

Find the derivatives of inverse functions.

The inverse of an ordered pair (x, y) is (y, x) .

$$f(x) = y \Leftrightarrow x = f^{-1}(y).$$

Theorem: Let $f(x)$ represent a differentiable on an interval. If $f^{-1}(x)$ denotes the inverse of $f(x)$, then $f^{-1}(x)$ is differentiable at any x and

$$[f^{-1}(x)]' = \frac{1}{f'[f^{-1}(x)]}$$

where $[f^{-1}(x)]'$ denotes the derivative of inverse of $f(x)$, $f'(x)$ is the derivative of $f(x)$ and $f'[f^{-1}(x)] \neq 0$.

Proof:

If $f^{-1}(x)$ is the inverse of $f(x)$, then $f[f^{-1}(x)] = f^{-1}[f(x)] = x$.

Differentiating $f[f^{-1}(x)] = x$ applying chain rule:

$$\frac{df[f^{-1}(x)]}{dx} = \frac{dx}{dx}$$

$$\frac{df[f^{-1}(x)]}{df^{-1}(x)} \cdot \frac{df^{-1}(x)}{dx} = 1, \text{ but } \frac{df[f^{-1}(x)]}{df^{-1}(x)} = f'[f^{-1}(x)] \text{ and } \frac{df^{-1}(x)}{dx} = [f^{-1}(x)]'$$

$$\text{Thus } f'[f^{-1}(x)] \cdot [f^{-1}(x)]' = 1 \quad \text{equation (1)}$$

Dividing equation (1) by $f'[f^{-1}(x)]$,

$$[f^{-1}(x)]' = \frac{1}{f'[f^{-1}(x)]}, \text{ where } [f^{-1}(x)]' \text{ is the derivative of the inverse of } f(x) \text{ and}$$

$$f'[f^{-1}(x)] \neq 0.$$

The formula $[f^{-1}(x)]' = \frac{1}{f'[f^{-1}(x)]}$ can be used to find the derivative of an inverse