

If we want to compute $\int \frac{1}{x} dx$,

the first thing that comes to mind is that

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln(x)) = \frac{1}{x}.$$

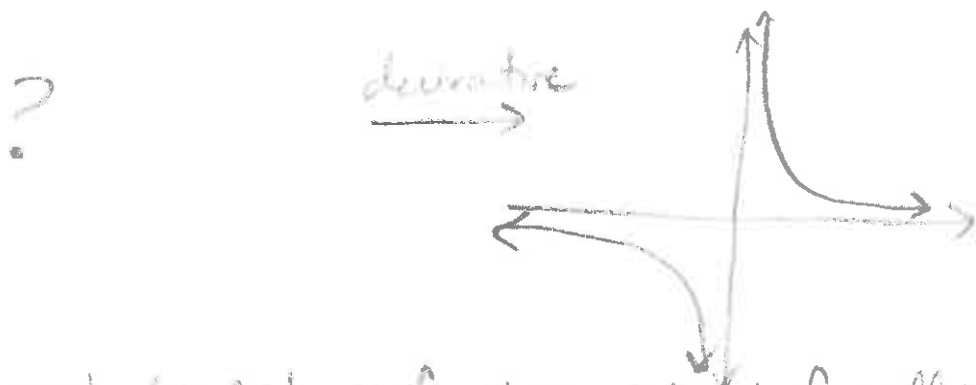
BUT, we need to be careful here, because really what we should say is that

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln(x)) = \frac{1}{x} \text{ for } x > 0.$$

Since $\ln(x)$ is only defined for $x > 0$, its derivative is



We want to ask though, what function $f(x)$ has as its derivative $\frac{1}{x}$ (for all $x \neq 0$)?

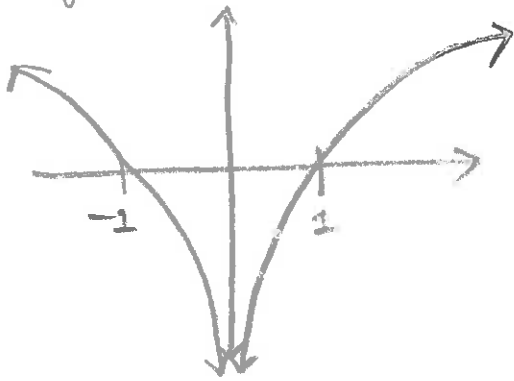


The answer must clearly be a function defined for all $x \neq 0$, rather

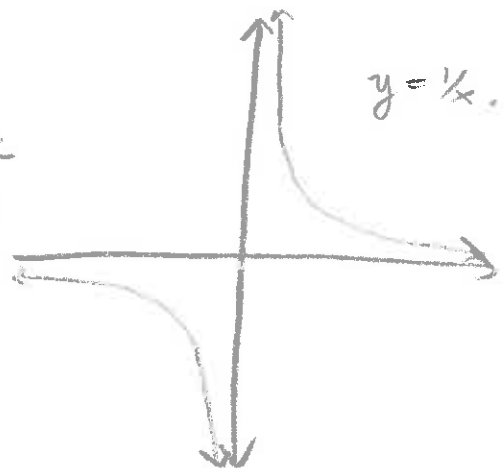
than just for $x > 0$.

The function $\ln|x|$ turns out to be what we need!

$$y = \ln|x|:$$



derivative



So $\int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln|x| + C.$

Finally, it's important to be careful with indefinite integrals of any functions that are not on our list of basic functions.

Common errors:

$$\textcircled{1} \int 4 \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)} dx \neq 4 \int \frac{\sin(x) dx}{\cos(x) dx}$$
$$\parallel \parallel$$
$$-4 \ln|\cos(x)| + C \quad 4 \frac{(\cos(x) + c_1)}{(\sin(x) + c_2)}$$

↑
actual antideriv.
(constant!)

↑
NOT the antideriv.

You cannot take the antideriv. of a quotient by finding the quotient of the antiderivatives!!

(2)

$$\int f(x)g(x)dx \neq \left(\int f(x)dx\right)\left(\int g(x)dx\right)!$$

Similarly the antideriv. of a product
is not equal to the product of the antiderivs.

example:

$$\frac{1}{4}x^4 + C \stackrel{\checkmark}{=} \int x^3 dx \stackrel{\checkmark}{=} \int x \cdot x^2 dx \stackrel{\times}{\neq} \left(\int x dx\right)\left(\int x^2 dx\right)$$

↑
correct
antideriv. of x^3 .

||
not → $\left(\frac{1}{2}x^2 + C_1\right)\left(\frac{1}{3}x^3 + C_2\right)$
the correct
antideriv. of x^3 !

Just as we did with derivatives, we will need
to learn more complex techniques for integrating
functions that are not from our basic
function list.