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derivatives of sine and cosine

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The of the derivatives of sine and cosine is a bit simpler by using the prosthaphaeresis formulas

$$\sin \alpha - \sin \beta = 2 \sin \left(\frac{\alpha - \beta}{2} \right) \cos \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2} \right), \quad (1)$$

$$\cos \alpha - \cos \beta = -2 \sin \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{\alpha - \beta}{2} \right). \quad (2)$$

Let x, t be any real numbers such that $t \neq x$. Then we obtain

$$\frac{\sin x - \sin t}{x - t} = \frac{2 \sin \left(\frac{x-t}{2} \right) \cos \left(\frac{x+t}{2} \right)}{x - t} = \frac{\sin \left(\frac{x-t}{2} \right)}{\left(\frac{x-t}{2} \right)} \cdot \cos \left(\frac{x+t}{2} \right) \longrightarrow 1 \cdot \cos \left(\frac{x+x}{2} \right) = \cos x,$$

as $t \rightarrow x$. Here we used the known limit $\lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin u}{u} = 1$ (see <http://planetmath.org/LimitOfDis> entry).

The derivative of cosine is calculated similarly:

$$\frac{\cos x - \cos t}{x - t} = \frac{-2 \sin \left(\frac{x+t}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{x-t}{2} \right)}{x - t} = -1 \cdot \frac{\sin \left(\frac{x-t}{2} \right)}{\left(\frac{x-t}{2} \right)} \cdot \sin \left(\frac{x+t}{2} \right) \longrightarrow -1 \cdot 1 \cdot \sin \left(\frac{x+x}{2} \right) = -\sin x$$

as $t \rightarrow x$.