

M16600 Lecture Notes

Section 6.6: Inverse Trigonometric Functions

■ **Section 6.6** exercises, page 481: #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 22, 23, 25, 27, 31, 33, 59, 61, 65, 64, 67.

GOALS

- Compute the values of the **inverse trigonometric functions**, e.g., $\sin^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$, $\cos^{-1}(0)$, $\tan^{-1}(\sqrt{3})$, etc.
- Compute or simplify expressions such as $\tan(\sin^{-1}(\frac{1}{3}))$, $\cos(\tan^{-1}x)$, etc.
- Compute derivatives and integrals involving inverse trigonometric functions.

In this section, we explore the inverse functions of trigonometric functions. The functions $\sin(x)$, $\cos(x)$, $\tan(x)$ are not one-to-one over their domains. However, if we restrict their domains, they will be one-to-one on the restricted domain. We then can find their inverse functions.

◇ **Inverse Sine Function.** Notation: $\sin^{-1}(x)$ or $\arcsin(x)$

$\sin \theta$ is one-to-one for $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$. Thus, we have

$$\sin^{-1} x = \theta \iff \sin \theta = x \quad \text{for } -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Note: $\sin^{-1} \neq \frac{1}{\sin x}$ $\rightarrow (\sin x)^{-1}$

Example 1: Evaluate (a) $\sin^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$ (b) $\tan(\arcsin \frac{1}{3})$

(a) For what angle θ do we have

$$\sin^{-1}(\frac{1}{2}) = \theta \Rightarrow \sin \theta = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \theta = \frac{\pi}{6} \text{ or } 30^\circ$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin^{-1}(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{\pi}{6}$$

(b) $\tan(\arcsin \frac{1}{3}) \Rightarrow$ Let $\theta = \arcsin(\frac{1}{3})$

Since θ is in 1st quadrant

$$\Rightarrow \sin \theta = \frac{1}{3}$$

$\frac{1}{3} > 0$
 $\Rightarrow \theta$ is
in first
quadrant

$$\cos \theta > 0, \tan \theta > 0$$

$$\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1 \Rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 + \cos^2 \theta = 1 \Rightarrow \cos^2 \theta = 1 - \frac{1}{9}$$

$$\cos^2 \theta = \frac{8}{9} \Rightarrow \cos \theta = \sqrt{\frac{8}{9}} = \frac{\sqrt{8}}{3}$$

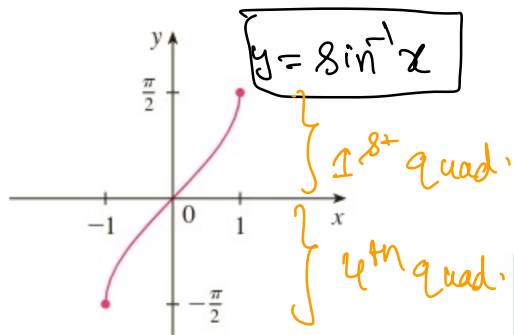


FIGURE 4
 $y = \sin^{-1} x = \arcsin x$

$$\Rightarrow \tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\text{Domain} = [-1, 1], \text{Range} = \left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$$

$$\sin^{-1}(\sin x) = x \quad \text{for } -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\sin(\sin^{-1} x) = x \quad \text{for } -1 \leq x \leq 1$$

◇ **Inverse Cosine Function.** Notation: $\cos^{-1}(x)$ or $\arccos(x)$

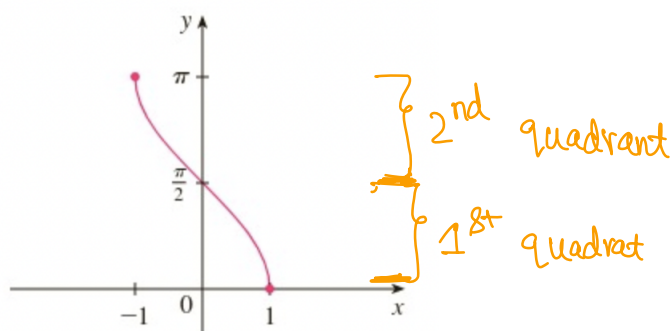
$$\cos^{-1} x = \theta \iff \cos \theta = x \quad \text{for } 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$$

$$\text{Domain} = [-1, 1]$$

$$\text{Range} = [0, \pi]$$

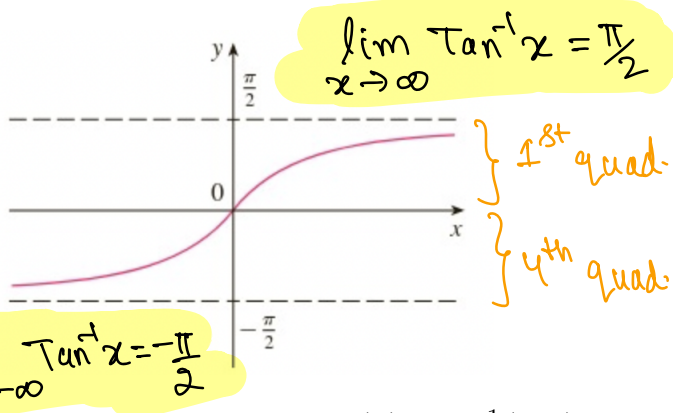
$$\cos^{-1}(\cos x) = x \quad \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq \pi$$

$$\cos(\cos^{-1} x) = x \quad \text{for } -1 \leq x \leq 1$$



◇ **Inverse Tangent Function.** Notation: $\tan^{-1}(x)$ or $\arctan(x)$

$$\tan^{-1} x = \theta \iff \tan \theta = x \quad \text{for } -\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$$



$$\text{Domain} = \mathbb{R}$$

$$\text{Range} = \left(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

$$x > 0 \Rightarrow \tan^{-1} x > 0$$

(lies in 1st quad)

$$x < 0 \Rightarrow \tan^{-1} x < 0$$

(lies in 4th quad)

not in range

Example 2: Evaluate (a) $\cos^{-1}(-1)$ and (b) $\arctan(\sqrt{3})$.

(a) $\cos^{-1}(-1) = \pi$ since $\cos \pi = -1$

(b) $\arctan(\sqrt{3}) = \theta$ for which $\tan \theta = \sqrt{3}$

Example 3: Simplify the expression $\cos(\tan^{-1}(x))$

$$\cos(\underbrace{\tan^{-1}x}_{\theta}) = \cos \theta$$

$x > 0 \Rightarrow \theta$ is in 1st quad.
 $x < 0 \Rightarrow \theta$ is in 4th quad.
 In both cases $\cos \theta > 0$

$\theta = \tan^{-1}x \Rightarrow \tan \theta = x \Rightarrow$ Given $\tan \theta$ we want to find $\cos \theta$

$$\Rightarrow \sec^2 \theta = 1 + \tan^2 \theta = 1 + x^2 \Rightarrow \cos^2 \theta = \frac{1}{\sec^2 \theta} = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos(\tan^{-1}x) = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} \text{ (reject -ve sign)} \Rightarrow \cos(\tan^{-1}x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}$$

Derivative and Integral Formulas Involving Inverse Trigonometric Functions

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin^{-1}(x)) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\tan^{-1}(x)) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cos^{-1}(x)) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

$$\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \sin^{-1}(x) + C$$

$$\int \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx = \tan^{-1}(x) + C$$

$$\sin^{-1}x + \cos^{-1}x = \pi/2$$

Example 4: Differentiate

(a) $H(x) = 2 \tan^{-1}(x) + \arcsin(2x^2) + \cos^{-1}(\tan x)$

$$H'(x) = 2 [\tan^{-1}x]' + [\arcsin(2x^2)]' + [\cos^{-1}(\tan x)]'$$

$$= \frac{2}{1+x^2} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-(2x^2)^2}} \cdot (2x^2)' + \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-\tan^2 x}} \cdot (\tan x)'$$

$$\Rightarrow H'(x) = \frac{2}{1+x^2} + \frac{4x}{\sqrt{1-4x^4}} - \frac{\sec^2 x}{\sqrt{1-\tan^2 x}}$$

(b) $f(x) = x \arctan(\sqrt{x})$

↑ ↑
Product rule

$$f'(x) = [x]' \arctan(\sqrt{x}) + x [\arctan(\sqrt{x})]'$$

$$= \arctan(\sqrt{x}) + x \cdot \frac{1}{1+(\sqrt{x})^2} \cdot [\sqrt{x}]'$$

chain rule:
 $[f(g(x))]' = f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$

Example 5: Evaluate

$$= \arctan(\sqrt{x}) + \frac{x}{1+x} \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$

(a) $\int \frac{1}{15\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx$

$$= \frac{1}{15} \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{1}{15} \sin^{-1} x + C$$

$$= \arctan(\sqrt{x}) + \frac{\sqrt{x}}{2(1+x)}$$

(b) $\int \frac{3}{1+x^2} dx$

$$= 3 \int \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx = 3 \tan^{-1} x + C$$

(c) $\int \frac{\sec^2 x}{\sqrt{1-\tan^2 x}} dx$

$$u = \tan x \Rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} = \sec^2 x \Rightarrow du = \sec^2 x \cdot dx$$

$$I = \int \frac{\sec^2 x}{\sqrt{1-\tan^2 x}} dx = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\tan^2 x}} \underbrace{\sec^2 x dx}_{du}$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2}} du = \sin^{-1}(u) + C$$

$$= \sin^{-1}(\tan x) + C$$

(d) $\int_0^1 \frac{x}{1+x^4} dx$. **Note:** Evaluate all expressions into real numbers for your final answer.

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow u &= x^2 & \Rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} &= 2x & \Rightarrow du &= 2x \, dx \\ & & & & \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} du &= x \cdot dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int_0^1 \frac{x}{1+x^4} dx = \int_0^1 \underbrace{\frac{1}{1+x^4}}_{1+(x^2)^2} \cdot \underbrace{x \, dx}_{\frac{1}{2} du} \\ &= \int_0^2 \frac{1}{1+u^2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} du = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{1+u^2} du \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1} u \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1} 1 - \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1} 0 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0 \\ &= \frac{\pi}{8} \end{aligned}$$