

1.5. Inverse Functions and Logarithms

- **One-to-One Functions**

- A function f is called **one-to-one (injective)** if f preserves distinctness; that is, it never maps distinct elements of its domain to the same element of its codomain.
- Formally;

$$\begin{aligned} f \text{ is one-to-one} &\Leftrightarrow (\forall a, b \in D_f \ni f(a) = f(b) \Rightarrow a = b) \\ &\Leftrightarrow (\forall a, b \in D_f \ni a \neq b \Rightarrow f(a) \neq f(b)). \end{aligned}$$

- Some functions are one-to-one on their entire natural domains some not. But by restricting a function to a smaller domain we can create one-to-one functions.

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- **Example 21.** Which of the following functions are one-to-one;

$$f(x) = x^2, g(x) = x^3, h(x) = \sqrt{x}$$

the exponential function and the six basic trigonometric functions.

- **Example 22.** Show that, if f is strictly increasing, then f is one-to-one.

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- **The Horizontal Line Test for One-to-One Functions:**
- A function $y = f(x)$ is one-to-one if its graph intersects each horizontal line at most once.

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- **Image of a Subset:** For a real function f ; the **image of a subset** A of the domain D_f is the subset $f(A)$ defined by

$$f(A) = \{f(x) \mid x \in A\}.$$

- **Preimage of a Subset:** The **preimage of a subset** B of reals is the subset $f^{-1}(B)$ which is defined by

$$f^{-1}(B) = \{x \mid f(x) \in B\}.$$

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- **Inverse Functions** Suppose that f is a one-to-one function on a domain D_f with range R_f (in this case f is also an **onto (surjective)** function). The inverse function f^{-1} is defined by

$$f^{-1}(b) = a \text{ if } f(a) = b.$$

- The fact which makes this definition meaningful is that; each output of a one-to-one function comes from just one input. The domain f^{-1} is R_f and the range of f^{-1} is D_f . We read the symbol f^{-1} as " f inverse".
- Composing a function with its inverse has the same effect as doing nothing.

$$\begin{aligned}(f^{-1} \circ f)(x) &= x \text{ for all } x \text{ in the domain of } f \\ (f \circ f^{-1})(y) &= y \text{ for all } y \text{ in the domain of } f^{-1}.\end{aligned}$$

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- **Finding Inverses** The graph of f and f^{-1} are related. To graph f^{-1} by using the graph of f , consider the points (a, b) on the graph of f and interchange the order.
- The more usual way is to reflect the graph of f across the line $y = x$.
- Passing from f to f^{-1} :
 1. Solve the equation $y = f(x)$ for x , and obtain a formula $x = f^{-1}(y)$.
 2. Interchange x and y , obtaining a formula $y = f^{-1}(x)$ where f^{-1} is expressed in the usual format with x as the independent variable and y as the dependent variable

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- **Example 23.** Find the inverse of the following functions and express them as a function of x .
 - (a) $f(x) = \frac{1}{3}x + 2, x \in \mathbb{R}$
 - (b) $g(x) = x^2, x \geq 0$
 - (c) $f(x) = x^3 + 1, x \in \mathbb{R}$.

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- **Logarithmic Function**
- **Definition** Let a be a positive real number other than 1. The **logarithm function with base a** ,
$$y = \log_a x,$$
is the inverse of the base a exponential function $y = a^x$ ($a > 0, a \neq 1$).
 - The domain of $\log_a x$ is $]0, \infty[$, the range of a^x . The range of $\log_a x$ is $] -\infty, \infty[$, the domain of a^x .

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Example 24. Sketch the graph of $y = \log_a x$.

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- Logarithms with base 2 are commonly used in computer science.
- Logarithms with base e and base 10 are so important in applications and they have their own special notations and names:

$\log_e x$ is written as $\ln x$ and called the **natural logarithm func.**

$\log_{10} x$ is written as $\log x$ and called the **common logarithm func.**

- For the natural logarithm

$$\ln x = y \Leftrightarrow e^y = x.$$

- In particular, if we set $x = e$, we obtain $\ln e = 1$.

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- **Algebraic Properties of the Natural Logarithm:**

- For any numbers $a > 0$ and $b > 0$, the natural logarithm satisfies the following rules:
- (a) $\ln ab = \ln a + \ln b$
- (b) $\ln \frac{a}{b} = \ln a - \ln b$
- (c) $\ln \frac{1}{b} = -\ln b$
- (d) $\ln a^b = b \ln a$

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- **Inverse Properties for a^x and $\log_a x$:**

- (a) $a^{\log_a x} = x, \log_a a^x = x, a > 0, a \neq 1, x > 0$
- (b) $e^{\ln x} = x, \ln e^x = x, x > 0$.
- **Change of Base Formula:** Every logarithmic function is a constant multiple of the natural logarithm;

$$\log_a x = \frac{\ln x}{\ln a} \quad (a > 0, a \neq 1).$$

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Example 25. If \$1000 is invested in an account that earns 5.25% interest compounded annually, how long will it take the account to reach \$2500?

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• Inverse Trigonometric Functions

- The six basic trigonometric functions are not one-to-one. However we can restrict their domains to intervals on which they are one-to-one. While doing that we always want to keep $[0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ in the domain because most useful angles are acute.

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- **1. The Arcsine and Arccosine Functions** By restricting the domain of the sine function to the interval $\left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$, we obtain a one-to-one function

$$\sin : \left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right] \longrightarrow [-1, 1]$$

which is invertible.

- We denote the inverse as

$$\sin^{-1} = \arcsin : [-1, 1] \longrightarrow \left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right],$$

and

$y = \arcsin x$ is the angle in $\left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$ for which $\sin y = x$.

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- By restricting the domain of the cosine function to the interval $[0, \pi]$, we obtain a one-to-one function

$$\cos : [0, \pi] \longrightarrow [-1, 1]$$

which is invertible.

- We denote the inverse as

$$\cos^{-1} = \arccos : [-1, 1] \longrightarrow [0, \pi],$$

and

$y = \arccos x$ is the angle in $[0, \pi]$ for which $\cos y = x$.

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- **Example 26.** Sketch the graphs of the $y = \sin^{-1} x$ and $y = \cos^{-1} x$.
- **Example 27.** (a) Evaluate $\sin^{-1} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)$ and $\cos^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$.
- (b) If $\arcsin 1 = x$, find x .
- (c) If $\arcsin x = \frac{\pi}{3}$, find x .

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- **2. The Arctangent and Arccotangent Functions** By restricting the domain of the tangent function to the interval $\left]-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right[$, we obtain a one-to-one function

$$\tan : \left]-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right[\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

which is invertible.

- We denote the inverse as

$$\tan^{-1} = \arctan : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \left]-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right[,$$

and

$$y = \arctan x \text{ is the angle in } \left]-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right[\text{ for which } \tan y = x.$$

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- By restricting the domain of the cotangent function to the interval $]0, \pi[$, we obtain a one-to-one function

$$\cot :]0, \pi[\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

which is invertible.

- We denote the inverse as

$$\cot^{-1} = \operatorname{arccot} : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow]0, \pi[,$$

and

$y = \operatorname{arccot} x$ is the angle in $]0, \pi[$ for which $\cot y = x$.

- **Example 28.** Find $\arctan(-\sqrt{3})$, $\arctan 1$ and $\operatorname{arccot} \sqrt{3}$.

Exercises

1. Find the domains of the following functions;

(a) $y = \arcsin \frac{x}{3}$, (b) $y = \arccos 3x$
(c) $y = \arctan \frac{x-1}{x}$ (d) $y = \arctan \sqrt{x-1}$

(c) $y = \arctan \frac{x-1}{x}$ (d) $y = \arctan \sqrt{x-1}$

Exercises

2. Find the domains of the following functions;

- (a) $f(x) = \ln(x^2 - 9)$ (b) $f(x) = \ln(\sqrt{x-4} + \sqrt{6-x})$
(c) $f(x) = \ln(\sin \pi x)$ (d) $f(x) = \arcsin(\ln x)$
(e) $f(x) = \ln(\ln(1+x^2))$ (f) $f(x) = \arcsin(\log_{10} \frac{x}{10})$
(g) $f(x) = \log_2(\log_3(\log_4 x))$ (h) $f(x) = \log(1 - \log(x^2 - 5x + 16))$

Exercises

3. Show that the function $f(x) = \ln(x + \sqrt{1+x^2})$ is odd.
4. Using the graph of the curve $y = \sin x$, sketch the graphs of

$$y = |\sin x|, y = \sin |x|, y = \sin\left(x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right), \\ y = \sin 2x \text{ and } y = 1 + \sin 2x.$$

5. Prove the following relations;

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

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

$$\tan(\arccos x) = \frac{\sqrt{1-x^2}}{x}$$

$$\arcsin(\cos x) = \frac{\pi}{2} - x$$