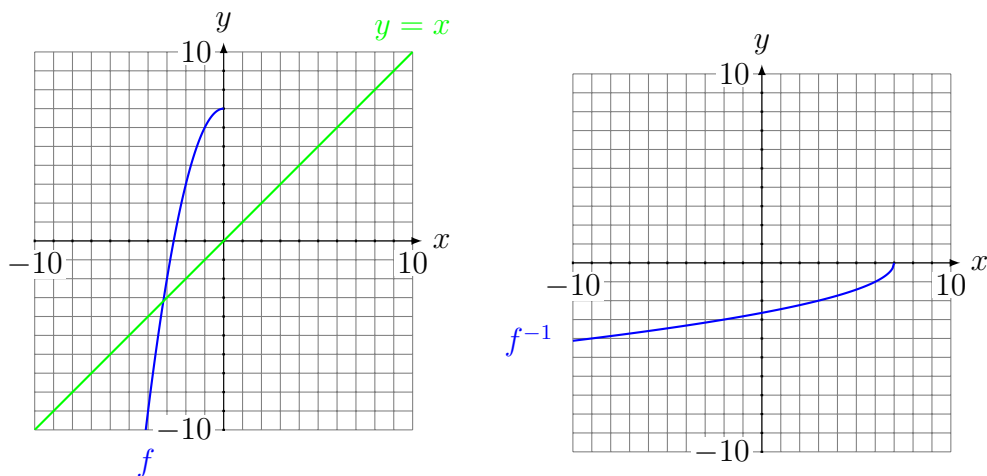


The graph of  $f(x) = -x^2 + 7$  is a parabola that opens downward, and is shifted 7 units upward. Because the domain is restricted to  $x \leq 0$ , we sketch only that part of the parabola that lies to the left of  $x = 0$  (see the figure on the left). Note that this piece satisfies the horizontal line test, so  $f$  is a one-to-one function and its inverse exists. The inverse is found by reflecting the graph of  $f$  across the line  $y = x$ , which produces the graph shown in the figure on the right.



One might surmise from the figure on the right that the equation of the inverse function is  $f^{-1}(x) = -\sqrt{-(x - 7)}$ , but let's use an algebraic approach to verify the result.