



Example: $f(x) = x^3 + x + 1$ passes through the point $(1,3)$. See figure 1.
 $f'(x) = 3x^2 + 1$, which is always positive. That implies that $f(x)$ is strictly increasing.
That implies that $f(x)$ has an inverse, although it would be difficult/impossible to find an equation for $f^{-1}(x)$.

Using the calculator to graph $f^{-1}(x)$:

Method 1: Use F6 Draw DrawInv. The calculator will return you to the Home screen, and you type in DrawInv $y_1(x)$. This will show the shape of the inverse graph, but you will not be able to trace along the inverse.

Method 2: Use Parametric Mode

$$x_{t1} = t$$

$$y_{t1} = t^3 + t + 1$$

$$x_{t2} = t^3 + t + 1 \quad \text{or} \quad x_{t2} = y_{t1}$$

$$y_{t2} = t$$

$$y_{t2} = x_{t1}$$

This method interchanges x and y .

Notice $f'(1) = 4$. The slope of the tangent line at $(1,3)$ equals 4. See figure 2 above. This will mean that $f^{-1}'(3) = \frac{1}{4}$. The slope of f -inverse as it passes through $(3,1)$ is the reciprocal of $f'(1)$.

I. Exercises

For each function below, find $f^{-1}(x)$.

Graph $f(x)$ and draw the tangent line at $(0, f(0))$. On the same axes, graph $f^{-1}(x)$ and draw the tangent at $(f(0), 0)$. Compare the slopes of the two tangent lines.

1) $f(x) = 4x - 3$

2) $f(x) = \sqrt{x} + 1$

3) $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x} + 8$

4) $f(x) = 8x^3$

5) $f(x) = \frac{2x - 3}{x + 2}$

II. Find $f^{-1}'(d)$ for the given values of $f(x)$ and d .

6) $f(x) = \sqrt{3x + 1}$ $d = 1$

7) $f(x) = x^2 - 16, x \geq 0$ $d = 9$

8) $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - x}$ $d = 3$

9) $f(x) = x^3 + 5$ $d = -3$

10) $f(x) = 3x^5 + 2x^3$ $d = 5$

11) $f(x) = \sin x, -\pi/2 < x < \pi/2$ $d = \frac{1}{2}$

12) $f(x) = 2x^2 + 8x + 7, x \leq -2$ $d = 1$