

Math 1060 ~ Trigonometry

12 Inverse Trigonometric Functions

Learning Objectives

In this section you will:

- Learn and be able to apply properties of the inverse trigonometric functions, including domain and range.
- Find the exact values of inverse trigonometric functions.
- Convert compositions of trigonometric and inverse trigonometric functions to algebraic expressions.

$$\sin^2 u + \cos^2 u = 1$$

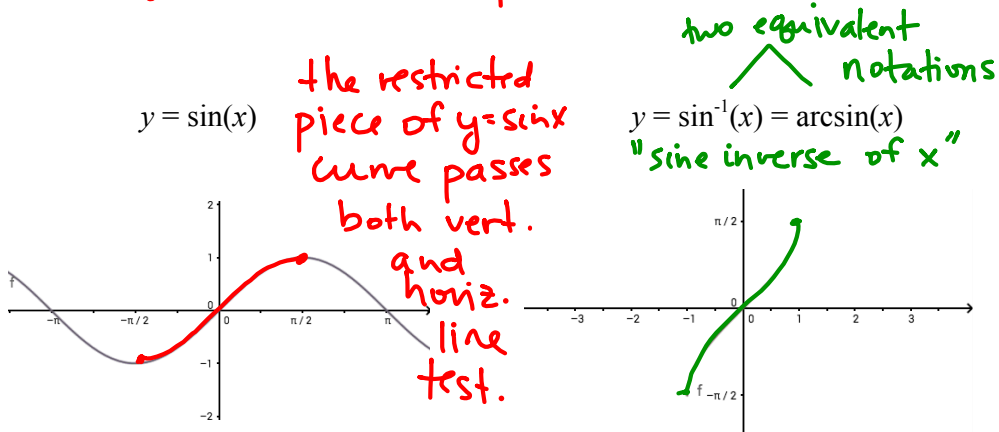
$$\sin 2u = 2 \sin u \cos u$$

$$\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos C$$

To find the inverse of the trigonometric functions, our first problem is that they are not one-to-one.

(i.e. $y = \sin x$ does not pass horizontal line test)



restricted domain: $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$
 range: $[-1, 1]$
 symmetry: across origin (it's an odd fn)

domain: $[-1, 1]$
 range: $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$
 symmetry: across origin (it's also an odd fn)

① does $\sin(\sin^{-1}(x)) = x$?

② does $\sin^{-1}(\sin(x)) = x$?

i.e. do sine and inverse sine always undo each other? No! (They undo each other sometimes.)

① $\sin^{-1}x \in [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ works for all domain x values
 $\Rightarrow \sin(\sin^{-1}x) = x$ ✓

② $\sin x \in [-1, 1]$ but $\sin^{-1}(\sin x) \in [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$
 if $x \in [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$, then $\sin^{-1}(\sin x) = x$

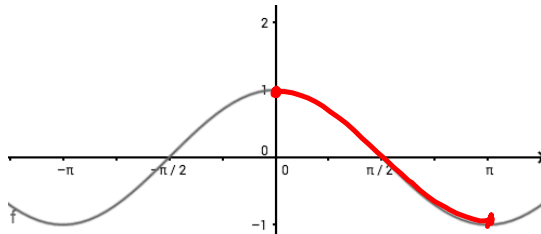
but if $x \notin [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$, then $\sin^{-1}(\sin x) \neq x$

remember

\in means element of

\notin " not an element of

$$y = \cos(x)$$



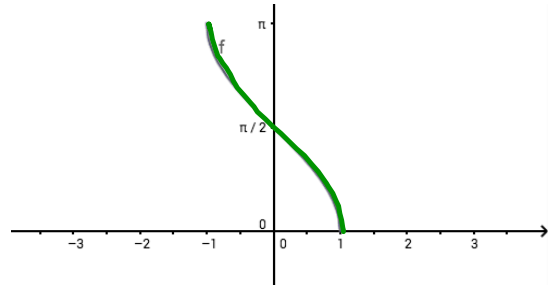
restricted domain: $[0, \pi]$

range: $[-1, 1]$

symmetry: none

① does $\cos(\cos^{-1}(x)) = x$?
Yes

$$y = \cos^{-1}(x) = \arccos(x)$$



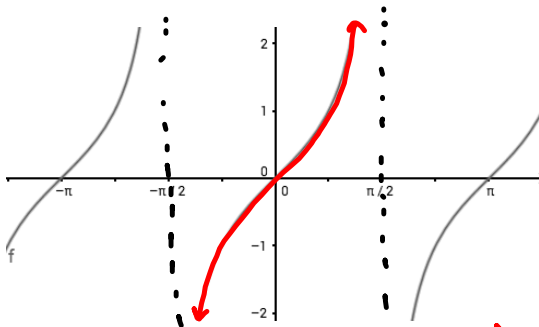
domain: $[-1, 1]$

range: $[0, \pi]$

symmetry: none

② does $\cos^{-1}(\cos(x)) = x$?
No, only works sometimes, when $x \in [0, \pi]$.

$$y = \tan(x)$$



restricted domain: $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$

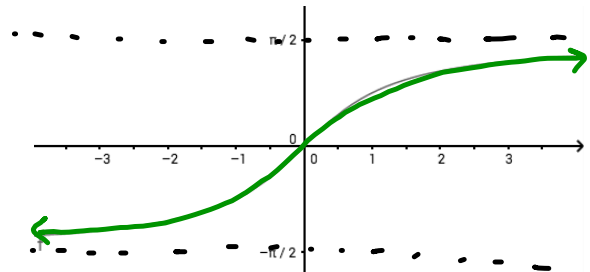
range: $(-\infty, \infty)$

symmetry: odd fn (sym. about the origin)

① does $\tan(\tan^{-1}(x)) = x$?

Yes, always works.

$$y = \tan^{-1}(x) = \arctan(x)$$



domain: $(-\infty, \infty)$

range: $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$

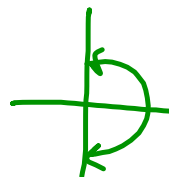
symmetry: also odd fn (sym. about the origin)

② does $\tan^{-1}(\tan(x)) = x$?

No, only works when $x \in (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$.

When working these problems, it is easier if you think of the Unit Circle rather than the Cartesian graph.

$\sin^{-1}(x)$ answers will be in the interval $\left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$



$\cos^{-1}(x)$ answers will be in the interval $[0, \pi]$



$\tan^{-1}(x)$ answers will be in the interval $\left(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$



Note that to compute the $\sec^{-1}(x)$, $\csc^{-1}(x)$ and $\cot^{-1}(x)$ you can turn each into a problem involving the three functions above.

ex $\theta = \sec^{-1} x \rightarrow \theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$
 $\sec \theta = x$
 $\cos \theta = \frac{1}{x}$

$\sec^{-1} x = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$
 $\csc^{-1} x = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$
 $\cot^{-1} x = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right), x > 0$

Ex 1: Look at a Unit Circle and practice by finding the answers to these:

a) $\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{3}$

d) $\sin^{-1}\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = -\frac{\pi}{6}$

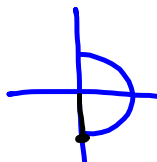
b) $\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{4}$

e) $\sec^{-1}\left(-\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \cos^{-1}\left(-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) = \frac{5\pi}{6}$

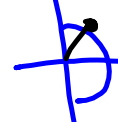
c) $\tan^{-1}\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = -\frac{\pi}{6}$

f) $\tan^{-1}(-1) = -\frac{\pi}{4}$

Ex 2: Try these without looking at a Unit Circle.

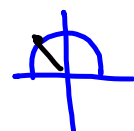
a) $\sin^{-1}(-1) = -\frac{\pi}{2}$ 

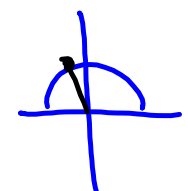
b) $\cos^{-1}(0) = \frac{\pi}{2}$ 

c) $\tan^{-1}(1) = \frac{\pi}{4}$ 

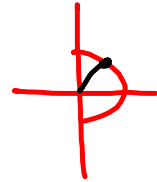
d) $\csc^{-1}(0) = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{0}\right)$ *hmm, this is a problem!*

e) $\sec^{-1}(-2) = \cos^{-1}\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{2\pi}{3}$




f) $\cot^{-1}(-1) = \frac{3\pi}{4}$ 



Ex 3: Which of these are true? Correct any that are false.

a) $\sin^{-1}\left(\sin\left(\frac{3\pi}{4}\right)\right) = \frac{3\pi}{4}$ *false* $\sin^{-1}\left(\sin\left(\frac{3\pi}{4}\right)\right) = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{4} \neq \frac{3\pi}{4}$ 

b) $\cos\left(\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\right) = \frac{1}{2}$ *true* $\cos\left(\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\right) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \checkmark$

c) $\tan^{-1}(\tan \pi) = \pi$ *false* 
 $\tan^{-1}(\tan \pi) = \tan^{-1}(0) = 0 \neq \pi$
 

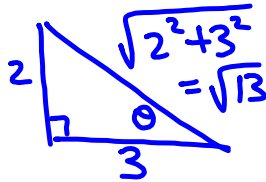
Ex 4: These will require a bit more thought and perhaps a drawing of a triangle.

Evaluate these.

a) $\cos\left(\arctan\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)\right) = \cos \theta = \frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}$

θ (in Q1)

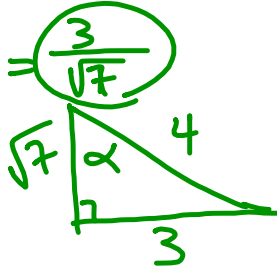
$\theta = \arctan\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)$
 $\tan \theta = \frac{2}{3}$



b) $\tan\left(\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)\right) = \tan \alpha = \frac{3}{\sqrt{7}}$

α (in Q1)

$\alpha = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)$
 $\sin \alpha = \frac{3}{4}$



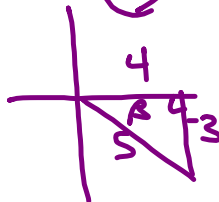
c) $\sec\left(\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{3x}{2}\right)\right) = \frac{1}{\cos\left(\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{3x}{2}\right)\right)} = \frac{1}{\frac{3x}{2}} = \frac{2}{3x}$

Ex 5: Evaluate these.

a) $\sec\left(\arctan\left(-\frac{3}{4}\right)\right) = \sec \beta = \frac{5}{4}$

β in Q4

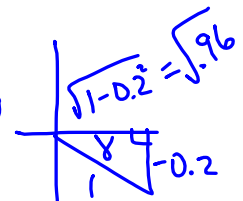
$\beta = \arctan\left(-\frac{3}{4}\right)$
 $\tan \beta = -\frac{3}{4}$



b) $\cot(\sin^{-1}(-0.2)) = \cot \gamma$

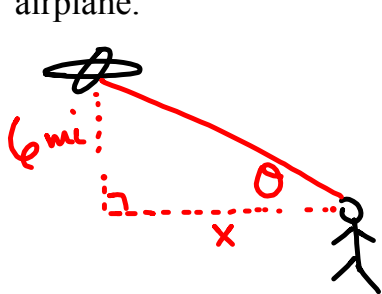
γ in Q4

$\gamma = \sin^{-1}(-0.2)$
 $\sin \gamma = -0.2$



$\Rightarrow \cot \gamma = \frac{\sqrt{0.96}}{-0.2}$

Ex 6: A plane flies at an altitude of 6 miles toward a point directly over an observer. Write the elevation angle θ as a function of x , the horizontal distance from the observer to a point on the ground directly below the airplane.



$$\theta = ?$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{6}{x}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{6}{x}\right)$$

$$x > 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta \text{ in } (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$$