

# elemapprox user manual

<b>Title</b>	elemapprox (Elementary functions approximation in ANSI C, Verilog HDL, and VHDL)
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<b>Rev. history</b>	
<b>v1.3.3</b>	2016-08-22 Add fmin, fmax for C, Verilog, and VHDL.
<b>v1.3.2</b>	2016-02-27 Fix ASCII rendering of function plots in the documentation.
<b>v1.3.1</b>	2015-12-25 Documentation updated with function plot examples.
<b>v1.3.0</b>	2014-10-12 Added ansicstd version which is an alternative C port that calls the standard C library mathematical functions as defined in <code>math.h</code> . Documentation updated.
<b>v1.2.0</b>	2014-10-10 Added vhdlieee version which is compatible to the IEEE <code>math_real</code> package. Documentation updated.
<b>v1.1.0</b>	2014-10-07 Added VHDL version for approximating and plotting the elementary functions. Numerous documentation fixes.
<b>v1.0.1</b>	2014-09-24 Minor documentation corrections.
<b>v1.0.0</b>	2014-09-16 Initial release. This is an expanded version built upon Mark G. Arnold's Verilog Transcendental Functions paper.

## 1. Introduction

elemapprox is an ANSI C code, Verilog HDL and VHDL collection of modules (Verilog HDL) and packages (VHDL) that provide the capability of evaluating and plotting transcendental functions by evaluating them in single precision. The original work supports ASCII plotting of a subset of the functions; this version provides a more

complete list of functions in addition to bitmap plotting for the transcendental functions as PBM (monochrome) image files.

`elemapprox` has been conceived as an extension to Prof. Mark G. Arnold's work as published in HDLCON 2001. Most functions have been prefixed with the letter `k` in order to avoid function name clashes in both ANSI C and Verilog HDL implementations. Currently, the plain VHDL version uses unprefixed names (e.g. `acos` instead of `kacos`). An alternative VHDL version named `vhdlieee` is compatible to the `IEEE.math_real` package and features prefixed names.

The transcendental functions supported include most elementary functions (hence the name `elemapprox`) and the list is as follows:

Function	Description
<code>kfabs (x)</code>	Floating-point absolute value (helper function).
<code>kfmin (x, y)</code>	Floating-point minimum value (helper function).
<code>kfmax (x, y)</code>	Floating-point maximum value (helper function).
<code>rootof2 (x)</code>	Calculate root-of-2 (not in <code>vhdlieee</code> ).
<code>kacos (x)</code>	Arc cosine.
<code>kacosh (x)</code>	Inverse hyperbolic cosine.
<code>kacot (x)</code>	Arc cotangent.
<code>kacoth (x)</code>	Inverse hyperbolic cotangent.
<code>kacsc (x)</code>	Arc cosecant.
<code>kacsch (x)</code>	Inverse hyperbolic cosecant.
<code>kasec (x)</code>	Arc secant.
<code>kasech (x)</code>	Inverse hyperbolic secant.
<code>kasin (x)</code>	Arc sine.
<code>kasinh (x)</code>	Inverse hyperbolic sine.
<code>katan (x)</code>	Arc tangent.
<code>katan2 (y, x)</code>	Two-argument (x/y) arc tangent.
<code>katanh (x)</code>	Inverse hyperbolic tangent.
<code>kcos (x)</code>	Cosine.
<code>kcosh (x)</code>	Hyperbolic cosine.
<code>kcot (x)</code>	Cotangent.
<code>kcoth (x)</code>	Hyperbolic cotangent.
<code>kcsc (x)</code>	Cosecant.
<code>kcsch (x)</code>	Hyperbolic cosecant.
<code>kexp (x)</code>	Exponential.
<code>khypot (x, y)</code>	Hypotenuse.
<code>klog (x)</code>	Natural logarithm.
<code>kpow (x, y)</code>	Powering function.
<code>ksec (x)</code>	Secant (named <code>secant</code> in the plain VHDL port).
<code>ksech (x)</code>	Hyperbolic secant.
<code>ksin (x)</code>	Sine.
<code>ksinh (x)</code>	Hyperbolic sine.

<code>ksqrt(x)</code>	Square root.
<code>ktan(x)</code>	Tangent.
<code>ktanh(x)</code>	Hyperbolic tangent.

The reference paper and the corresponding presentation are available from the web at the following links:

- [http://www.cse.lehigh.edu/~caar/marnold/papers/sanjose\\_hdlcon.doc](http://www.cse.lehigh.edu/~caar/marnold/papers/sanjose_hdlcon.doc)
- <http://www.cse.lehigh.edu/~caar/marnold/presentations/freddy.ppt>

## 2. File listing

The `elemapprox` C code implementation and Verilog HDL modules include the following files:

<code>/elemapprox</code>	Top-level directory
<code>AUTHORS</code>	List of authors.
<code>LICENSE</code>	License agreement (Modified BSD license).
<code>README.rst</code>	This file.
<code>README.html</code>	HTML version of README.
<code>README.pdf</code>	PDF version of README.
<code>rst2docs.sh</code>	Bash script for generating the HTML and PDF versions.
<code>VERSION</code>	Current version.
<code>/ansic</code>	ANSI C implementation (standalone)
<code>clean-math-ansic.sh</code>	Bash script for cleaning up the generated executables.
<code>elemapprox.c</code>	C code for the function approximations.
<code>elemapprox.h</code>	C header file for the above. Defines certain mathematical constants and declares function prototypes.
<code>funcplot.c</code>	Reference code for creating the plot data for the functions.
<code>funcplot.h</code>	C header file for the above.
<code>graph.c</code>	Collection of ASCII and PBM graphing functions.
<code>graph.h</code>	C header file for the above.
<code>Makefile</code>	GNU Makefile for building <code>testfunc.exe</code> .
<code>plot-ansic-ascii.sh</code>	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as ASCII graphs using <code>testfunc.exe</code> .
<code>plot-ansic-pbm.sh</code>	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as PBM images using <code>testfunc.exe</code> .
<code>testfunc.c</code>	Application code for testing the elementary functions. Options include PBM or ASCII image generation and function selection.
<code>test&lt;func&gt;.pbm</code>	Generated PBM image data for the function <code>&lt;func&gt;</code> .
<code>test&lt;func&gt;.txt</code>	Generated ASCII graph data for the function <code>&lt;func&gt;</code> .

test<func>-ascii.txt	Concatenation of the generated ASCII graph data for all supported functions.
/ansicstd	ANSI C implementation (based on <code>math.h</code> )
clean-math-ansic.sh	Bash script for cleaning up the generated executables.
elemapprox.c	C code for the function approximations.
elemapprox.h	C header file for the above. Defines certain mathematical constants and declares function prototypes.
funcplot.c	Reference code for creating the plot data for the functions.
funcplot.h	C header file for the above.
graph.c	Collection of ASCII and PBM graphing functions.
graph.h	C header file for the above.
Makefile	GNU Makefile for building <code>testfunc.exe</code> .
plot-ansic-ascii.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as ASCII graphs using <code>testfunc.exe</code> .
plot-ansic-pbm.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as PBM images using <code>testfunc.exe</code> .
testfunc.c	Application code for testing the elementary functions. Options include PBM or ASCII image generation and function selection.
test<func>.pbm	Generated PBM image data for the function <func>.
test<func>.txt	Generated ASCII graph data for the function <func>.
test<func>-ascii.txt	Concatenation of the generated ASCII graph data for all supported functions.
/verilog	Verilog HDL implementation
clean-math-verilog.sh	Bash script for cleaning up the generated interpreted intermediate code (for Icarus Verilog).
constants.v	Certain mathematical constants.
elemapprox.v	Verilog HDL code for the function approximations.
elemapproxpp.v	Preprocessed version of the above, directly including the mathematical constants from <code>constants.v</code> and expanding all macro-definitions.
funcplot.v	Reference code for creating the plot data for the functions.
graph.v	Collection of ASCII and PBM graphing tasks.
plot-verilog-ascii.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as ASCII graphs using <code>testfunc.v</code> . The script Icarus Verilog' VVP interpreter which is capable of parsing command-line options.
plot-verilog-pbm.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as PBM images using <code>testfunc.v</code> .

testfunc.v	Application code for the elementary functions. Options include PBM or ASCII image generation and function selection.
test<func>.pbm	Generated PBM image data for the function <func>.
test<func>.txt	Generated ASCII graph data for the function <func>.
test<func>-ascii.txt	Concatenation of the generated ASCII graph data for all supported functions.
/vhdl	VHDL implementation
elemapprox.do	Modelsim .do macro file for Modelsim simulation.
elemapprox.mk	GNU Makefile for running the testbench using GHDL.
elemapprox.vhd	VHDL package code for the function approximations and related mathematical constants.
funcplot.vhd	VHDL package code for creating the plot data for the elementary functions.
graph.vhd	VHDL package code with a collection of ASCII and PBM procedures.
plot-ghdl-ascii.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as ASCII graphs using GHDL. The script generates a configuration file (config.txt) for controlling the simulation.
plot-ghdl-pbm.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as PBM images using GHDL. The script generates a configuration file (config.txt) for controlling the simulation.
plot-mti-ascii.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as ASCII graphs using Modelsim. The script generates a configuration file (config.txt) for controlling the simulation.
plot-mti-pbm.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as PBM images using Modelsim. The script generates a configuration file (config.txt) for controlling the simulation.
testfunc.vhd	VHDL testbench code for the elementary functions. Options include PBM or ASCII image generation and function selection through a configuration file.
test<func>.pbm	Generated PBM image data for the function <func>.
test<func>.txt	Generated ASCII graph data for the function <func>.
test<func>-ascii.txt	Concatenation of the generated ASCII graph data for all supported functions.
/vhdlieee	VHDL implementation compatible to IEEE.math_real
elemapprox.do	Modelsim .do macro file for Modelsim simulation.
elemapprox.mk	GNU Makefile for running the testbench using GHDL.

elemapprox.vhd	VHDL package code for the function approximations and related mathematical constants.
funcplot.vhd	VHDL package code for creating the plot data for the elementary functions.
graph.vhd	VHDL package code with a collection of ASCII and PBM procedures.
plot-ghdl-ascii.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as ASCII graphs using GHDL. The script generates a configuration file ( <code>config.txt</code> ) for controlling the simulation.
plot-ghdl-pbm.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as PBM images using GHDL. The script generates a configuration file ( <code>config.txt</code> ) for controlling the simulation.
plot-mti-ascii.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as ASCII graphs using Modelsim. The script generates a configuration file ( <code>config.txt</code> ) for controlling the simulation.
plot-mti-pbm.sh	Bash script for plotting the elementary functions as PBM images using Modelsim. The script generates a configuration file ( <code>config.txt</code> ) for controlling the simulation.
testfunc.vhd	VHDL testbench code for the elementary functions. Options include PBM or ASCII image generation and function selection through a configuration file.
test<func>.pbm	Generated PBM image data for the function <func>.
test<func>.txt	Generated ASCII graph data for the function <func>.
test<func>-ascii.txt	Concatenation of the generated ASCII graph data for all supported functions.
/refs	Reference documentation
sanjose_hdlcon.doc	MS Word document for the manuscript: M. G. Arnold, C. Walter and F. Engineer, "Verilog Transcendental Functions for Numerical Testbenches," Proceedings of the Tenth International HDL conference, Santa Clara, California, March 1, 2001.
freddy.ppt	MS PowerPoint presentation of the above work.

### 3. Usage

Both the ANSI C and Verilog HDL versions can be used for generating graph data and depicting any of the supported transcendental functions via two similar scripts.

### **3.1 ANSI C**

1. Run the following shell script from a Unix/Linux/Cygwin command line in order to generate an ASCII graph for each function.

```
$ cd ansic
```

or

```
$ cd ansicstd
```

followed by

```
$ ./plot-ansic-ascii.sh
```

All generated data are also concatenated to `testfunc-ascii.txt`.

2. Run the following shell script from a Unix/Linux/Cygwin command line in order to generate a PBM image for each function.

```
$ ./plot-ansic-pbm.sh
```

All generated data are saved in the form of PBM (monochrome bitmap) image files. Such files can be visualized using, e.g., the public domain `Imagine` viewer: <http://www.nyam.pe.kr/> on Windows or `eog` (Eye of Gnome) on Debian-based Linux distributions (for instance, Ubuntu).

### **3.2 Verilog HDL**

1. Run the following shell script from a Unix/Linux/Cygwin command line in order to generate an ASCII graph for each function.

```
$ cd verilog  
$ ./plot-verilog-ascii.sh
```

All generated data are also concatenated to `testfunc-ascii.txt`.

2. Run the following shell script from a Unix/Linux/Cygwin command line in order to generate a PBM image for each function.

```
$ ./plot-verilog-pbm.sh
```

All generated data are saved in the form of PBM (monochrome bitmap) image files.

### **3.3 VHDL**

The VHDL version of `elemapprox` supports both GHDL (<http://ghdl.free.fr>) and Mentor Modelsim (<http://www.model.com>).

### **3.3.1 GHDL**

1. Run the following shell script from a Unix/Linux/Cygwin command line in order to generate an ASCII graph for each function.

```
$ cd vhdl
```

or

```
$ cd vhdlieee
```

followed by

```
$ ./plot-ghdl-ascii.sh
```

All generated data are also concatenated to `testfunc-ascii.txt`.

2. Run the following shell script from a Unix/Linux/Cygwin command line in order to generate a PBM image for each function.

```
$ ./plot-ghdl-pbm.sh
```

All generated data are saved in the form of PBM (monochrome bitmap) image files.

### **3.3.2 Modelsim**

1. Run the following shell script from a Unix/Linux/Cygwin command line in order to generate an ASCII graph for each function.

```
$ cd vhdl
```

or

```
$ cd vhdlieee
```

followed by

```
$ ./plot-mti-ascii.sh
```

All generated data are also concatenated to `testfunc-ascii.txt`.

2. Run the following shell script from a Unix/Linux/Cygwin command line in order to generate a PBM image for each function.

```
$ ./plot-mti-pbm.sh
```

All generated data are saved in the form of PBM (monochrome bitmap) image files.

## 4. Synthesis

The implementation code (either ANSI C, Verilog HDL or VHDL) for the transcendental functions has not been tested for high-level or RTL synthesis.

## 5. Prerequisites

- Standard UNIX-based tools (tested with gcc-4.6.2 on MinGW/x86) [optional if you use Modelsim].
    - make
    - bash (shell)

For this reason, MinGW (<http://www.mingw.org>) or Cygwin (<http://sources.redhat.com/cygwin>) are suggested, since POSIX emulation environments of sufficient completeness.

- Icarus Verilog simulator (<http://iverilog.icarus.com/>). The Windows version can be downloaded from: <http://bleyer.org/icarus/>
  - GHDL simulator (<http://ghdl.free.fr>) for VHDL. Both Windows and Linux versions can be downloaded from this site. Updated GHDL releases are available (again for multiple OSes) from: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/ghdl-updates/>
  - Alternatively, a commercial simulator like Mentor Modelsim (<http://www.model.com>) can be used (however this has only been tested for the VHDL version of elemapprox).

## A. Function plot examples

This appendix provides sample function plot visualization as raster graphics (PNG) and ASCII for the elementary functions with provided implementations.

### A.1. Arc cosine (acos)

ASCII rendering.

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..... \* \* \* \* \*

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\* \*

Bitmap rendering.



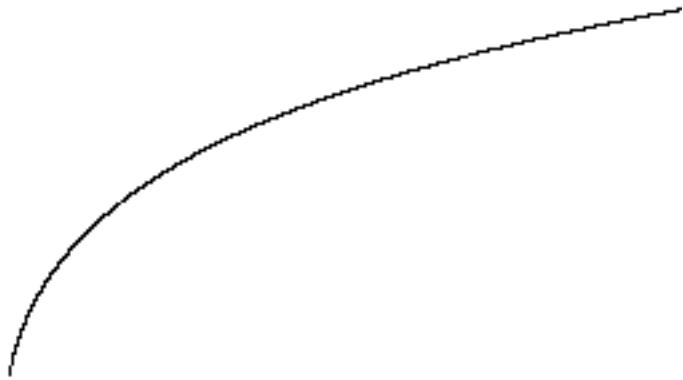
## A.2. Inverse hyperbolic cosine (acosh)

ASCII rendering.

A decorative horizontal separator at the bottom of the page. It features a repeating pattern of small vertical dots along the top and bottom edges. In the center, there is a single row of approximately 20 asterisks (\*).

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*  
\*\*  
\*  
\*

Bitmap rendering.

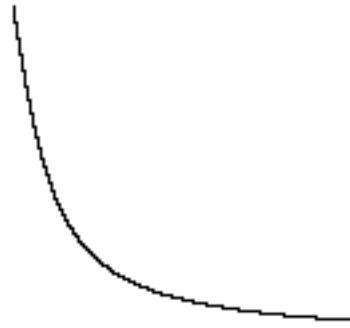


### A.3. Arc cotangent (acot)

ASCII rendering.

.....\*.....  
.....\*\*\*.....  
.....\*\*\*.....  
.....\*\*\*\*\*.....  
.....\*\*\*\*\*.....  
\*\*\*\*\*.....

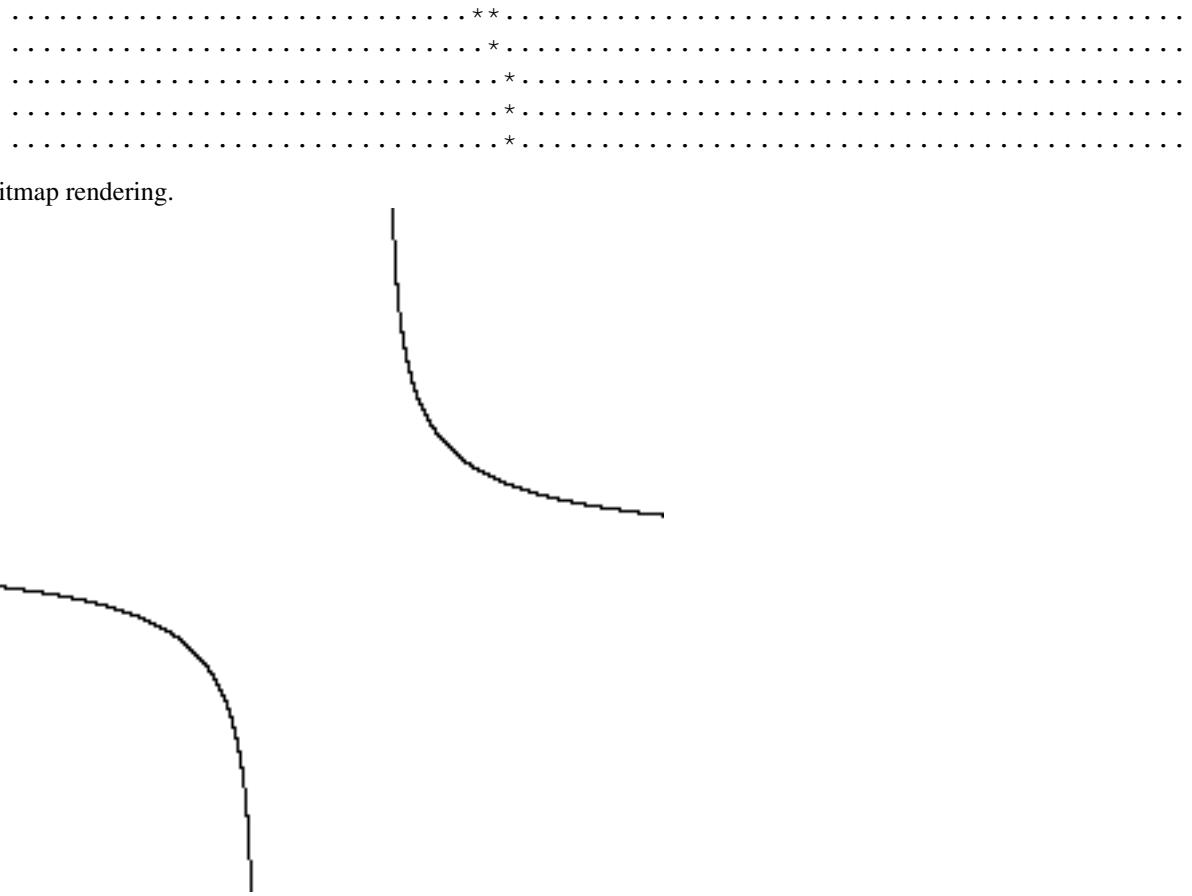
Bitmap rendering.



#### A.4. Inverse hyperbolic cotangent (acoth)

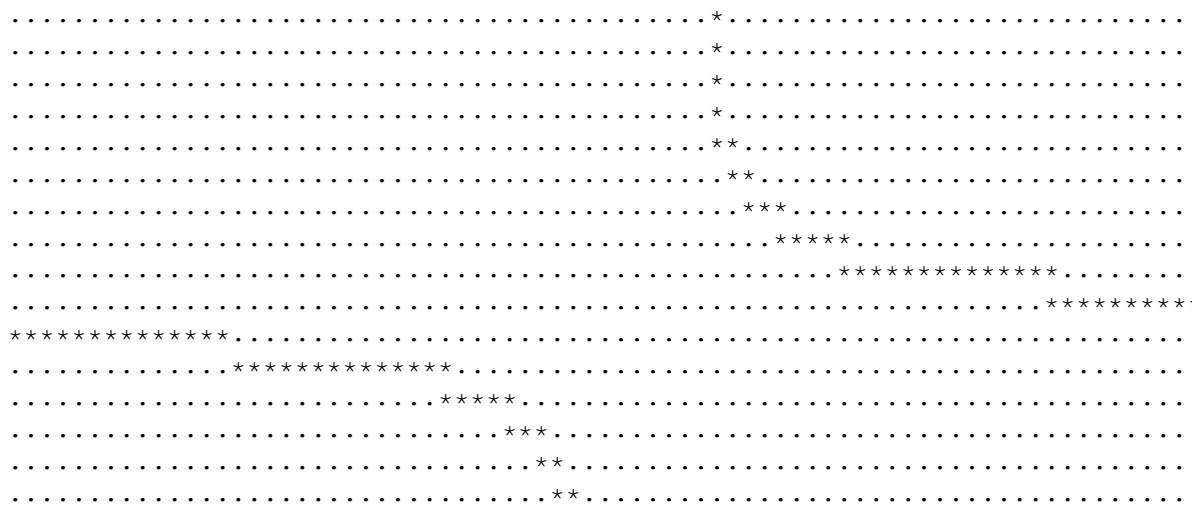
ASCII rendering.

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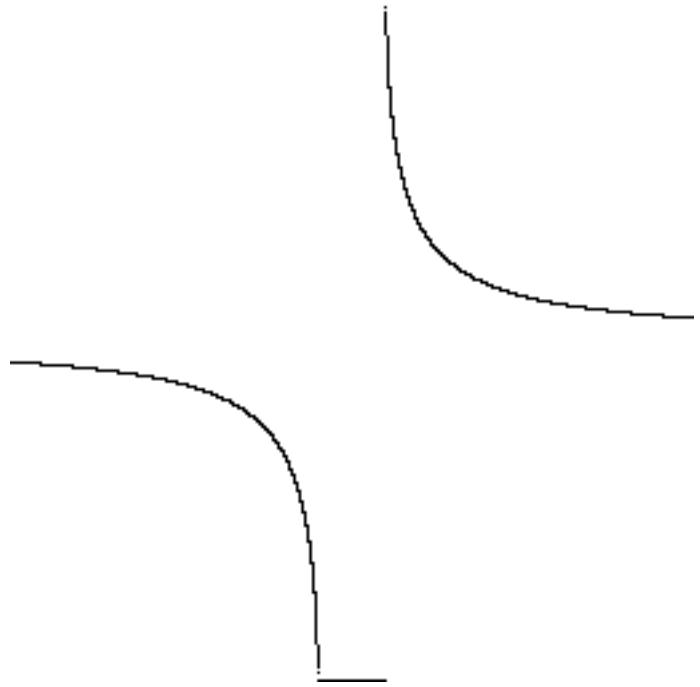


### A.5. Arc cosecant (acsc)

ASCII rendering.



Bitmap rendering.

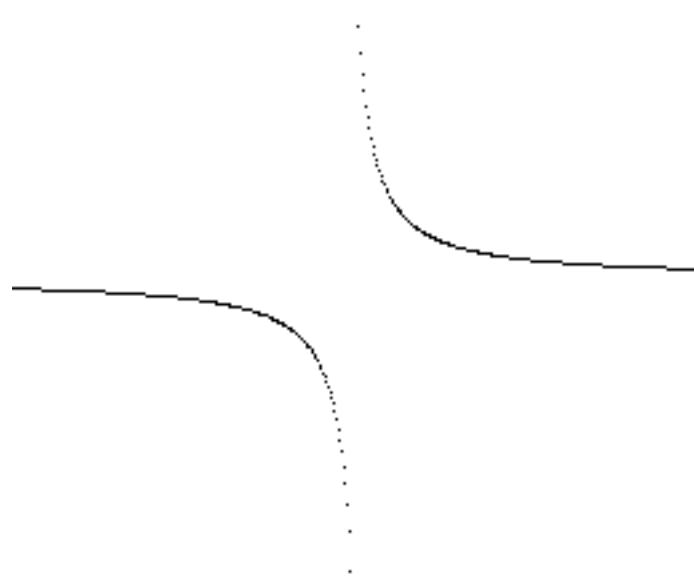


#### A.6. Inverse hyperbolic cosecant (acsch)

ASCII rendering.

..... \* .....

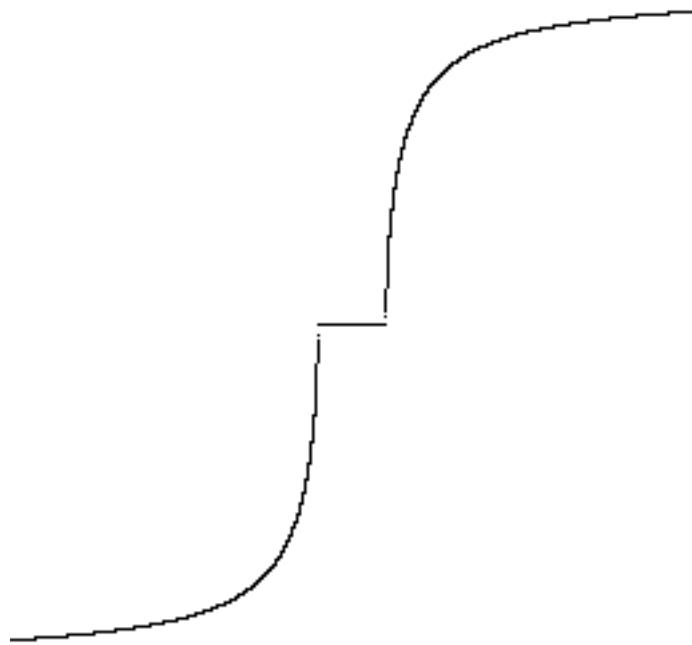
Bitmap rendering.



### A.7. Arc secant (asec)

ASCII rendering.

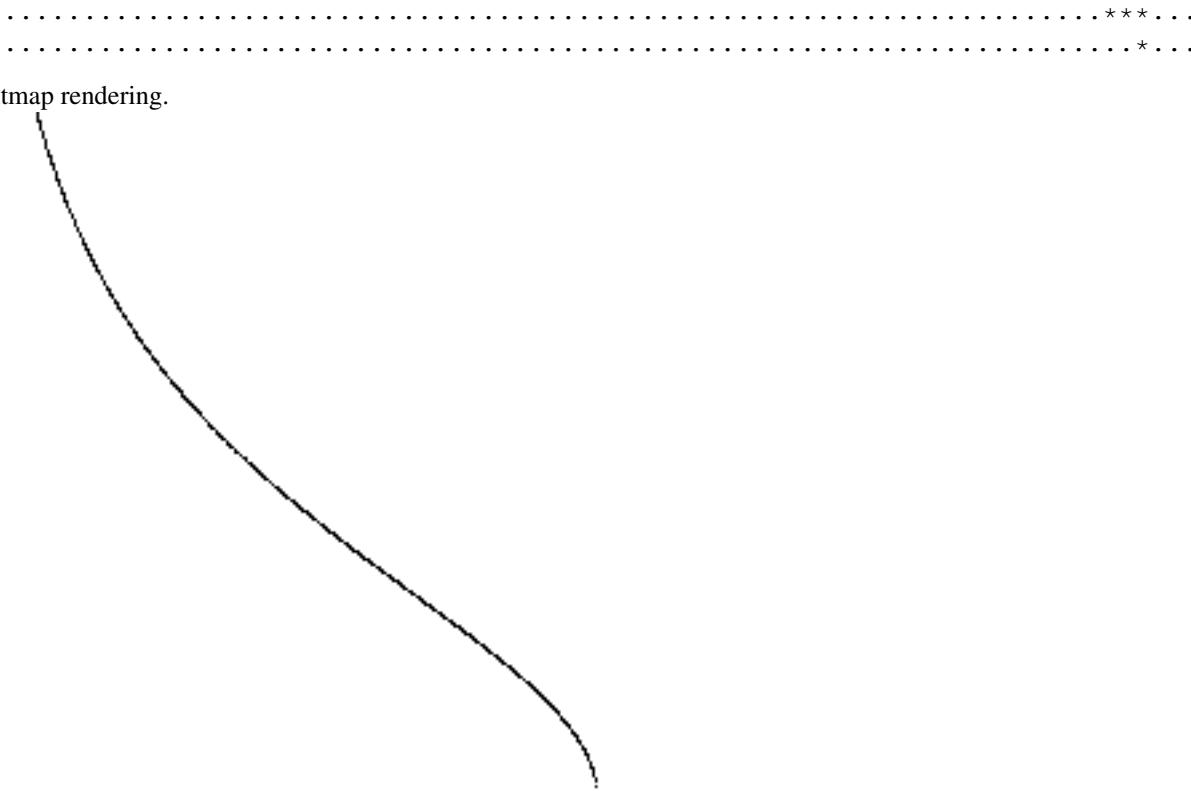
Bitmap rendering.



### A.8. Inverse hyperbolic secant (asech)

ASCII rendering.

Bitmap rendering.



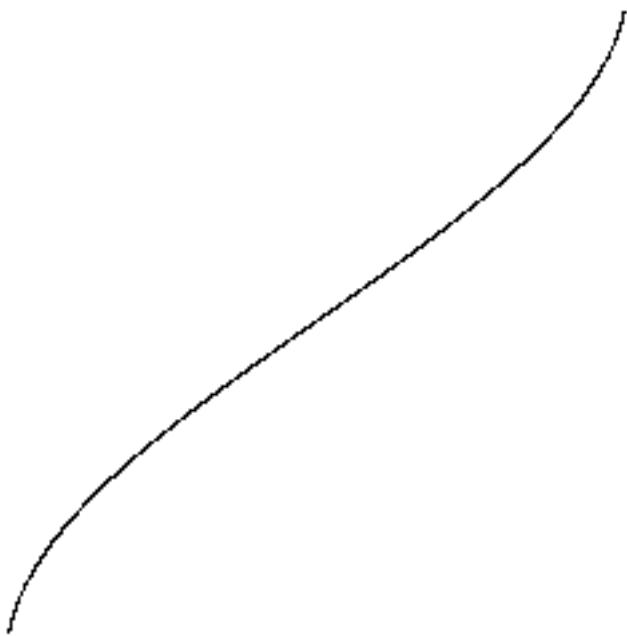
### A.9. Arc sine (asin)

ASCII rendering.

A grid of 1000 stars arranged in a 10x100 grid. The stars are represented by small black dots. The grid is composed of 10 horizontal rows and 100 vertical columns. The stars are distributed across the entire grid area.

.....\*

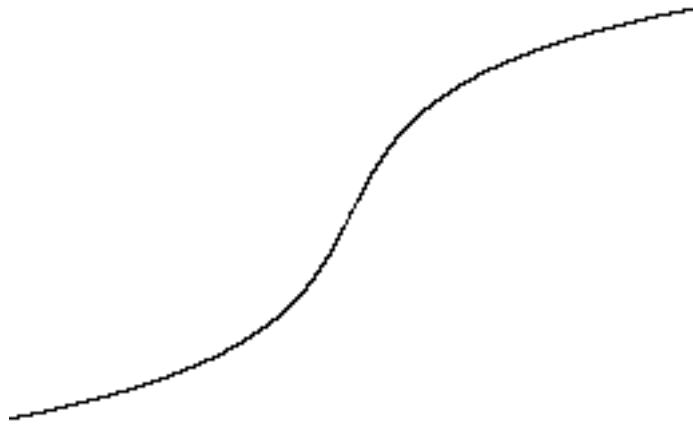
Bitmap rendering.



### A.10. Inverse hyperbolic sine (asinh)

ASCII rendering.

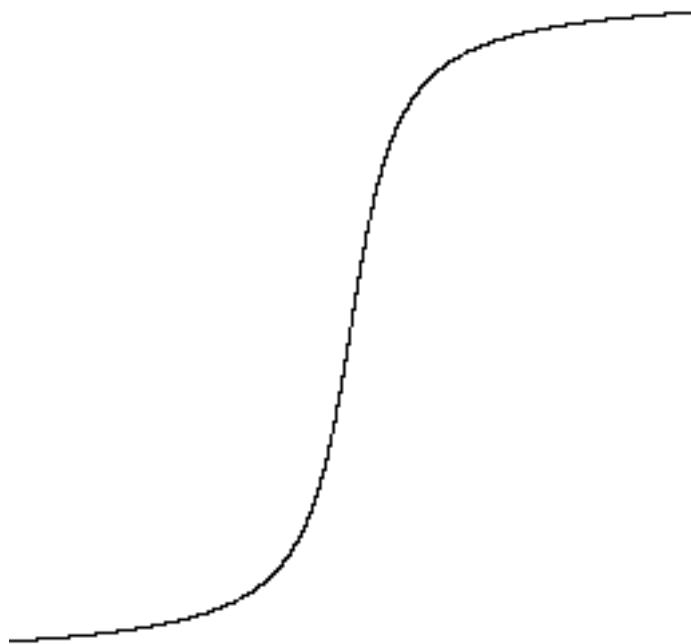
Bitmap rendering.



## A.11. Arc tangent (atan)

ASCII rendering.

Bitmap rendering.

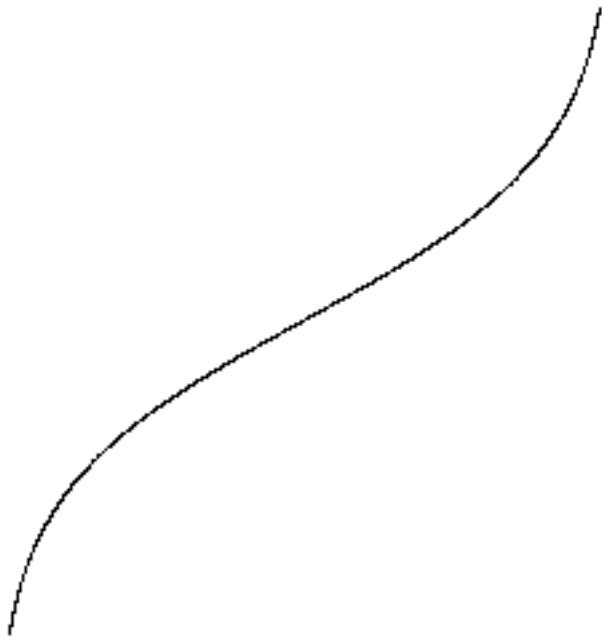


## A.12. Inverse hyperbolic tangent (atanh)

ASCII rendering.

A grid of black stars on a white background, arranged in a pattern that tapers towards the top right. The stars are represented by small black asterisks (\*). The grid starts with a single star at the bottom left and increases in density as it moves towards the top right, where there are approximately 100 stars in a single row.

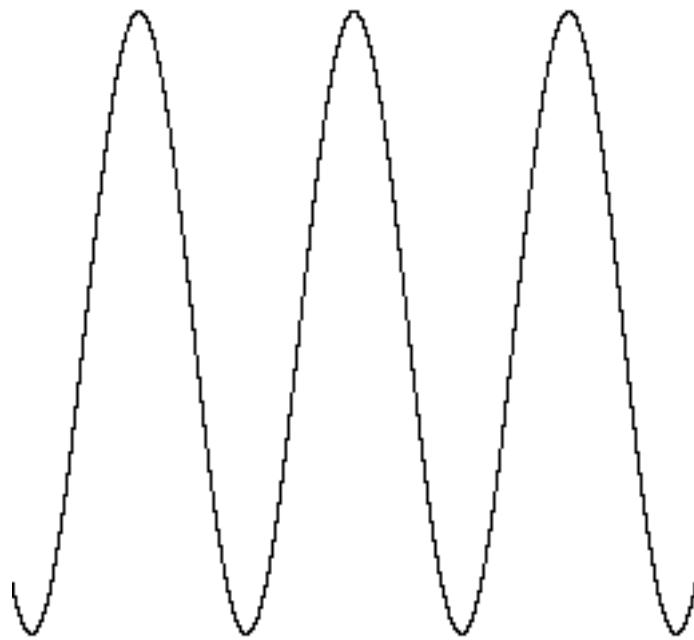
Bitmap rendering.



### A.13. Cosine (cos)

ASCII rendering.

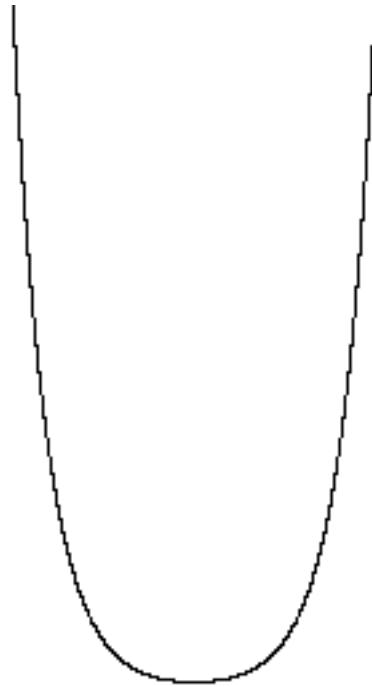
Bitmap rendering.



### A.14. Hyperbolic cosine ( $\cosh$ )

ASCII rendering.

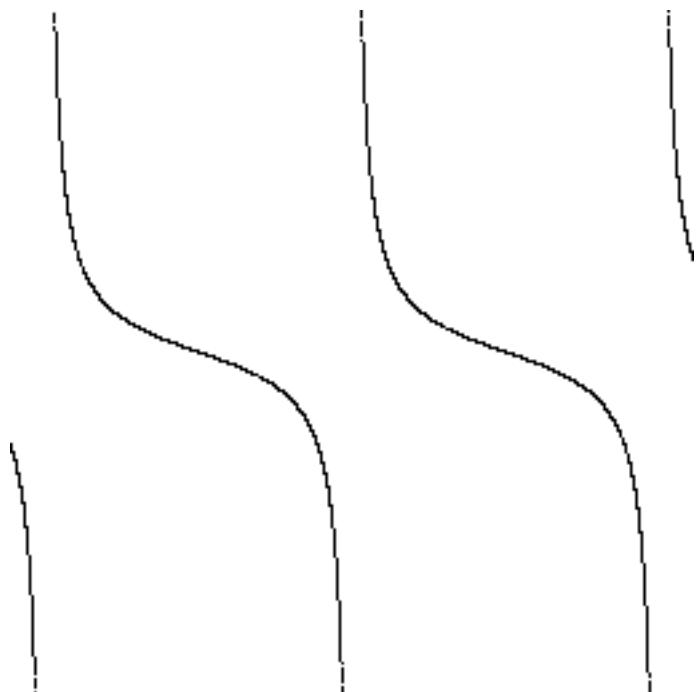
Bitmap rendering.



### A.15. Cotangent (cot)

ASCII rendering.

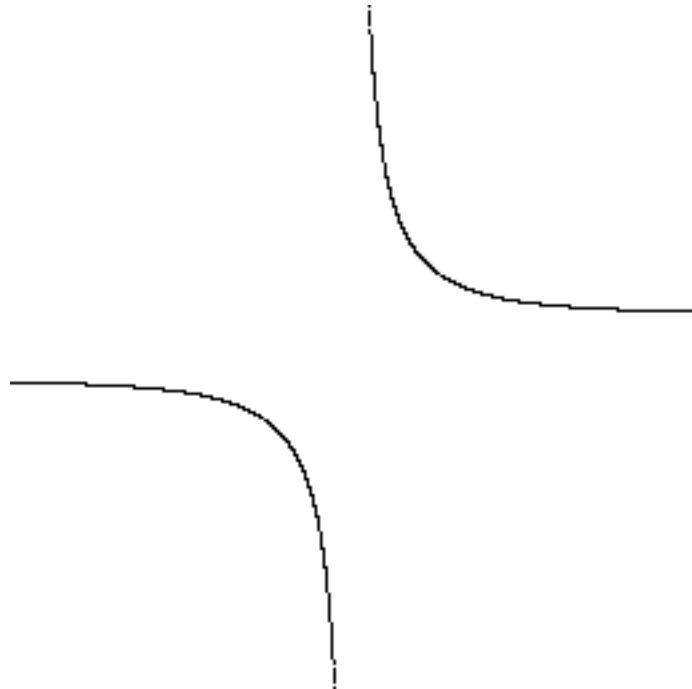
Bitmap rendering.



### A.16. Hyperbolic cotangent ( $\coth$ )

ASCII rendering.

Bitmap rendering.

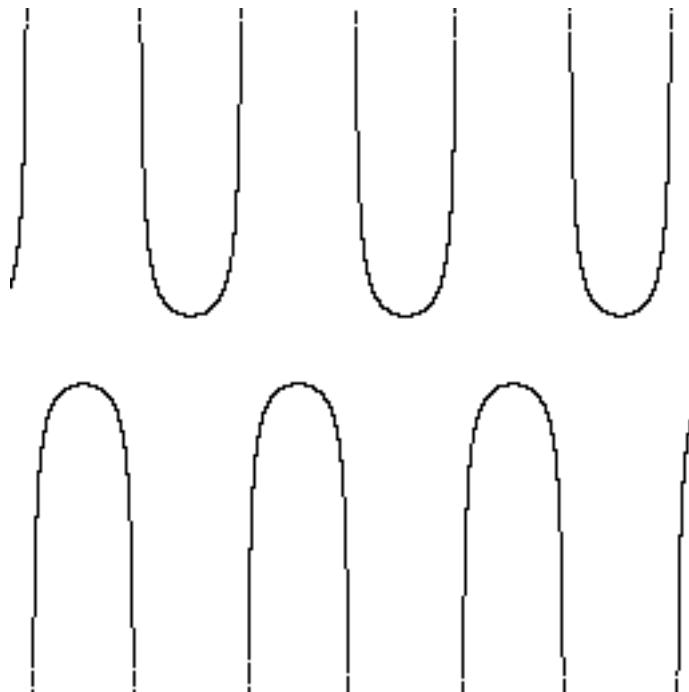


### A.17. Cosecant (csc)

ASCII rendering.

```
.*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*  
.*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*  
.*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....**.....*.....*  
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```

Bitmap rendering.

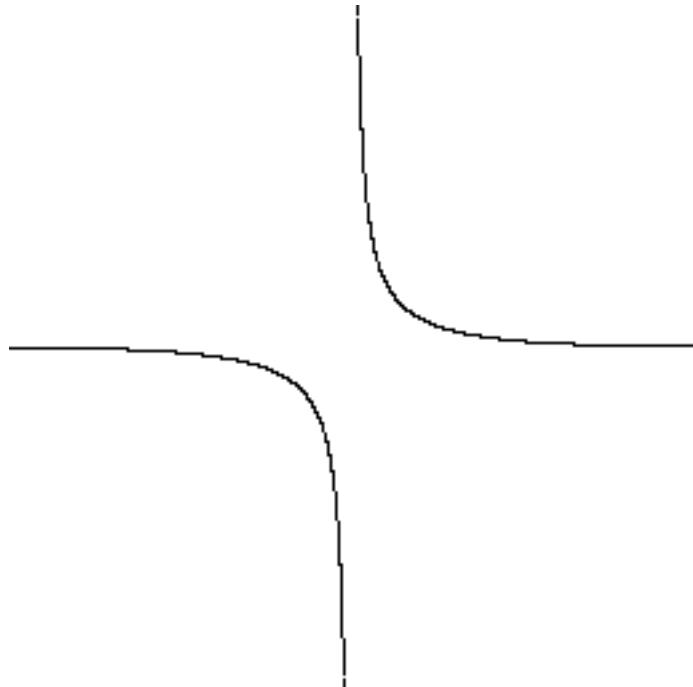


### A.18. Hyperbolic cosecant (csch)

ASCII rendering.

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.....*.....  
.....*.....  
.....*.....  
.....*.....  
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.....**.....  
.....***.....  
.....*****.....  
*****.....*****.....  
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.....*.....
```

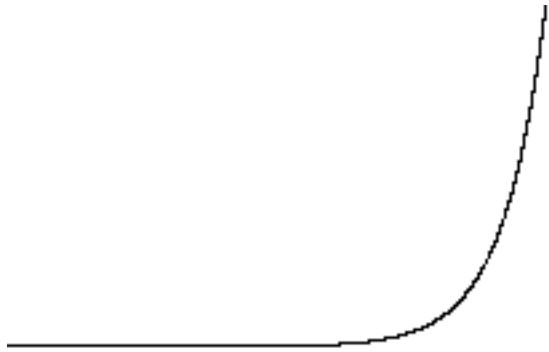
Bitmap rendering.



### A.19. Exponential (exp)

ASCII rendering.

Bitmap rendering.

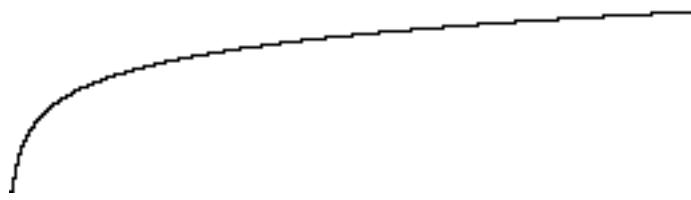


## A.20. Natural logarithm (log)

ASCII rendering.

This image shows a full page of dot-grid paper. The grid consists of horizontal rows of small, evenly spaced dots. A single vertical line of dots runs along the left edge, creating a margin. The rest of the page is filled with the dot grid pattern.

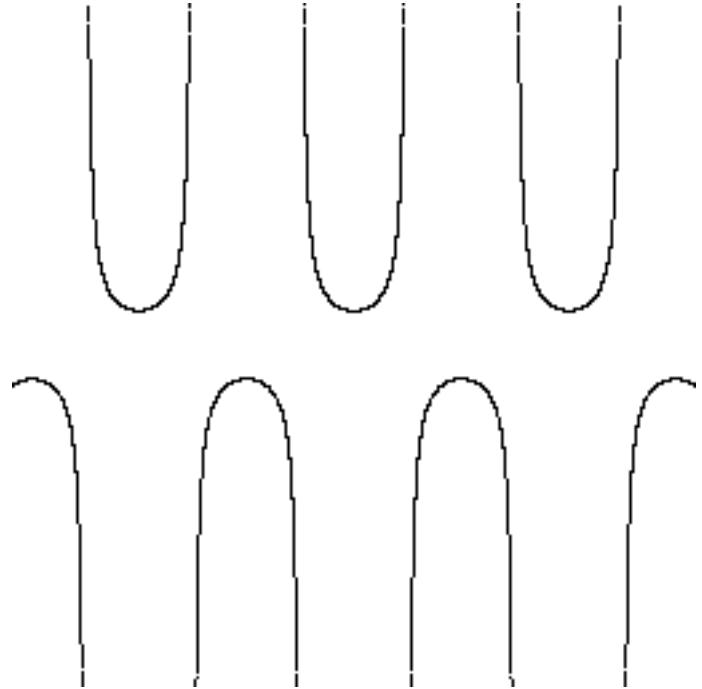
Bitmap rendering.



## A.21. Secant (sec)

ASCII rendering.

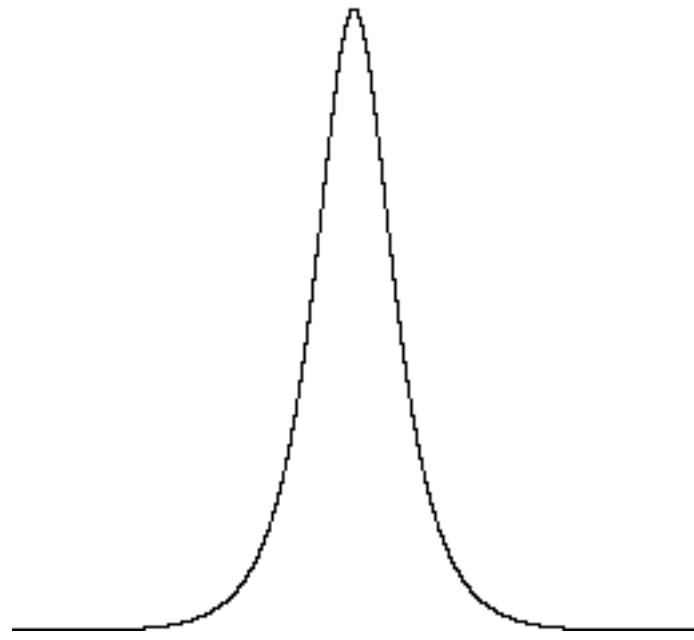
Bitmap rendering.



## A.22. Hyperbolic secant (sech)

ASCII rendering.

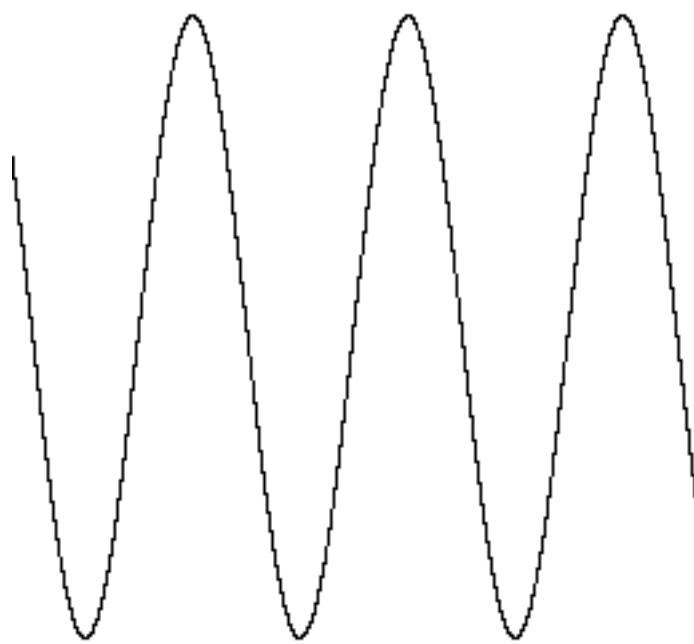
Bitmap rendering.



### A.23. Sine (sin)

ASCII rendering.

Bitmap rendering.

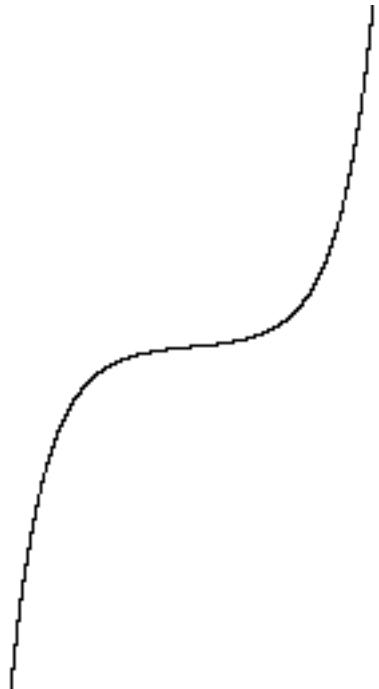


### A.24. Hyperbolic sine ( $\sinh$ )

ASCII rendering.

A grid of 100 stars arranged in a 10x10 pattern. The stars are represented by small black asterisks (\*). They are arranged in a staggered, non-uniform grid where each row has one more star than the previous row, starting from one star in the first row up to ten stars in the tenth row.

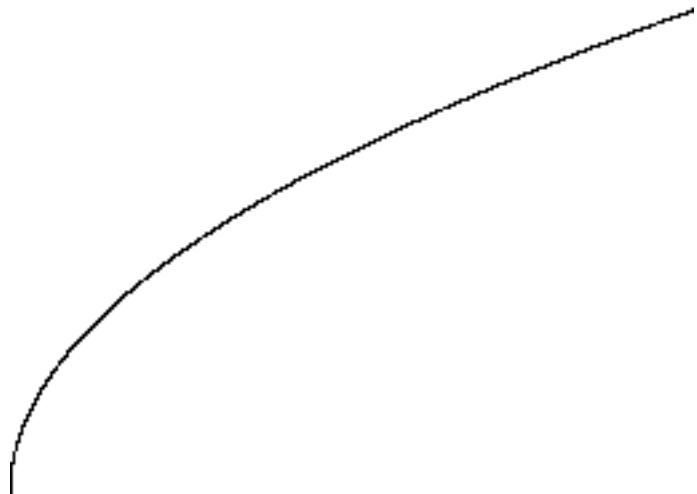
## Bitmap rendering.



## A.25. Square root (sqrt)

ASCII rendering.

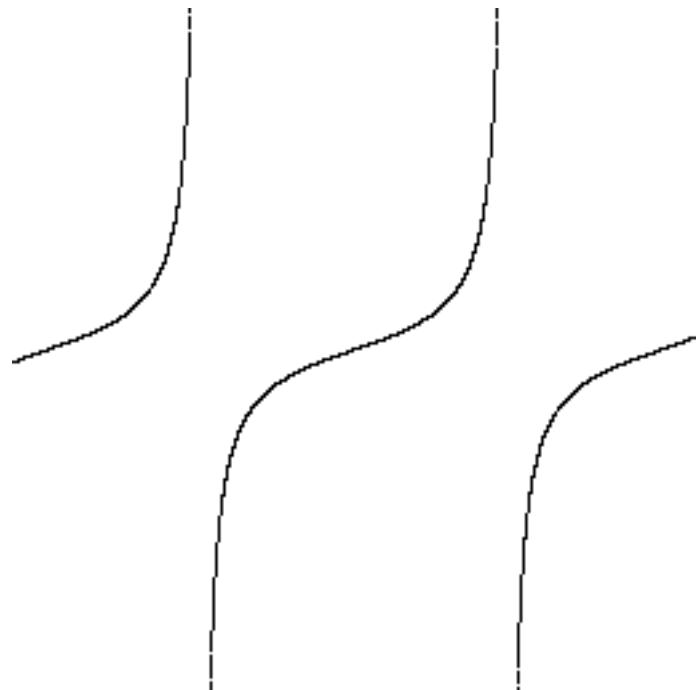
Bitmap rendering.



### A.26. Tangent (tan)

ASCII rendering.

Bitmap rendering.



## A.27. Hyperbolic tangent ( $\tanh$ )

ASCII rendering.

Bitmap rendering.

