

L7 Graphing and understanding Parameters a and b in $y = ax + b$

Observations on changing the parameters using: [TI-83](#) or [GeoGebra](#) or [graphsketch.com](#)

A	$f(x) = x$	$g(x) = 2x$	$h(x) = 0.5x$
type of function			
R.O.C. (a)			
Initial value (b)			
Description of line			
B	$p(x) = -x$	$q(x) = -2x$	$r(x) = -0.5x$
type of function			
R.O.C. (a)			
Initial value (b)			
Description of line			
C	$f(x) = x$	$s(x) = x + 2$	$t(x) = x - 4$
type of function			
R.O.C. (a)			
Initial value (b)			
Description of line			
D	$u(x) = 3x + 2$	$v(x) = 0.5x - 4$	$w(x) = -2x + 6$
type of function			
R.O.C. (a)			
Initial value (b)			
Description of line			

Conclusions: For every line $y = ax + b$ (the parameters are a and b affect the look of the line)

a : affects the angle of inclination (steepness of line)

b : affects the vertical translation of the line

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A	$f(x) = x$	$g(x) = 2x$	$h(x) = 0.5x$
type of function	Direct	Direct	Direct
R.O.C. (a)	1	2	0.5
Initial value (b)	0	0	0
Description of line	Centered in 1 st and 3 rd quadrants. Increasing line.	Steeper than y_1 . Increases faster. Bigger angle of inclination.	Less steep than y_1 . Increases slower. Smaller angle of inclination.
B	$p(x) = -x$	$q(x) = -2x$	$r(x) = -0.5x$
type of function	Direct	Direct	Direct
R.O.C. (a)	- 1	- 2	- 0.5
Initial value (b)	0	0	0
Description of line	Centered in 2 nd and 4 th quadrants. Reflection of $y = x$. Decreasing line.	Steeper than y_1 . decreases faster Bigger angle of inclination.	Less steep than y_1 . decreases slower. Smaller angle of inclination.
C	$f(x) = x$	$s(x) = x + 2$	$t(x) = x - 4$
type of function		Partial	Partial
R.O.C. (a)		1	1
Initial value (b)		2	- 4
Description of line		Parallel to y_1 Translated (shifted) up 2 units	Parallel to y_1 Translated (shifted) down 4 units
D	$u(x) = 3x + 2$	$v(x) = 0.5x - 4$	$w(x) = -2x + 6$
type of function	Partial	Partial	Partial
R.O.C. (a)	3	0.5	- 2
Initial value (b)	2	- 4	6
Description of line	3 times steeper than y_1 Shifted up 2 units	Half as steep as y_1 Shifted down 4 units	2 times steeper than y_1 and reflected Shifted up 6 units

Conclusions: For every line $y = ax + b$ (the parameters are a and b affect the look of the line)

a : affects the angle of inclination (steepness of line)

b : affects the vertical translation of the line