

Here we will explore some properties of inverse functions.

1. The function  $f(x) = 4x - 3$  is invertible. Find the inverse function  $f^{-1}(x)$  and plot a graph of both  $f$  and  $f^{-1}$ .
2. The function  $f(x) = x^2$  is not invertible. Try to solve for the inverse anyway, and sketch graphs of  $f$  and everything you get by trying to solve for the inverse.
3. What do we notice about these graphs? In particular, what is strange about the graph(s) for  $f^{-1}$  when  $f$  was not invertible? Think about a test we have for determining if a graph is represented by a function.
4. Look at the graphs you have above and see if you can find a relation between the graph of  $f$  and the graph of  $f^{-1}$ . From a more algebraic perspective, if the point  $(a, b)$  is on the graph of  $f$ , what point has to be on the graph of  $f^{-1}$ ? What does this mean in terms of the geometry of the graphs?
5. With this relation you described in the previous part, how does the function test for  $f^{-1}$  relate to a different type of test on the graph of  $f$ ? That is, is there a test we could perform on the graph of  $f$  to see if it will be invertible?
6. We can fix the problem of  $x^2$  being non-invertible by changing the domain. Draw a graph of  $f(x) = x^2$  on  $x \geq 0$ . Does it pass the new test? If so, what is the inverse function to this restricted  $f$ ?