

Section 6.6: Inverse Trigonometric Functions

Recall that the inverse sine function is defined by

$$\sin^{-1}(x) = y \quad \text{if and only if} \quad x = \sin y \quad \text{and} \quad -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq y \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

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

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

Arccosine

Similarly

$$\cos^{-1}(x) = y \quad \text{if and only if} \quad x = \cos y \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq y \leq \pi$$

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

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

Arctangent

$$\tan^{-1}(x) = y \quad \text{if and only if} \quad x = \tan y \quad \text{and} \quad -\frac{\pi}{2} < y < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

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

$$\tan(\tan^{-1} x) = x \quad \text{for} \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \tan^{-1} x = \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \tan^{-1} x = -\frac{\pi}{2}$$

Other Inverse Trig Functions (defined ala Stewart)¹

$$y = \csc^{-1} x \iff x = \csc y \text{ and } y \in (0, \pi/2] \cup (\pi, 3\pi/2], |x| \geq 1$$

$$y = \sec^{-1} x \iff x = \sec y \text{ and } y \in [0, \pi/2) \cup [\pi, 3\pi/2), |x| \geq 1$$

$$y = \cot^{-1} x \iff x = \cot y \text{ and } 0 < y < \pi, -\infty < x < \infty$$

¹Unfortunately, different authors may define the range of the inverse secant and cosecant differently. We'll just have to accept this fact. The symbol \in means "is an element of."

Derivatives of Inverse Trig Functions

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1} x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}, \quad \frac{d}{dx} \cos^{-1} x = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1} x = \frac{1}{1+x^2}, \quad \frac{d}{dx} \cot^{-1} x = -\frac{1}{1+x^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sec^{-1} x = \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2-1}}, \quad \frac{d}{dx} \csc^{-1} x = -\frac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2-1}}$$

Evaluate each derivative

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a)} \quad \frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1}(3x^3) &= \frac{1}{1 + (3x^3)^2} (9x^2) \\ &= \frac{9x^2}{1 + 9x^6} \end{aligned}$$

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

$$(b) \frac{d}{dt} \arcsin\left(\frac{t}{7}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{t}{7}\right)^2}} \cdot \frac{1}{7}$$

$$= \frac{1}{7\sqrt{1 - t^2/7^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{7^2 - t^2}}$$

In general $\frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{a}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}} \quad a > 0$

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

$$(c) \frac{d}{dy} \sec^{-1}(\sqrt{y}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{y} \sqrt{(\sqrt{y})^2 - 1}} \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2y \sqrt{y-1}}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sec^{-1} x = \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2-1}}$$

Integration Formulas:

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

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

$$\int \frac{du}{\sqrt{a^2-u^2}} = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{u}{a} \right) + C, \quad -a < u < a$$

$$\int \frac{du}{a^2+u^2} = \frac{1}{a} \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{u}{a} \right) + C \quad a > 0$$

Derive the Formula for $\int \frac{du}{\sqrt{a^2 - u^2}}$

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} = \sin^{-1} x + C \quad \text{follows from} \quad \frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1} x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}.$$

For $a > 0$ and $-a < x < a$, evaluate

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

$$\text{let } u = \frac{x}{a} \quad du = \frac{1}{a} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}} &= \int \frac{du}{\sqrt{1 - u^2}} = \sin^{-1} u + C \\ &= \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{x}{a} \right) + C \end{aligned}$$

Evaluate each integral

$$(a) \int \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^4}} dx$$

~~$u = x^4 \quad du = 4x^3 dx$~~
try again

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

$$u = x^2 \quad du = 2x dx$$
$$\frac{1}{2} du = x dx$$

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(b)} \quad \int_0^2 \frac{dx}{x^2 + 4} &= \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \Big|_0^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1}(1) - \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1}(0) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) - 0 \\ &= \frac{\pi}{8} \end{aligned}$$

$$\int \frac{du}{a^2 + u^2} = \frac{1}{a} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{u}{a}\right) + C$$

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

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

$$= \int \frac{du}{u^2 + 1}$$

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

Complete the square

$$x^2 + 2x + 2 = (x^2 + 2x + 1) + 1$$

$$= (x+1)^2 + 1$$

$$\text{let } u = x+1$$

$$du = dx$$

$$(d) \int \frac{e^{2x} dx}{1 + e^{4x}}$$

$$u = e^{2x}$$

$$du = 2e^{2x} dx$$

$$\frac{1}{2} du = e^{2x} dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{du}{1 + u^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1} u + C$$

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

Comparison of Similar (yet different) Integrals

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

Evaluate $\int \frac{2x dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ $u = 1-x^2, \quad du = -2x dx$

$$\begin{aligned} &= - \int u^{-1/2} du = -\frac{u^{1/2}}{1/2} + C = -2\sqrt{u} + C \\ &= -2\sqrt{1-x^2} + C \end{aligned}$$

Recap of Sections 6.2*–6.6

New Differentiation Rules:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln x = \frac{1}{x}, \quad \frac{d}{dx} e^x = e^x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln u = \frac{\frac{du}{dx}}{u}, \quad \frac{d}{dx} e^u = e^u \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \log_a u = \frac{\frac{du}{dx}}{(\ln a)u}, \quad \frac{d}{dx} a^u = (\ln a)a^u \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1} u = \frac{\frac{du}{dx}}{\sqrt{1-u^2}} = -\frac{d}{dx} \cos^{-1} u$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1} u = \frac{\frac{du}{dx}}{1+u^2} = -\frac{d}{dx} \cot^{-1} u$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sec^{-1} u = \frac{\frac{du}{dx}}{u\sqrt{u^2-1}} = -\frac{d}{dx} \csc^{-1} u$$

Examples

$$(a) \quad \frac{d}{dx} \exp(\cot^{-1} x) = \exp(\cot^{-1} x) \cdot \frac{-1}{1+x^2}$$

$$= \frac{-\exp(\cot^{-1} x)}{1+x^2}$$

$$(b) \quad \frac{d}{dr} (2^r + \log_2 r) = 2^r \ln 2 + \frac{1}{r \ln 2}$$

New Integration Rules

$$\int \frac{du}{u} = \ln|u| + C, \quad \int e^u du = e^u + C$$

$$\int a^u du = \frac{a^u}{\ln a} + C,$$

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

$$\int \frac{du}{a^2 + u^2} = \frac{1}{a} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{u}{a}\right) + C,$$

$$\int \frac{du}{u\sqrt{u^2 - a^2}} = \frac{1}{a} \sec^{-1}\left|\frac{u}{a}\right| + C,$$

For the second formula, we assume $a > 0$ and $a \neq 1$. For the last three, we assume $a > 0$.