

§ 3.6 Derivative of Inverse Function

ANSWER KEY HW 02455

AB Calculus – Supplement

Derivative of the Inverse of a Function

6) The following figure shows $f(x)$ and $f^{-1}(x)$. Using the given table, find:

a) $f(2), f^{-1}(2), f'(2), (f^{-1})'(2)$.
 $f(2) = 4$ $f^{-1}(2) = 1$
 $f'(2) = 2.8 = \frac{14}{5}$ $(f^{-1})'(2) = \frac{1}{f'(1)} = \frac{1}{1.4} = \frac{5}{7}$

b) The equation of the tangent line at the points $P(3, 8)$ and $Q(8, 3)$.
 $f'(3) = 5.5$ $P(3, 8)$ $(f^{-1})'(8) = \frac{1}{f'(3)} = \frac{1}{5.5} = \frac{2}{11}$

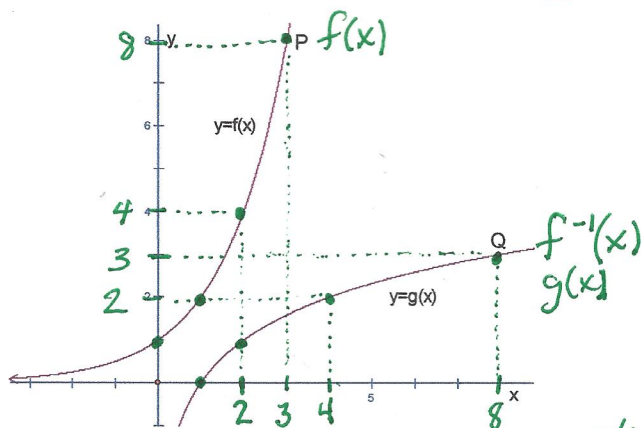
$y = \frac{11}{2}(x-3) + 8$

$y = \frac{2}{11}(x-8) + 3$

c) What is the relationship between the two tangent lines?

c) These tangent lines are inverse functions

x	f(x)	f'(x) = g(x)
0	1	0.7
1	2	1.4 → $\frac{14}{10} = \frac{7}{5}$
2	4	2.8
3	8	5.5 → $\frac{55}{10} = \frac{11}{2}$



$f(x) = 2^x$

$f'(x) = (\ln 2) 2^x \Big|_{x=3}$

$f'(3) = 2^3 \cdot \ln 2 = 8 \ln 2$

$g(x) = f^{-1}(x) = \log_2(x)$

$g(x) = f^{-1}(x) = \frac{\ln(x)}{\ln(2)}$

$g'(x) = (f^{-1})'(x) = \frac{1}{x \cdot \ln(2)} \Big|_{x=8}$

7) Calculate $g'(1)$, where $g(x)$ is the inverse of the function $f(x) = x + e^x$ without solving for $g(x)$.

(A) $f(x) = x + e^x = 1$ → $g(1) = 0$ (B)
 $x=0$ (C) $f'(x) = 1 + e^x$
 $\therefore f(0) = 1$ $f'(0) = 1 + 1 = 2$ reciprocal → $g'(1) = \frac{1}{2}$

$g'(2) = \frac{1}{8 \ln 2}$

8) Calculate $g'(x)$, where $g(x)$ is the inverse of the function $f(x) = x^3 + 1$ without solving for $g(x)$.

$f(x) = x^3 + 1$ → $g(x) = f^{-1}(x)$
 $f'(x) = 3x^2$ RECIPROCAL → $g'(x) = \frac{1}{3x^2}$

9) Let $f(x) = \frac{1}{4}x^3 + x - 1$. Assume that $f(x)$ is one-to-one.

a. What is the value of $f^{-1}(x)$ when $x = 3$?

$f^{-1}(3) = ?$ \therefore Solve $f(x) = 3 = \frac{1}{4}x^3 + x - 1$ $\therefore \frac{1}{4}x^3 + x - 4 = 0$ (TI) $x = 2$

b. Find the slope of the tangent line to the curve $y = f^{-1}(x)$ at $x = 3$.

$y = \frac{1}{4}(x-3) + 2$

$\therefore f(2) = 3$ $f^{-1}(3) = 2$
 $f'(x) = \frac{3}{4}x^2 + 1$ $(f^{-1})'(3) = \frac{1}{4}$
 $f'(2) = 4$

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HW DAY 55

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Keys to Properly Solving Derivative of an Inverse Problems:

- First, identify the point (a, b) on the function f using whatever information is given.
- Differentiate f .
- Take the reciprocal of the derivative of f . This is the derivative of f^{-1} .
- Evaluate the derivative of f^{-1} at the point (b, a) .

Practice:

Given the following values for differentiable functions f and g .

x	$f(x)$	f'	$g(x)$	g'
1	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	-3	5
2	3	1	0	4
3	4	2	2	3
4	6	5	3	$\frac{1}{2}$

- a. If $h(x) = f^{-1}(x)$, what is $h'(4)$?
 $\rightarrow f(?) = 4$ $(3, 4)$ on $f(x)$ $f'(3) = 2$
 $(4, 3)$ on $h(x) \rightarrow h'(4) = \frac{1}{f'(3)} = \frac{1}{2}$
- b. If $h(x) = f^{-1}(x)$, what is $h'(2)$?
 $\rightarrow f(?) = 2$ $(1, 2)$ on $f(x)$ $f'(1) = \frac{1}{2}$
 $(2, 1)$ on $h(x) \rightarrow h'(2) = \frac{1}{f'(1)} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}} = 2$
- c. If $d(x) = g^{-1}(x)$, what is $d'(-3)$?
 $\rightarrow g(?) = -3$ $(1, -3)$ on $g(x)$ $g'(1) = 5$
 $(-3, 1)$ on $h(x) \rightarrow h'(-3) = \frac{1}{g'(1)} = \frac{1}{5}$

And these are not exactly on derivatives of inverses, but they are good practice nonetheless:

- d. If $p(x) = g^2(x)$, what is $p'(3)$?
 $p'(x) = 2(g(x))^1 \cdot g'(x) \therefore p'(3) = 2(g(3))^1 \cdot g'(3)$
 $= 2(2)(3) = 12$
- e. If $b = f \cdot g$ what is $b'(2)$?
 $b' = f' \cdot g + f \cdot g' \therefore b'(2) = f'(2)g(2) + f(2) \cdot g'(2)$
 $= (1)(0) + (3)(4) = 0 + 12 = 12$
- f. If $n(x) = f(x^3)$, what is $n'(1)$?
 $n'(x) = f'(x^3) (3x^2) \therefore n'(1) = f'(1^3) \cdot (3(1)^2)$
 $= f'(1) \cdot (3)$
 $= (\frac{1}{2})(3) = \frac{3}{2}$