

The derivative of $f(x) = a^x$

We use the definition of derivatives here

$$\begin{aligned}f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^{x+h} - a^x}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^x(a^h - 1)}{h} \\&= a^x \cdot \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^h - 1}{h} \\&= a^x \cdot \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{h \ln a} - 1}{h}\end{aligned}$$

Then, we apply L'Hôpital's rule to the second part

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{h \ln a} - 1}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(e^{h \ln a} - 1)'}{h'} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln a \cdot e^{h \ln a}}{1} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (\ln a \cdot a^h) \\&= \ln a\end{aligned}$$

So

$$(a^x)' = a^x \cdot \ln a$$

The derivative of $f(x) = \log_a x$

Since this function is the inverse function of $g(x) = a^x$, that is, $f^{-1}(x) = a^x$

$$\begin{aligned}f'(x) &= \frac{1}{(f^{-1})'(f(x))} \\&= \frac{1}{(f^{-1})'(\log_a x)} \\&= \frac{1}{a^{\log_a x} \cdot \ln a} \\&= \frac{1}{x \cdot \ln a}\end{aligned}$$

So

$$(\log_a x)' = \frac{1}{x \cdot \ln a}$$

The derivative of $f(x) = \arcsin x$

$$\begin{aligned}(\arcsin x)' &= \frac{1}{\cos(\arcsin x)} \\&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \sin^2(\arcsin x)}} \\&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}, \quad |x| < 1\end{aligned}$$

The derivative of $f(x) = \operatorname{arcsec} x$

$$\begin{aligned}(\operatorname{arcsec} x)' &= \frac{1}{\sec(\operatorname{arcsec} x) \tan(\operatorname{arcsec} x)} \\&= \frac{1}{|x| \sqrt{\sec^2(\operatorname{arcsec} x) - 1}} \\&= \frac{1}{|x| \sqrt{x^2 - 1}}, \quad |x| > 1\end{aligned}$$

The derivative of $f(x) = \arctan x$

$$\begin{aligned}(\arcsin x)' &= \frac{1}{\sec^2(\arctan x)} \\&= \frac{1}{\tan^2(\arctan x) + 1} \\&= \frac{1}{1 + x^2}\end{aligned}$$