

4.7 Parameters a and b in $y = ax + b$

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

A	$y_1 = x$	$y_2 = 2x$	$y_3 = 0.5x$
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 1st and 3rd 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	$y_4 = -x$	$y_5 = -2x$	$y_6 = -0.5x$
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 2nd and 4th 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	$y_1 = x$	$y_7 = x + 2$	$y_8 = x - 4$
type of function	Direct	Partial	Partial
R.O.C. (a)	1	1	1
Initial value (b)	0	2	- 4
Description of line	Centered in 1st and 3rd quadrants. Increasing line.	Parallel to y_1 Translated (shifted) up 2 units	Parallel to y_1 Translated (shifted) down 4 units
D	$y_9 = 3x + 2$	$y_{10} = 0.5x - 4$	$y_{11} = -2x + 6$
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 steeper 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