

Show

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln x = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(x+h) - \ln x}{h} \quad (1)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln\left(\frac{x+h}{x}\right)}{h} \quad (2)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \ln\left(\frac{x+h}{x}\right) \quad (3)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \ln\left(\frac{x+h}{x}\right)^{1/h} \quad (4)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \ln\left(1 + \frac{h}{x}\right)^{1/h} \quad (5)$$

Now consider the form $\frac{h}{x}$. We recognize this limit is reminiscent of the limit defining e^x but the term isn't quite right. We proceed in two stages. First by getting the exponent to look more like the form $\frac{h}{x}$:

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \ln\left(1 + \frac{h}{x}\right)^{1/h} = \frac{x}{x} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \ln\left(1 + \frac{h}{x}\right)^{1/h} \quad (6)$$

$$= \frac{1}{x} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} x \ln\left(1 + \frac{h}{x}\right)^{1/h} \quad (\text{since } x \text{ not a function of } h) \quad (7)$$

$$= \frac{1}{x} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \ln\left(1 + \frac{h}{x}\right)^{x/h} \quad (8)$$

The second stage is to consider the term $\frac{x}{h}$.

As $h \rightarrow 0$ we have $\frac{x}{h} \rightarrow \infty$ so if $H = \frac{x}{h}$ then as $h \rightarrow 0$, $H \rightarrow \infty$ so we have

$$\frac{1}{x} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \ln\left(1 + \frac{h}{x}\right)^{x/h} = \frac{1}{x} \lim_{H \rightarrow \infty} \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{H}\right)^H \quad (9)$$

$$= \frac{1}{x} \ln \lim_{H \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{H}\right)^H \quad (10)$$

$$= \frac{1}{x} \ln e \quad (11)$$

$$= \frac{1}{x} \quad (12)$$