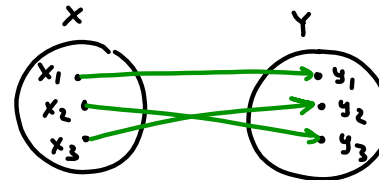


$x_2 \neq x_3$, but $f(x_2) = f(x_3) = y_2$
not one-to-one



one-to-one

injective

4.2: Inverse Functions

DEFINITION 1. A function of domain X is said to be a **one-to-one** function if no two elements of X have the same image, i.e.

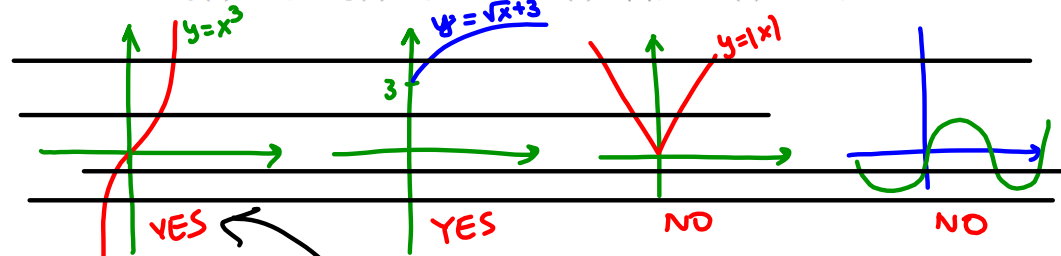
if $x_1 \neq x_2$ then $f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$.

Equivalently, if $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$ then $x_1 = x_2$.

Horizontal line test: A function is one-to-one if and only if no horizontal line intersects its graph more than once.

EXAMPLE 2. Are the following functions one-to-one?

$f(x) = x^3$, $g(x) = \sqrt{x} + 3$, $u(x) = |x|$, $w(x) = \sin x$,



$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x_1) &= f(x_2) \\
 x_1^3 &= x_2^3 \\
 \sqrt[3]{x_1^3} &= \sqrt[3]{x_2^3} \\
 x_1 &= x_2
 \end{aligned}$$

Consider $F(x) = x^2$

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(x_1) &= F(x_2) \\
 x_1^2 &= x_2^2 \\
 \sqrt{x_1^2} &= \sqrt{x_2^2} \\
 |x_1| &= |x_2| \\
 x_1 = x_2 \quad \text{OR} \quad x_1 = -x_2
 \end{aligned}$$

non-injective

$1 \neq -1$, but $F(1) = F(-1) = 1$.

EXAMPLE 3. Prove that $f(x) = \frac{x-3}{x+3}$ is one-to-one ($x \neq -3$).

Proof

$$f(x_1) = f(x_2)$$

$$\frac{x_1-3}{x_1+3} = \frac{x_2-3}{x_2+3}$$

$$(x_1-3)(x_2+3) = (x_1+3)(x_2-3)$$

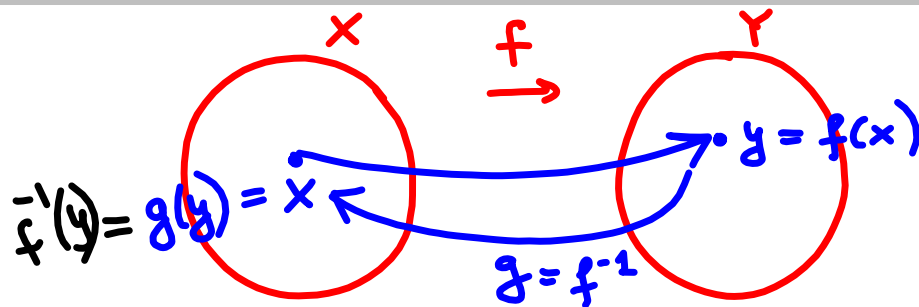
$$\cancel{x_1x_2 - 3x_2 + 3x_1 - 9} = \cancel{x_1x_2 + 3x_2 - 3x_1 - 9}$$

$$3x_1 + 3x_1 = 3x_2 + 3x_2$$

$$6x_1 = 6x_2$$

$$\rightarrow x_1 = x_2$$

So, f is one-to-one.



$$y = f(x) = f(g(y)) = (f \circ g)(y)$$

$$x = g(y) = g(f(x)) = (g \circ f)(x)$$

DEFINITION 4. Let f be a one-to-one function with domain X and range Y . Then the inverse function f^{-1} has the domain Y and range X and is defined for any y in Y by

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

REMARK 5. Reversing roles of x and y in the last formula we get:

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

REMARK 6. If $y = f(x)$ is one-to-one function with the domain X and the range Y then

for every x in X $f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$
 and
 for every x in Y $f(f^{-1}(x)) = x$

Cancellation Laws

CAUTION: $f^{-1}(x)$ does NOT mean $\frac{1}{f(x)}$.

TO FIND THE INVERSE FUNCTION OF A ONE-TO-ONE FUNCTION f :

1. Write $y = f(x)$.
2. Solve this equation for x in terms of y (if possible).
3. Interchange x and y . The resulting equation is $y = f^{-1}(x)$.

EXAMPLE 7. (cf. Example 3) Find the inverse function of $f(x) = \frac{x-3}{x+3}$. Find the domain and the range of both f and f^{-1} .

$$y = \frac{x-3}{x+3}$$

$$y(x+3) = x-3$$

$$xy + 3y = x - 3$$

$$3y + 3 = x - xy$$

$$3(y+1) = x(1-y)$$

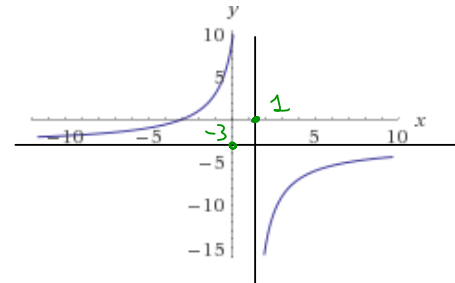
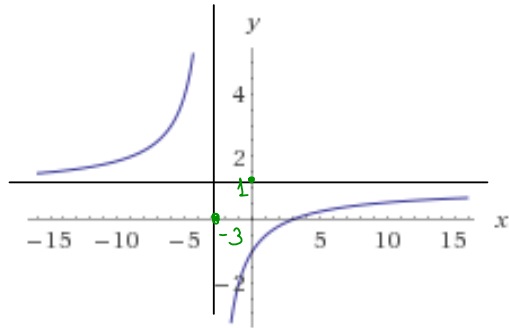
$$x = \frac{3(y+1)}{1-y}$$

$$y = \frac{3(x+1)}{1-x} = f^{-1}(x)$$

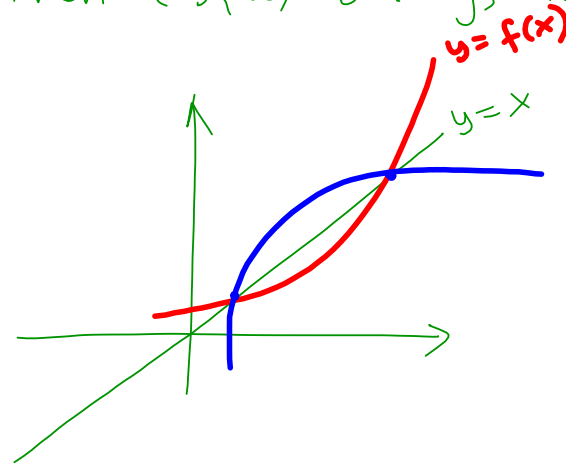
	Domain	Range
Function f	$(-\infty, -3) \cup (-3, \infty)$	$(-\infty, 1) \cup (1, \infty)$
Function f^{-1} (Inverse of f)	$(-\infty, 1) \cup (1, \infty)$	$(-\infty, -3) \cup (-3, \infty)$

FACT: The graph of f^{-1} is obtained by reflecting the graph of f about the line $y = x$.

$$y = \frac{x-3}{x+3}$$



If (a, b) belongs to the graph $y = f(x)$,
then (b, a) belongs to the graph $y = f^{-1}(x)$.



THEOREM 8. If f is a one-to-one differentiable function with inverse function $g = f^{-1}$ and $f'(g(a)) \neq 0$, then the inverse function is differentiable at a and

$$\frac{df^{-1}(a)}{dx} = g'(a) = \frac{1}{f'(g(a))} = \frac{1}{f'(f^{-1}(a))}$$

Proof.

By Cancellation Law

$$f(f^{-1}(x)) = x, \text{ or}$$

$$f(g(x)) = x$$

Differentiate both sides (use Chain Rule)

$$f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x) = 1$$

$$g'(x) = \frac{1}{f'(g(x))}$$

If $x = a$ and $f'(g(a)) \neq 0$, then

$$g'(a) = \frac{1}{f'(g(a))}$$

EXAMPLE 9. Suppose that g is inverse of f . Find $g'(a)$ where

(a) $f(x) = \frac{x-3}{x+3}$, $a = 3$. This problem was covered on recitation. Below is solution of a similar one.

(a') $f(x) = \frac{2x-3}{x+3}$, $a = \frac{1}{2}$.

$g(\frac{1}{2}) = x$

$f^{-1}(\frac{1}{2}) = x$
Find x such that
 $\frac{1}{2} = f(x)$

$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2x-3}{x+3}$

$x+3 = 2(2x-3)$

$x+3 = 4x-6$

$3x = 9$
 $x = 3$ \Rightarrow $g(\frac{1}{2}) = 3$ 😊

$g = f^{-1}$ Find $g'(\frac{1}{2})$

$g'(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{1}{f'(g(\frac{1}{2}))} = \frac{1}{f'(3)} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{4}} = 4$ 😊

Quotient Rule
 $f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{2x-3}{x+3} \right) = \frac{2(x+3) - (2x-3)}{(x+3)^2}$

$f'(3) = \frac{2 \cdot 6 - 3}{6^2} = \frac{9}{36} = \frac{1}{4}$ ☆

$g'(\frac{1}{2}) = 4$

(b) $f(x) = \sqrt{x^3 + x^2 + x + 1}$, $a = 2$

$g = f^{-1}$ Find $g'(2)$.

$g(2) = x$

OR $f^{-1}(2) = x \Rightarrow f(x) = 2$

Guess $x = 1 \Rightarrow f(1) = \sqrt{4} = 2$

So, $g(2) = 1$

Find $f'(1)$:

$$f'(x) = \frac{3x^2 + 2x + 1}{2\sqrt{x^3 + x^2 + x + 1}} \Rightarrow f'(1) = \frac{3 + 2 + 1}{2\sqrt{4}} = \frac{6}{4} = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$g'(2) = \frac{1}{f'(g(2))} = \frac{1}{f'(1)} = \frac{1}{\frac{3}{2}} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$g'(2) = \frac{2}{3}$

Find $g'(a)$

where $g = f^{-1}$

(c) $f(x) = 4 + 3x + e^{3(x-1)}$, $a = 8$.

$$g'(a) = \frac{1}{f'(g(a))}$$

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

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

$$g'(8) = \frac{1}{6}$$

Find $g(8)$:

$$g(8) = x$$

$$f^{-1}(8) = x$$

$$8 = f(x)$$

Find x s.t. $f(x) = 8$

Guess $f(1) = 4 + 3 + e^0 = 8$
 $x=1$

So, $g(8) = 1$

Find $f'(1)$:

$$f'(x) = 0 + 3 + 3e^{3(x-1)}$$

$$f'(1) = 3 + 3 \cdot 1 = 6$$