

1. The goal of this first part is to compute the derivative of the inverse function $f^{-1}(x)$ of a function $f(x)$ (and this way prove the formula).
 - (a) Write down the chain rule.

 - (b) Let $f(x)$ be a function and $f^{-1}(x)$ its inverse.
What is $f(f^{-1}(x))$ equal to?

 - (c) Take the equation from the preceding point and differentiate both sides with respect to x .
What do you get? Have you used the chain rule? If so, where?

 - (d) Use what you have found to determine the derivative $(f^{-1}(x))'$.

 - (e) What do we assume when using the previous formula?

Let us now apply what we have just seen.

2. We want to compute the derivative of $f(x) = \ln x$. How can we use the preceding formula?

3. Let us now focus on the derivative of $f(x) = a^x$.
How can we rewrite this function in terms of e^x and $\ln x$?
Then what is $(a^x)'$?

4. Compute the derivatives of:

i) $f(x) = \ln(\sin x)$

ii) $g(x) = \frac{1}{\ln 3x}$

iii) $h(t) = 3^{t^2}$

iv) $f(z) = \log_5 e^z$

v) $g(t) = \ln(e^{3t} \sin^2 t)$

vi) $h(x) = \log_2(2^x e^2)$

vii) What is wrong with the following statement?

The derivative of $f(x) = \ln(\ln x)$ is $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x} \ln x + \ln x \frac{1}{x} = \frac{2 \ln x}{x}$.