

# Section 4.2

## Solutions and Hints

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for the book:  
Calculus, Early Vectors  
by James Stewart.

For this section you need to know:

### How to find the inverse of a one-to-one function $f(x)$ :

You are given  $f(x) = \text{blah, blah, blah}$

1. Write  $y = f(x)$
2. Solve the equation for  $x$  in terms of  $y$  (this is not always possible).
3. Switch the  $x$  and  $y$ .
4. The result is  $y = f^{-1}(x)$

IMPORTANT: Notice that  $f(x) = x^2$  is NOT a one-to-one function  $\rightarrow f(2) = f(-2) = 4$ . However if you restrict its domain to say  $x \geq 0$  then you can 'pretend' it is.

### Example:

Given  $f(x) = x^5 - 3$  find  $f^{-1}(x)$

1. Write  $y = f(x)$ :  $y = x^5 - 3$

2. Solve for  $x$ :  
 $y + 3 = x^5$   
 $x^5 = y + 3$   
 $x = \sqrt[5]{y + 3}$

3. Switch  $x$  and  $y$ :  $y = \sqrt[5]{x + 3}$

4. Result is  $y = f^{-1}(x)$ :  $f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt[5]{x + 3}$

So the inverse of  $x^5 - 3$  is  $\sqrt[5]{x + 3}$

**You should also memorize Theorem 7 (illustrated in problem 26 below).**

**26. Find  $g'(a)$ , where  $g$  is the inverse function of the given function.**

Given:  $f(x) = x^5 - x^3 + 2x$ , and  $a = 2$

Recall that Theorem 7 of this section says:

If  $f$  is one-to-one and differentiable with inverse  $g$  and  $f'(g(a)) \neq 0$  then

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

Graph  $f(x)$  and make sure it passes the horizontal line test – so it is one-to-one. Because it is a polynomial we know it is continuous and differentiable (specifically at  $x = 2$ ). Thus Theorem 7 applies:

We need to find  $g(2)$ . Notice that  $g(2) = f^{-1}(2)$ .

Recall  $f(f^{-1}(c)) = f(g(c)) = c$

So we start with:

$$\begin{array}{ll} g(2) = c & \text{take } f(\ ) \text{ of both sides} \\ f(g(2)) = f(c) & f(g(2)) = 2 \\ 2 = f(c) & \end{array}$$

Thus to find  $g(2)$  we can set  $f(c) = 2$  and solve for  $c$ .

$$f(c) = c^5 - c^3 + 2c = 2$$

$$c^5 - c^3 + 2c - 2 = 0 \quad \text{There is no real good way to solve this.}$$

*For the most part the answers are usually small such as 0, 1, 2 or 3. So sadly 'guessing' turns out to be the fastest method. This actually factors:*

$$(c - 1)(c^4 + c^3 + 2) = 0$$

So  $c = 1$  is the only real solution. Thus  $f(1) = 2 \rightarrow 1 = g(2)$ .

$$\text{And } f(x) = x^5 - x^3 + 2x \quad \rightarrow \quad f'(x) = 5x^4 - 3x^2 + 2$$

$$\text{Thus } f'(g(2)) = f'(1) = 5*1 - 3*1 + 2 = 5 - 3 + 2 = 4$$

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

And we conclude  $g'(2) = \frac{1}{4}$ .

**31. Suppose  $g$  is the inverse function of  $f$  and  $f(4) = 5$ ,  $f'(4) = 2/3$ . Find  $g'(5)$ .**

This is just an application of Theorem 7 of this section, which basically says:

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

Here because  $f(4) = 5$  *we take  $g()$  of both sides*  
we know  $g(f(4)) = g(5)$  *as  $g$  and  $f$  are inverse  $g(f(4)) = 4$*   
and thus  $4 = g(5)$

This is not surprising as the only other thing we are given is  $f'(4) = 2/3$ .

So  $f'(g(5)) = f'(4) = 2/3$

Thus  $g'(5) = \frac{1}{(2/3)} = 3/2$

So  $g'(5) = 3/2 = 1.5$