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We may use the following derivative rules now:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1} x &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} & \frac{d}{dx} \cos^{-1} x &= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}, \text{ for } -1 \leq x \leq 1 \\ \frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1} x &= \frac{1}{1+x^2} & \frac{d}{dx} \cot^{-1} x &= -\frac{1}{1+x^2} \\ \frac{d}{dx} \sec^{-1} x &= \frac{1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}} & \frac{d}{dx} \csc^{-1} x &= -\frac{1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}}, \text{ for } |x| > 1 \end{aligned}$$

Also to find the derivative of an inverse function $f^{-1}(y)$ at $y = y_0$, if $y_0 = f(x_0)$ and $f'(x_0) \neq 0$ then

$$(f^{-1})'(y_0) = \frac{1}{f'(x_0)}.$$

1. Evaluate the following derivatives:

(a) $f(x) = \sin^{-1}(2x)$

SOLUTION:

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-(2x)^2}}(2)$$

(b) $f(x) = \cos(\sin^{-1}(2x))$

SOLUTION:

$$f'(x) = -\sin(\sin^{-1}(2x)) \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-(2x)^2}}(2) = \frac{-4x}{\sqrt{1-(2x)^2}}$$

(c) $f(x) = \tan^{-1}(1/x)$

SOLUTION:

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{1+(1/x)^2}(-x^{-2}) = -\frac{1}{x^2+1}$$

(d) $f(x) = \csc^{-1}(\tan(e^x))$

SOLUTION:

$$f'(x) = -\frac{1}{|(\tan(e^x))|\sqrt{(\tan(e^x))^2-1}}(\sec^2(e^x))(e^x)$$

(e) $f(x) = 1/\tan^{-1}(x^2+4)$

SOLUTION:

$$f'(x) = -1(\tan^{-1}(x^2+4))^{-2} \frac{1}{1+(x^2+4)^2}(2x)$$

2. Find the equation of the tangent line at the given point

(a) $f(x) = \tan^{-1}(2x); (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\pi}{4})$

SOLUTION:

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{1+(2x)^2}(2)$$

So $f'(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{1}{1+1}(2) = 1$. So the equation of the tangent line is simply

$$y - \frac{\pi}{4} = x - \frac{1}{2}.$$

(b) $f(x) = \sec^{-1}(e^x); (\ln 2, \frac{\pi}{3})$

SOLUTION:

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{|e^x| \sqrt{(e^x)^2 - 1}}(e^x)$$

So $f'(\ln 2) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{4-1}}(2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$. The equation of the tangent line is

$$y - \frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(x - \ln 2).$$

3. Find the derivative of $f^{-1}(x)$ at the given point.

(a) $f(x) = 3x + 4; (16, 4)$

SOLUTION: The corresponding point in $f(x)$ is $(4, 16)$, where the slope is $f'(4) = 3$. So at $(16, 4)$, the inverse function has a slope of $1/3$. The equation for the tangent line is

$$y - 4 = \frac{1}{3}(x - 16).$$

(b) $f(x) = x^2 - 2x - 3$ for $x \leq 1; (12, -3)$

SOLUTION: The corresponding point in $f(x)$ is $(-3, 12)$. $f'(x) = 2x - 2$, so $f'(-3) = -8$. Therefore the slope of the tangent line at $(12, -3)$ on f^{-1} is $1/8$. The equation for this line is

$$y + 3 = \frac{1}{8}(x - 12).$$

4. Use trig properties to prove the following identity. For what values of x is it true?

$$\cos(2 \sin^{-1} x) = 1 - 2x^2$$

(Hint: $\cos 2\theta = 1 - 2 \sin^2 \theta$)

SOLUTION:

$$\begin{aligned} \cos(2 \sin^{-1} x) &= 1 - 2 \sin^2(\sin^{-1} x) && \text{because } \cos 2\theta = 1 - 2 \sin^2 \theta \\ &= 1 - 2(\sin(\sin^{-1} x))^2 && \text{rewriting slightly} \\ &= 1 - 2x^2 && \text{because } \sin(\sin^{-1} x) = x \end{aligned}$$

But this only holds for $-1 \leq x \leq 1$.

5. Consider $f(x) = \sin(2 \sin^{-1} x)$.

(a) What is the domain of f ? Find the derivative $f'(x)$.

SOLUTION: The domain is $-1 \leq x \leq 1$. By the chain rule,

$$f'(x) = \cos(2 \sin^{-1} x) \frac{2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

(b) Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph when $x = \frac{1}{2}$.

SOLUTION: Plugging in $x = 1/2$, we have

$$f'(1/2) = \cos\left(2 \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\right) \frac{2}{\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{4}}} = \cos\left(2 \frac{\pi}{3}\right) \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{-1}{2} \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{-2}{\sqrt{3}}$$

(c) Use $\sin 2\theta = 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta$ and $1 = \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta$ to show $f(x) = 2x\sqrt{1-x^2}$.

SOLUTION:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sin(2 \sin^{-1} x) \\ &= 2 \sin(\sin^{-1} x) \cos(\sin^{-1} x) && \text{by trig identity} \\ &= 2x \sqrt{1 - \sin^2(\sin^{-1} x)} && \text{because } \cos \theta = \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta} \text{ for } -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \\ &= 2x \sqrt{1 - (\sin(\sin^{-1} x))^2} && \text{rewriting slightly} \\ &= 2x \sqrt{1 - x^2} \end{aligned}$$