

$$\arcsin x = \sin^{-1} x$$

POSITIVE
↓

NEGATIVE
↓

Section 3.10 — Derivatives of Inverse Trigonometric Functions

Important Ideas:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

see other resources

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

Check Your Understanding!

1. Let $y = \sin^{-1}(3x)$. Find y' .

$$\begin{aligned} u &= 3x \\ \frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1} u &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2}} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-9x^2}} \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(3x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-9x^2}} \cdot 3 \\ &= \frac{3}{\sqrt{1-9x^2}} \end{aligned}$$

2. For $y = \tan^{-1}(4x^2)$, find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

$$\begin{aligned} u &= 4x^2 \\ \frac{du}{dx} &= 8x \\ \frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1}(4x^2) &= \frac{1}{1+u^2} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} \\ &= \frac{1}{1+(4x^2)^2} \cdot 8x = \frac{8x}{1+16x^4} \end{aligned}$$

3. If $\arcsin x = \ln y$, find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \arcsin x &= \frac{d}{dx} \ln y \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} &= \frac{1}{y} \cdot y' \\ y' &= \frac{y}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} = \frac{e^{\arcsin x}}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \end{aligned}$$

4. For $y = \arccos(e^{7x})$, find y' .

$$\begin{aligned} u &= e^{7x} \\ \frac{du}{dx} &= 7e^{7x} \\ u^2 &= (e^{7x})^2 = e^{14x} \\ \frac{d}{dx} \arccos u &= \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-u^2}} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} \\ \frac{d}{dx} \arccos e^{7x} &= \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-e^{14x}}} \cdot 7e^{7x} \\ &= \frac{-7e^{7x}}{\sqrt{1-e^{14x}}} \end{aligned}$$

5. Let $g(x) = \operatorname{arccot} x$. Find $g'(2)$.

$$g'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \operatorname{arccot} x = \frac{-1}{1+x^2} = \frac{-1}{1+(2)^2} = \frac{-1}{5}$$