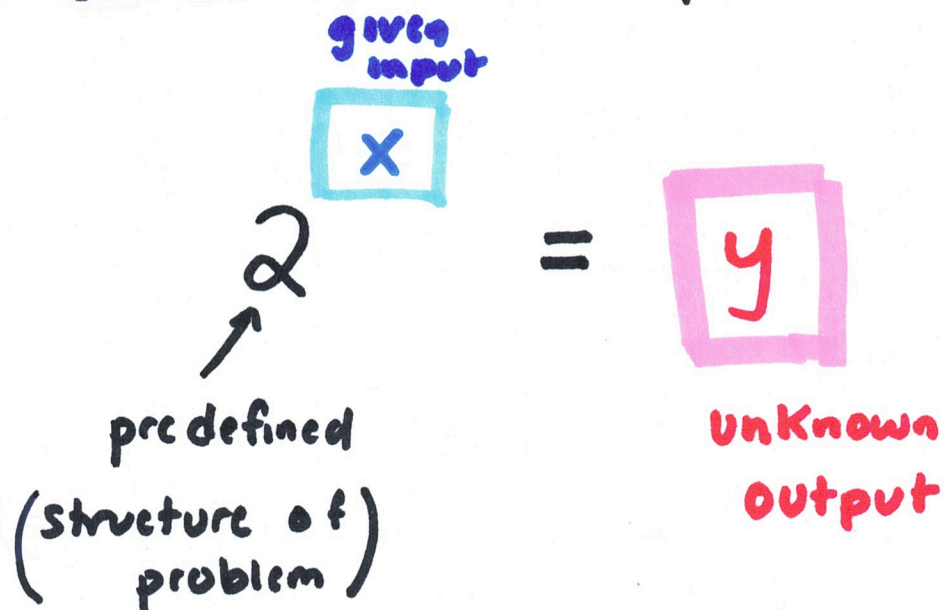


□ To move from one row to the one below,  
we multiply last entry by 2

□ To move from one row to the one above  
we divide the last entry by 2

$$\text{Let } f(x) = 2^x = y$$

Let's solve the forward problem many



Example :

$$x = 2 \Rightarrow f(x) = 2^x$$
$$\Rightarrow f(2) = 2^2$$
$$\Rightarrow f(2) = 2 \cdot 2$$
$$\Rightarrow f(2) = 4$$

Example :  $x = 3 \Rightarrow f(x) = 2^x$

$$\Rightarrow f(3) = 2^3$$

$$\Rightarrow f(3) = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2$$

$$\Rightarrow f(3) = 8$$

Note :  $2^3 = (2 \cdot 2) \cdot 2$

$$= 2^2 \cdot 2^1$$

$$= 2^2 \cdot 2 = 4 \cdot 2$$

Remember :  $x^m \cdot x^n = x^{m+n}$

Let's find some patterns...

$$2^0 = 1 = \frac{2^1}{2} = \frac{2}{2} = \frac{2^1}{2^1} = 2^{1-1}$$

$$2^{-1} = 1 \div 2 = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$2^{-2} = \frac{1}{2} \div \frac{2}{1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4}$$

flip

$$\square \frac{A}{B} \div \frac{C}{D} = \frac{A}{B} \cdot \frac{D}{C}$$

$$\square \frac{A}{B} \cdot \frac{D}{C} = \frac{A \cdot D}{B \cdot C}$$

4B. In your own, simple language, explain why the work you did in Problem 4A represents a forward problem.

We see that in Problem 4A, we solved a forward problem because

Forward Problem

$$f(\boxed{x}) = 2^{\boxed{x}} = \boxed{Y}$$

given input

desired output

- Forward problems start with **given input** to a pre-defined function and end with the **desired output**
- Backwards problem start with a **given output** to a pre-defined function and ends with the **desired input** to function that produce those outputs

- 4C. Look back at Problem 4A. Make a conjecture (a mathematical guess) about what the backward problem for the function  $f(x) = 2^x = y$  would look like. Write the symbols and verbal description so that you describe this using both words and mathematical notation.

Backwards  
Problem

desired  
input

$$f(\boxed{x}) = \boxed{y}$$

given  
output

Start with a **given output**

and ends with the

**desired input** needed

to produce that output

Note: to swap between forward & backward problem, we pretty much just flip inputs and outputs

## 5. VISUALIZE A BACKWARD PROBLEMS USING A GRAPH

5A. Consider the function

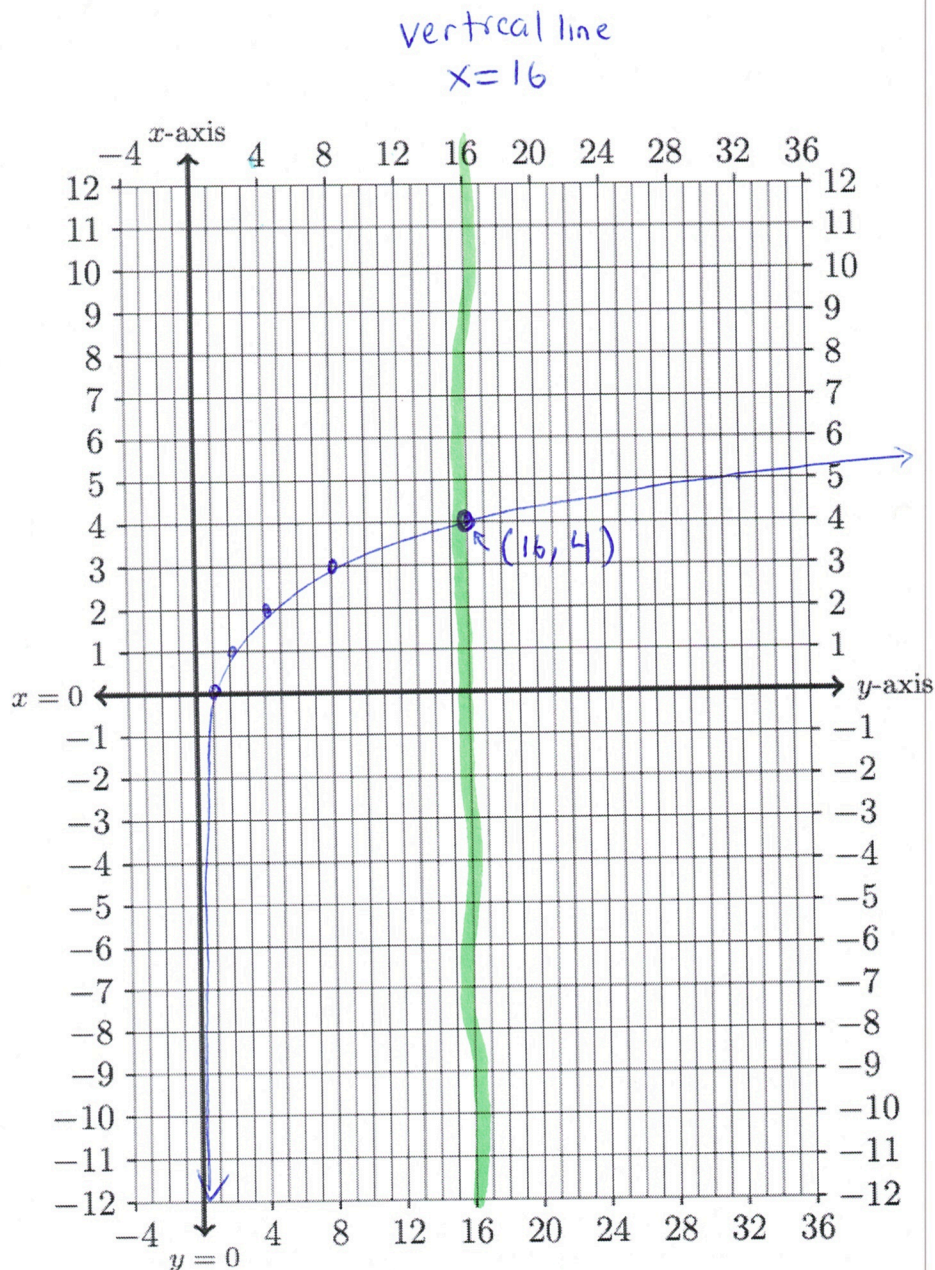
$$f(x) = 2^x = y$$

Fill out the table below to graph the backward problem for this function.

input

output

$y = 2^x$	$x$
$\frac{1}{16}$	-4
$\frac{1}{8}$	-3
$\frac{1}{4}$	-2
$\frac{1}{2}$	-1
1	0
2	1
4	2
8	3
16	4
32	5
64	6



□ This inverse relation is a function since it passes the vertical line test

\* swap  $x$  and  $y$  : inverse exponential  
(logarithm)

5B. In your own, simple language, explain why the work you did in Problem 5A represents a backward problem.

- Remember in the forward problem

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

we start with the **given input x**

for the pre-defined exponential function

$f(x) = 2^x$ . Then we calculate the desired

output  $2^x = y$  (we work forward

from input to output.   
starts here → works forward

- In backward problem, we swap the direction...

we work backwards from **given output y**

and find the **desired input needed** for our pre-defined function so that

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

← start here  
works backwards



Think about this:  
given input

Forward Problem

$$2^{\boxed{x}} = \boxed{y}$$

desired output

Exponential Function evaluation

↑  
inverse

Backward Problem

desired output

$$2^{\boxed{y}} = \boxed{x}$$

given input

inverse algebraic equation

□ In order to transform a forward problem to a backward problem

we switch the  $\boxed{y}$  and  $\boxed{x}$

□ to find an inverse function

we switch the  $\boxed{x}$  and  $\boxed{y}$

- 5C. Look back at Problem 4 and 5. What is the relationship between the forward and backward problems for the function  $f(x) = 2^x = y$ . Write your response in both symbols and verbal description so that you describe this using both words and mathematical notation.

In the forward problem  $2^x = y$

the input is the exponent on base 2

and we then calculate the output value  $y$  that results when we raise 2 to input  $x$ .

In the backward problem, the roles of input and output swap (we change  $x$  to  $y$  and vice versa). Specifically, we ask for given value  $x$

$$2^y = x$$

What exponent do we need on base 2 so that 2 to that exponent  $y$  equals  $x$ .

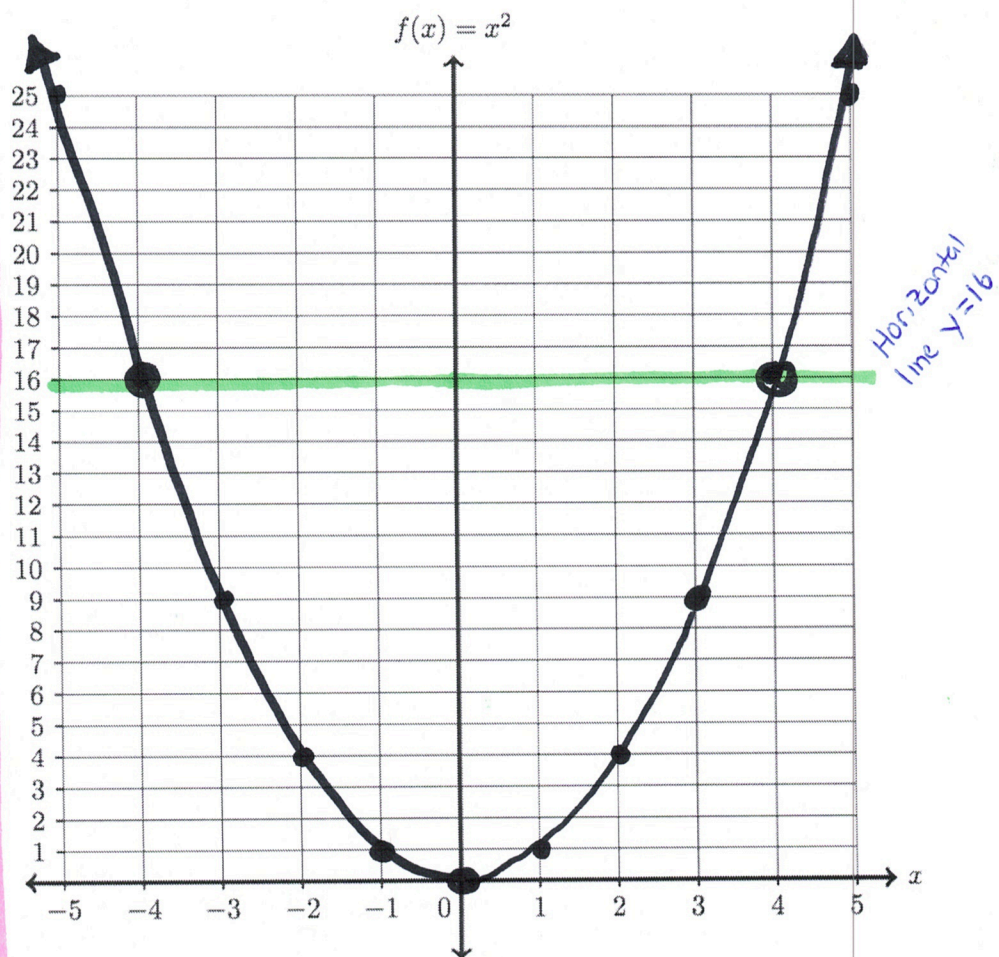
## 6. VISUALIZE A FORWARD PROBLEMS USING A GRAPH

6A. Consider the following function

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

Create a table of values and graph the resulting curve on these axes below.

Input	Output
$x$	$y$
-5	25
-4	16
-3	9
-2	4
-1	1
0	0
1	1
2	4
3	9
4	16
5	25



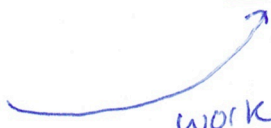
$(-4, 16)$  and  $(4, 16)$

To move from forward to backwards  
we flip inputs to outputs

- 6B. In your own, simple language, explain why the work you did in Problem 6A represents a forward problem.

In this work, we start with a **given input** value **x** for our predefined function  $y = f(x)$  and then calculate **desired output value y**


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

start here  work towards here

- 6C. Look back at Problem 6A. Make a conjecture (a mathematical guess) about what the backward problem for the function  $f(x) = x^2 = y$  would look like. Write the symbols and verbal description so that you describe this using both words and mathematical notation.

In the backward problem, we flip directions

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

 work backwards towards x

start here

In other words, the role of input and output switch.

## 7. VISUALIZE A BACKWARD PROBLEMS USING A GRAPH

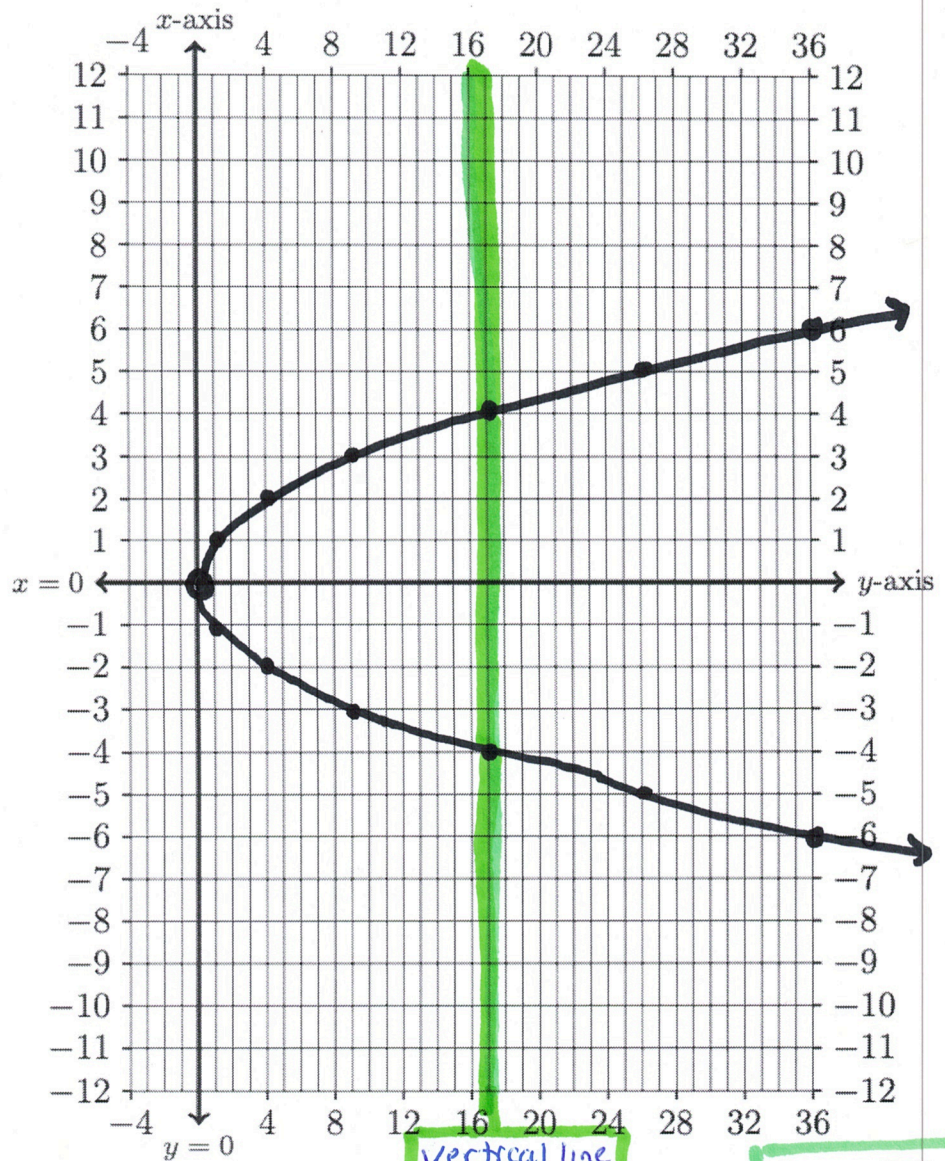
7A. Consider the function

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

Fill out the table below to graph the backward problem for this function.

inverse relation NOT function  
(fails vertical line test)

$y = x^2$	$x$
-1	NONE
0	0
1	1 or -1
4	2 or -2
9	$\pm 3$
16	$\pm 4$
25	$\pm 5$
36	$\pm 6$
49	$\pm 7$
64	$\pm 8$
81	$\pm 9$



Vertical line  
 $x=16$

Vertical

(input, output)

horizontal

(16, 4)  
and  
(16, -4)