7.8 Hyperbolic Functions

The hyperbolic functions are formed by taking combinations of the two exponential functions e^x and e^{-x}. The hyperbolic functions simplify many mathematical expressions and they are important in applications. For instance, they are used in problems such as computing the tension in a cable suspended by its two ends, as in an electric transmission line. They also play an important role in finding solutions to differential equations. In this section, we give a brief introduction to hyperbolic functions, their graphs, how their derivatives are calculated, and why they appear as important antiderivatives.

Even and Odd Parts of the Exponential Function

Recall the definitions of even and odd functions from Section 1.4, and the symmetries of their graphs. An even function f satisfies $f(-x) = f(x)$, while an odd function satisfies $f(-x) = -f(x)$. Every function f that is defined on an interval centered at the origin can be written in a unique way as the sum of one even function and one odd function. The decomposition is

$$f(x) = \underbrace{\frac{f(x) + f(-x)}{2}}_{\text{even part}} + \underbrace{\frac{f(x) - f(-x)}{2}}_{\text{odd part}}.$$

If we write e^x this way, we get

$$e^x = \underbrace{\frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}}_{\text{even part}} + \underbrace{\frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}}_{\text{odd part}}.$$

The even and odd parts of e^x, called the hyperbolic cosine and hyperbolic sine of x, respectively, are useful in their own right. They describe the motions of waves in elastic solids and the temperature distributions in metal cooling fins. The centerline of the Gateway Arch to the West in St. Louis is a weighted hyperbolic cosine curve.

Definitions and Identities

The hyperbolic cosine and hyperbolic sine functions are defined by the first two equations in Table 7.5. The table also lists the definitions of the hyperbolic tangent, cotangent, secant, and cosecant. As we will see, the hyperbolic functions bear a number of similarities to the trigonometric functions after which they are named. (See Exercise 84 as well.)

The notation $\cosh x$ is often read "kosh x," rhyming with "gosh x," and $\sinh x$ is pronounced as if spelled "cinch x," rhyming with "pinch x."

Hyperbolic functions satisfy the identities in Table 7.6. Except for differences in sign, these resemble identities we already know for trigonometric functions.

The second equation is obtained as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} 2\sinh x \cosh x &= 2\left(\frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}\right)\left(\frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{e^{2x} - e^{-2x}}{2} \\ &= \sinh 2x. \end{aligned}$$

TABLE 7.5 The six basic hyperbolic functions

Hyperbolic sine of x:	$\sinh x = \dfrac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}$
Hyperbolic cosine of x:	$\cosh x = \dfrac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}$
Hyperbolic tangent:	$\tanh x = \dfrac{\sinh x}{\cosh x} = \dfrac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$
Hyperbolic cotangent:	$\coth x = \dfrac{\cosh x}{\sinh x} = \dfrac{e^x + e^{-x}}{e^x - e^{-x}}$
Hyperbolic secant:	$\operatorname{sech} x = \dfrac{1}{\cosh x} = \dfrac{2}{e^x + e^{-x}}$
Hyperbolic cosecant:	$\operatorname{csch} x = \dfrac{1}{\sinh x} = \dfrac{2}{e^x - e^{-x}}$

FIGURE 7.31

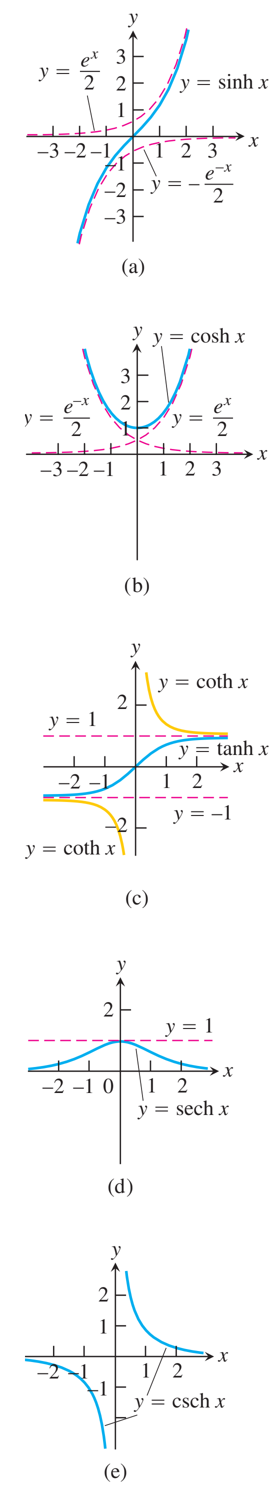

TABLE 7.6 Identities for hyperbolic functions

$\cosh^2 x - \sinh^2 x = 1$

$\sinh 2x = 2 \sinh x \cosh x$

$\cosh 2x = \cosh^2 x + \sinh^2 x$

$\cosh^2 x = \dfrac{\cosh 2x + 1}{2}$

$\sinh^2 x = \dfrac{\cosh 2x - 1}{2}$

$\tanh^2 x = 1 - \operatorname{sech}^2 x$

$\coth^2 x = 1 + \operatorname{csch}^2 x$

The other identities are obtained similarly, by substituting in the definitions of the hyperbolic functions and using algebra. Like many standard functions, hyperbolic functions and their inverses are easily evaluated with calculators, which have special keys or keystroke sequences for that purpose.

Derivatives and Integrals

The six hyperbolic functions, being rational combinations of the differentiable functions e^x and e^{-x}, have derivatives at every point at which they are defined (Table 7.7). Again, there are similarities with trigonometric functions. The derivative formulas in Table 7.7 lead to the integral formulas in Table 7.8.

TABLE 7.7 Derivatives of hyperbolic functions

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sinh u) = \cosh u \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cosh u) = \sinh u \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\tanh u) = \operatorname{sech}^2 u \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\coth u) = -\operatorname{csch}^2 u \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{sech} u) = -\operatorname{sech} u \tanh u \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{csch} u) = -\operatorname{csch} u \coth u \frac{du}{dx}$$

TABLE 7.8 Integral formulas for hyperbolic functions

$$\int \sinh u \, du = \cosh u + C$$

$$\int \cosh u \, du = \sinh u + C$$

$$\int \operatorname{sech}^2 u \, du = \tanh u + C$$

$$\int \operatorname{csch}^2 u \, du = -\coth u + C$$

$$\int \operatorname{sech} u \tanh u \, du = -\operatorname{sech} u + C$$

$$\int \operatorname{csch} u \coth u \, du = -\operatorname{csch} u + C$$

The derivative formulas are derived from the derivative of e^u:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx}(\sinh u) &= \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{e^u - e^{-u}}{2}\right) && \text{Definition of } \sinh u \\ &= \frac{e^u \, du/dx + e^{-u} \, du/dx}{2} && \text{Derivative of } e^u \\ &= \cosh u \frac{du}{dx} && \text{Definition of } \cosh u\end{aligned}$$

This gives the first derivative formula. The calculation

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{csch} u) &= \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{\sinh u}\right) && \text{Definition of } \operatorname{csch} u \\ &= -\frac{\cosh u}{\sinh^2 u}\frac{du}{dx} && \text{Quotient Rule} \\ &= -\frac{1}{\sinh u}\frac{\cosh u}{\sinh u}\frac{du}{dx} && \text{Rearrange terms.} \\ &= -\operatorname{csch} u \coth u \frac{du}{dx} && \text{Definitions of } \operatorname{csch} u \text{ and } \coth u\end{aligned}$$

gives the last formula. The others are obtained similarly.

EXAMPLE 1 Finding Derivatives and Integrals

(a)
$$\frac{d}{dt}\left(\tanh \sqrt{1+t^2}\right) = \operatorname{sech}^2 \sqrt{1 = t^2} \cdot \frac{d}{dt}\left(\sqrt{1+t^2}\right)$$
$$= \frac{t}{\sqrt{1+t^2}} \operatorname{sech}^2 \sqrt{1+t^2}$$

(b)
$$\int \coth 5x \, dx = \int \frac{\cosh 5x}{\sinh 5x} dx = \frac{1}{5}\int \frac{du}{u} \qquad u = \sinh 5x, \; du = 5\cosh 5x \, dx$$
$$= \frac{1}{5}\ln|u| + C = \frac{1}{5}\ln|\sinh 5x| + C$$

(c)
$$\int_0^1 \sinh^2 x \, dx = \int_0^1 \frac{\cosh 2x - 1}{2} dx \qquad \text{Table 7.6}$$
$$= \frac{1}{2}\int_0^1 (\cosh 2x - 1)\, dx = \frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{\sinh 2x}{2} - x\right]_0^1$$
$$= \frac{\sinh 2}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \approx 0.40672 \qquad \text{Evaluate with a calculator}$$

(d)
$$\int_0^{\ln 2} 4e^x \sinh x \, dx = \int_0^{\ln 2} 4e^x \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2} dx = \int_0^{\ln 2} (2e^{2x} - 2)\, dx$$
$$= \left[e^{2x} - 2x\right]_0^{\ln 2} = (e^{2\ln 2} - 2\ln 2) - (1 - 0)$$
$$= 4 - 2\ln 2 - 1$$
$$\approx 1.6137$$

Inverse Hyperbolic Functions

The inverses of the six basic hyperbolic functions are very useful in integration. Since $d(\sinh x)/dx = \cosh x > 0$, the hyperbolic sine is an increasing function of x. We denote its inverse by

$$y = \sinh^{-1} x.$$

For every value of x in the interval $-\infty < x < \infty$, the value of $y = \sinh^{-1} x$ is the number whose hyperbolic sine is x. The graphs of $y = \sinh x$ and $y = \sinh^{-1} x$ are shown in Figure 7.32a.

The function $y = \cosh x$ is not one-to-one, as we can see from the graph in Figure 7.31b. The restricted function $y = \cosh x, x \geq 0$, however, is one-to-one and therefore has an inverse, denoted by

$$y = \cosh^{-1} x.$$

For every value of $x \geq 1, y = \cosh^{-1} x$ is the number in the interval $0 \leq y < \infty$ whose hyperbolic cosine is x. The graphs of $y = \cosh x, x \geq 0$, and $y = \cosh^{-1} x$ are shown in Figure 7.32b.

Like $y = \cosh x$, the function $y = \operatorname{sech} x = 1/\cosh x$ fails to be one-to-one, but its restriction to nonnegative values of x does have an inverse, denoted by

$$y = \operatorname{sech}^{-1} x.$$

For every value of x in the interval $(0, 1], y = \operatorname{sech}^{-1} x$ is the nonnegative number whose hyperbolic secant is x. The graphs of $y = \operatorname{sech} x, x \geq 0$, and $y = \operatorname{sech}^{-1} x$ are shown in Figure 7.32c.

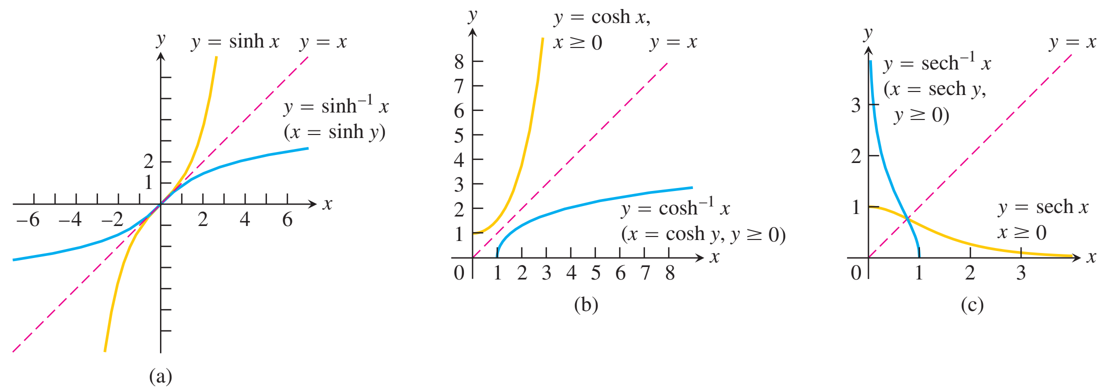

FIGURE 7.32 The graphs of the inverse hyperbolic sine, cosine, and secant of x. Notice the symmetries about the line $y = x$.

The hyperbolic tangent, cotangent, and cosecant are one-to-one on their domains and therefore have inverses, denoted by

$$y = \tanh^{-1} x, \qquad y = \coth^{-1} x, \qquad y = \operatorname{csch}^{-1} x.$$

These functions are graphed in Figure 7.33.

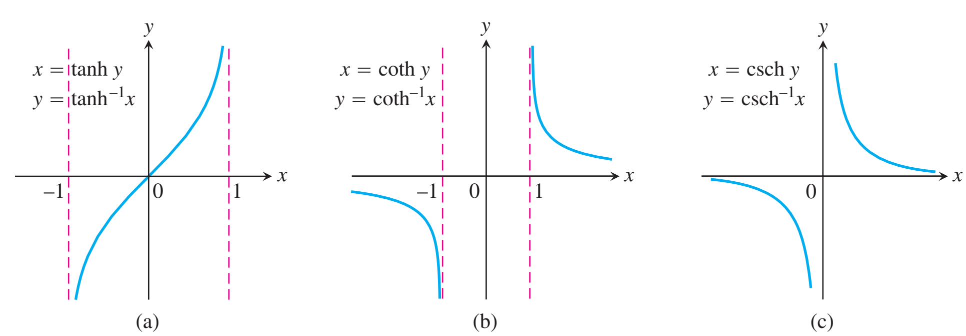

FIGURE 7.33 The graphs of the inverse hyperbolic tangent, cotangent, and cosecant of x.

TABLE 7.9 Identities for inverse hyperbolic functions

$$\operatorname{sech}^{-1} x = \cosh^{-1} \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\operatorname{csch}^{-1} x = \sinh^{-1} \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\coth^{-1} x = \tanh^{-1} \frac{1}{x}$$

Useful Identities

We use the identities in Table 7.9 to calculate the values of $\operatorname{sech}^{-1} x$, $\operatorname{csch}^{-1} x$, and $\coth^{-1} x$ on calculators that give only $\cosh^{-1} x$, $\sinh^{-1} x$, and $\tanh^{-1} x$. These identities are direct consequences of the definitions. For example, if $0 < x \leq 1$, then

$$\operatorname{sech}\left(\cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)\right) = \frac{1}{\cosh\left(\cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)\right)} = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)} = x$$

so

$$\cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = \operatorname{sech}^{-1} x$$

since the hyperbolic secant is one-to-one on (0, 1].

Derivatives and Integrals

The chief use of inverse hyperbolic functions lies in integrations that reverse the derivative formulas in Table 7.10.

TABLE 7.10 Derivatives of inverse hyperbolic functions

$\frac{d(\sinh^{-1} u)}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+u^2}}\frac{du}{dx}$	
$\frac{d(\cosh^{-1} u)}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{u^2-1}}\frac{du}{dx},$	$u > 1$
$\frac{d(\tanh^{-1} u)}{dx} = \frac{1}{1-u^2}\frac{du}{dx},$	$\lvert u\rvert < 1$
$\frac{d(\coth^{-1} u)}{dx} = \frac{1}{1-u^2}\frac{du}{dx},$	$\lvert u\rvert > 1$
$\frac{d(\operatorname{sech}^{-1} u)}{dx} = \frac{-du/dx}{u\sqrt{1-u^2}},$	$0 < u < 1$
$\frac{d(\operatorname{csch}^{-1} u)}{dx} = \frac{-du/dx}{\lvert u\rvert\sqrt{1+u^2}},$	$u \neq 0$

The restrictions $|u| < 1$ and $|u| > 1$ on the derivative formulas for $\tanh^{-1} u$ and $\coth^{-1} u$ come from the natural restrictions on the values of these functions. (See Figure 7.33a and b.) The distinction between $|u| < 1$ and $|u| > 1$ becomes important when we convert the derivative formulas into integral formulas. If $|u| < 1$, the integral of $1/(1-u^2)$ is $\tanh^{-1} u + C$. If $|u| > 1$, the integral is $\coth^{-1} u + C$.

We illustrate how the derivatives of the inverse hyperbolic functions are found in Example 2, where we calculate $d(\cosh^{-1} u)/dx$. The other derivatives are obtained by similar calculations.

HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY

Sonya Kovalevsky (1850–1891)

EXAMPLE 2 Derivative of the Inverse Hyperbolic Cosine

You Try It

Show that if u is a differentiable function of x whose values are greater than 1, then

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cosh^{-1} u) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{u^2-1}}\frac{du}{dx}.$$

Solution First we find the derivative of $y = \cosh^{-1} x$ for $x > 1$ by applying Theorem 1 with $f(x) = \cosh x$ and $f^{-1}(x) = \cosh^{-1} x$. Theorem 1 can be applied because the derivative of $\cosh x$ is positive for $0 < x$.

$$\begin{aligned}
(f^{-1})'(x) &= \frac{1}{f'(f^{-1}(x))} && \text{Theorem 1} \\
&= \frac{1}{\sinh(\cosh^{-1} x)} && f'(u) = \sinh u \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\cosh^2(\cosh^{-1} x) - 1}} && \cosh^2 u - \sinh^2 u = 1,\ \sinh u = \sqrt{\cosh^2 u - 1} \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}} && \cosh(\cosh^{-1} x) = x
\end{aligned}$$

In short,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cosh^{-1} x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}.$$

The Chain Rule gives the final result:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cosh^{-1} u) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{u^2 - 1}} \frac{du}{dx}.$$

■

Instead of applying Theorem 1 directly, as in Example 2, we could also find the derivative of $y = \cosh^{-1} x, x > 1$, using implicit differentiation and the Chain Rule:

$$\begin{aligned}
y &= \cosh^{-1} x \\
x &= \cosh y && \text{Equivalent equation} \\
1 &= \sinh y \frac{dy}{dx} && \text{Implicit differentiation with respect to } x \text{, and the Chain Rule} \\
\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{1}{\sinh y} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\cosh^2 y - 1}} && \text{Since } x > 1, y > 0 \text{ and } \sinh y > 0 \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}. && \cosh y = x
\end{aligned}$$

With appropriate substitutions, the derivative formulas in Table 7.10 lead to the integration formulas in Table 7.11. Each of the formulas in Table 7.11 can be verified by differentiating the expression on the right-hand side.

EXAMPLE 3 Using Table 7.11

You Try It

Evaluate

$$\int_0^1 \frac{2\,dx}{\sqrt{3 + 4x^2}}.$$

TABLE 7.11 Integrals leading to inverse hyperbolic functions

1. $$\int \frac{du}{\sqrt{a^2 + u^2}} = \sinh^{-1}\left(\frac{u}{a}\right) + C, \qquad a > 0$$

2. $$\int \frac{du}{\sqrt{u^2 - a^2}} = \cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{u}{a}\right) + C, \qquad u > a > 0$$

3. $$\int \frac{du}{a^2 - u^2} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{a}\tanh^{-1}\left(\frac{u}{a}\right) + C & \text{if } u^2 < a^2 \\ \frac{1}{a}\coth^{-1}\left(\frac{u}{a}\right) + C, & \text{if } u^2 > a^2 \end{cases}$$

4. $$\int \frac{du}{u\sqrt{a^2 - u^2}} = -\frac{1}{a}\operatorname{sech}^{-1}\left(\frac{u}{a}\right) + C, \qquad 0 < u < a$$

5. $$\int \frac{du}{u\sqrt{a^2 + u^2}} = -\frac{1}{a}\operatorname{csch}^{-1}\left|\frac{u}{a}\right| + C, \qquad u \neq 0 \text{ and } a > 0$$

Solution The indefinite integral is

$$\int \frac{2\,dx}{\sqrt{3 + 4x^2}} = \int \frac{du}{\sqrt{a^2 + u^2}} \qquad u = 2x, \quad du = 2\,dx, \quad a = \sqrt{3}$$

$$= \sinh^{-1}\left(\frac{u}{a}\right) + C \qquad \text{Formula from Table 7.11}$$

$$= \sinh^{-1}\left(\frac{2x}{\sqrt{3}}\right) + C.$$

Therefore,

$$\int_0^1 \frac{2\,dx}{\sqrt{3 + 4x^2}} = \sinh^{-1}\left(\frac{2x}{\sqrt{3}}\right)\Bigg]_0^1 = \sinh^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}\right) - \sinh^{-1}(0)$$

$$= \sinh^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}\right) - 0 \approx 0.98665.$$

■