

Exercise 58

Find the derivative of the function. Simplify where possible.

$$y = \cos^{-1}(\sin^{-1} t)$$

Solution

Use the chain rule and the derivatives of the inverse trigonometric functions listed on page 214.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dt} &= \frac{d}{dt}[\cos^{-1}(\sin^{-1} t)] \\ &= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - (\sin^{-1} t)^2}} \cdot \frac{d}{dt}(\sin^{-1} t) \\ &= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - (\sin^{-1} t)^2}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - t^2}}\right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - t^2}\sqrt{1 - (\sin^{-1} t)^2}}\end{aligned}$$