

7.5 Inverse Circular Functions
Honors Algebra 2 with Trig

Recall that if a function is defined so that *each range element is used only once*, then it is a one-to-one function.

Recall that the **inverse function** of the one-to-one function f is defined as follows.

$$f^{-1} = \{(y, x) | (x, y) \text{ belongs to } f\}$$

Do not confuse the -1 in f^{-1} with a negative exponent. The symbol $f^{-1}(x)$ represents the inverse function of f , not $\frac{1}{f(x)}$.

Review of Inverse Functions

1. In a one-to-one function, each x -value corresponds to only one y -value and each y -value corresponds to only one x -value.
2. If a function f is one-to-one, then f has an inverse function f^{-1} .
3. The domain of f is the range of f^{-1} , and the range of f is the domain of f^{-1} . That is, if the point (a, b) is on the graph of f , then the point (b, a) lies on the graph of f^{-1} .
4. The graphs of f and f^{-1} are reflections of each other across the line $y = x$.
5. To find $f^{-1}(x)$ from $f(x)$, follow these steps:
Step 1 Replace $f(x)$ w/ y and interchange x and y
Step 2 Solve for y
Step 3 Replace y w/ $f^{-1}(x)$

*what angle gives —

Inverse Sine Function

Inverse Sine Function

$y = \sin^{-1} x$ or $y = \arcsin x$ means that $x = \sin y$, for $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq y \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$.

We can think of $y = \sin^{-1} x$ or $y = \arcsin x$ as

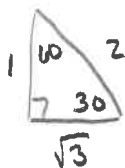
“ y is the number (angle) in the interval $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ whose sine is x .”




The domain of $y = \sin^{-1} x$ is $[-1, 1]$. The range of $y = \sin^{-1} x$ is $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$.

CLASSROOM EXAMPLE 1 Finding Inverse Sine Values


Find the value of each real number y if it exists.



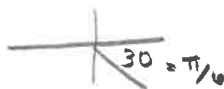
(a) $y = \arcsin \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ 

$\theta = 60^\circ$

$y = \frac{\pi}{3}$

(b) $y = \sin^{-1}(-\frac{1}{2})$ 

$\theta = 30^\circ$



$\theta = \frac{11\pi}{6}$ ← to get to $\frac{11\pi}{6}$ needs to revolve an undefined

$\theta = -\frac{\pi}{6}$

(c) $y = \sin^{-1} \sqrt{2}$

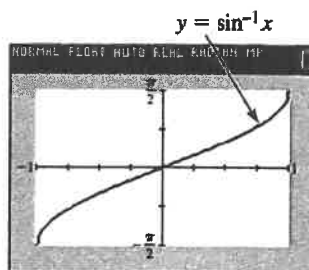
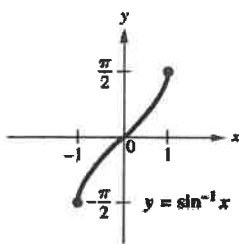
No solution

Be certain that the number given for an inverse function value is in the range of the particular inverse function being considered.

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Inverse Sine Function $y = \sin^{-1} x$ or $y = \arcsin x$

x	y
-1	$-\frac{\pi}{2}$
$-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$-\frac{\pi}{4}$
0	0
$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{\pi}{4}$
1	$\frac{\pi}{2}$



Domain: $[-1, 1]$
Range: $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$

- The inverse sine function is increasing on the open interval $[-1, 1]$ and continuous on its domain $[-1, 1]$.
- Its x - and y -intercepts are both $(0, 0)$.
- Its graph is symmetric with respect to the origin, so the function is an odd function. For all x in the domain, $\sin^{-1}(-x) = -\sin^{-1}(x)$

Inverse Cosine Function

Inverse Cosine Function

$y = \cos^{-1} x$ or $y = \arccos x$ means that $x = \cos y$, for $0 \leq y \leq \pi$.

We can think of $y = \cos^{-1} x$ or $y = \arccos x$ as

"y is the number (angle) in the interval $[0, \pi]$ whose cosine is x."

The domain of $y = \cos^{-1} x$ is $[-1, 1]$. The range of $y = \cos^{-1} x$ is $[0, \pi]$.

CLASSROOM EXAMPLE 2 Finding Inverse Cosine Values

Find the value of each real number y if it exists.

(a) $y = \arccos 0$

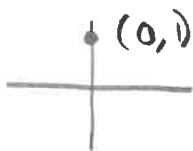
$y = \frac{\pi}{2}$

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

$\theta = 60^\circ$

$y = \frac{\pi}{3}$

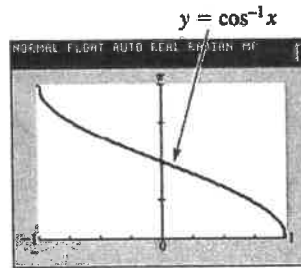
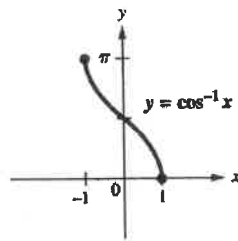
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Inverse Cosine Function $y = \cos^{-1} x$ or $y = \arccos x$

x	y
-1	π
$-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{3\pi}{4}$
0	$\frac{\pi}{2}$
$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{\pi}{4}$
1	0



Domain: $[-1, 1]$

Range: $[0, \pi]$

- The inverse cosine function is decreasing on the open interval $[-1, 1]$ and continuous on its domain $[-1, 1]$.
- Its x -intercept is $(1, 0)$ and its y -intercept is $(0, \pi/2)$.
- Its graph is not symmetric with respect to either the origin or the y -axis.

Inverse Tangent Function

Inverse Tangent Function

$y = \tan^{-1} x$ or $y = \arctan x$ means that $x = \tan y$, for $-\frac{\pi}{2} < y < \frac{\pi}{2}$.

We can think of $y = \tan^{-1} x$ or $y = \arctan x$ as

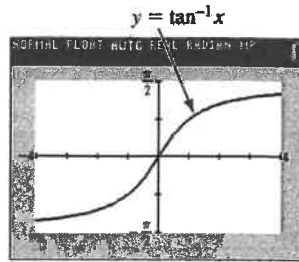
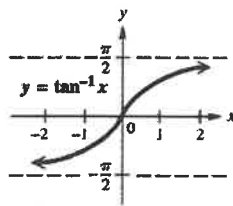
“ y is the number (angle) in the interval $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$ whose tangent is x .”

The domain of $y = \tan^{-1} x$ is $(-\infty, \infty)$. The range of $y = \tan^{-1} x$ is $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$.

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Inverse Tangent Function $y = \tan^{-1} x$ or $y = \arctan x$

x	y
-1	$-\frac{\pi}{4}$
$-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$	$-\frac{\pi}{6}$
0	0
$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$	$\frac{\pi}{6}$
1	$\frac{\pi}{4}$



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

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

- The inverse tangent function is increasing on $(-\infty, \infty)$ and continuous on its domain $(-\infty, \infty)$.
- Its x - and y -intercepts are both $(0,0)$.
- Its graph is symmetric with respect to the origin, so the function is an odd function. For all x in the domain, $\tan^{-1}(-x) = -\tan^{-1}(x)$.
- The lines _____ and _____ are horizontal asymptotes.

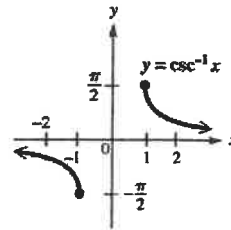
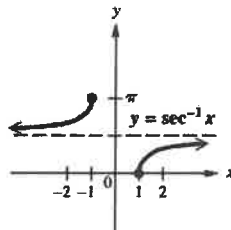
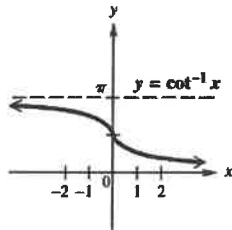
Other Inverse Circular Functions

Inverse Cotangent, Secant, and Cosecant Functions

$y = \cot^{-1} x$ or $y = \operatorname{arccot} x$ means that $x = \cot y$, for $0 < y < \pi$.

$y = \sec^{-1} x$ or $y = \operatorname{arcsec} x$ means that $x = \sec y$, for $0 \leq y \leq \pi$, $y \neq \frac{\pi}{2}$.

$y = \csc^{-1} x$ or $y = \operatorname{arccsc} x$ means that $x = \csc y$, for $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq y \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$, $y \neq 0$.



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Summary of Inverse Circular Functions

Inverse Function	Domain	Range	
		Interval	Quadrants of the Unit Circle
$y = \sin^{-1} x$	$[-1, 1]$	$[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$	I & IV
$y = \cos^{-1} x$	$[-1, 1]$	$[0, \pi]$	I & II
$y = \tan^{-1} x$	$(-\infty, \infty)$	$(-\pi/2, \pi/2)$	I & IV
$y = \cot^{-1} x$	$(-\infty, \infty)$	$(0, \pi)$	I & II
$y = \sec^{-1} x$	$(-\infty, -1] \cup [1, \infty)$	$[0, \pi]$	I & II
$y = \csc^{-1} x$	$(-\infty, -1] \cup [1, \infty)$	$[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$	I & IV

Inverse Function Values

CLASSROOM EXAMPLE 3 Finding Inverse Function Values (Degree-Measured Angles)

Find the *degree measure* of θ if it exists.

(a) $\theta = \arctan \sqrt{3}$



$\theta' = 60^\circ$

$\theta = \pi/3$

(b) $\theta = \csc^{-1}(-\sqrt{2})$



$\theta' = 45^\circ$

$\theta = -\pi/4$

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Use the following to evaluate these inverse trigonometric functions on a calculator.

$\sec^{-1} x$ is evaluated as $\cos^{-1} \frac{1}{x}$; $\csc^{-1} x$ is evaluated as $\sin^{-1} \frac{1}{x}$;

$\cot^{-1} x$ is evaluated as $\begin{cases} \tan^{-1} \frac{1}{x} & \text{if } x > 0 \\ 180^\circ + \tan^{-1} \frac{1}{x} & \text{if } x < 0. \end{cases}$ Degree mode

don't need
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CLASSROOM EXAMPLE 4 Finding Inverse Function Values with a Calculator

Use a calculator to approximate each value.

(a) Find y in radians if $y = \sec^{-1}(-4)$.

$$= 1.823$$

(b) Find θ in degrees if $\theta = \operatorname{arccot}(-0.2528)$.

$$= 1.818$$

~~Be careful when using a calculator to evaluate the inverse cotangent of a negative quantity. Enter the inverse tangent of the _____ of the negative quantity, which returns an angle in quadrant _____. Because inverse cotangent is _____ in quadrant II, adjust the calculator result by adding 180° or π accordingly. (Note that $\cot^{-1} 0 = \frac{\pi}{2}$ or 90° .)~~

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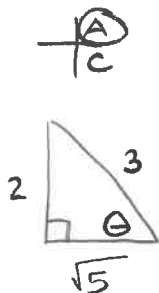
CLASSROOM EXAMPLE 5 Finding Function Values Using Definitions of the Trigonometric Functions

Evaluate each expression without using a calculator.

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

(b) $\sec\left(\cot^{-1}\left(-\frac{15}{8}\right)\right)$

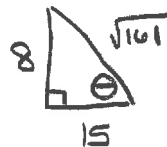
S | A



$$\sin^{-1} \frac{2}{3} = \theta$$

$$= \cos \theta$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}$$



$$= \sec \theta$$

$$= -\frac{\sqrt{161}}{15}$$

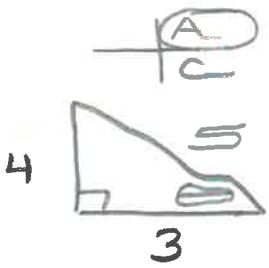
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CLASSROOM EXAMPLE 6 Finding Function Values Using Identities

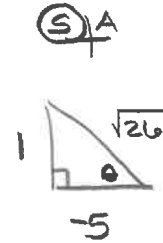
Evaluate each expression without using a calculator.

(a) $\sin\left(\arctan\frac{4}{3} - \arccos\frac{12}{13}\right)$

(b) $\sin(2\operatorname{arccot}(-5))$



$$\sin(\theta - \beta)$$



$$= \sin 2\theta$$

$$= \sin\theta \cos\beta - \cos\theta \sin\beta$$

$$= 2\sin\theta \cos\theta$$

$$= \frac{4}{5} \left(\frac{12}{13}\right) - \frac{3}{5} \left(\frac{5}{13}\right)$$

$$= 2 \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{26}}\right) \left(\frac{-5}{\sqrt{26}}\right)$$

$$= \frac{48}{65} - \frac{15}{65}$$

$$= \frac{-10}{26}$$

$$= \frac{33}{65}$$

$$= -\frac{5}{13}$$

