

Discussion Board Questions:

Week 1

Imagine a right triangle with area 25m^2 . How would you express the hypotenuse h as a function of its perimeter P ?

Area of a triangle: $\frac{1}{2}(\text{base})(\text{height}) = 25$

$$\frac{1}{2}ba = 25 \rightarrow ba = 50$$

Perimeter of a triangle is $P = a + b + h$

$$P - h = a + b$$

Squaring both sides:

$$(P - h)^2 = (a + b)^2$$

$$p^2 + 2Ph + h^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$$

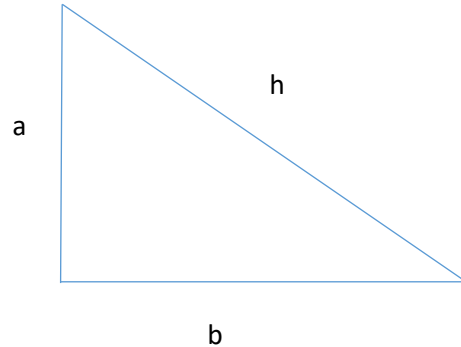
$$p^2 + 2Ph + h^2 = 2(50) + h^2$$

Note that $h^2 = a^2 + b^2$ from Pythagorean theorem

$$p^2 + 2Ph + h^2 = 100 + h^2$$

$$p^2 + 2Ph = 100$$

$$h(P) = \frac{100 - P^2}{2P}$$



Week 2 –

Solve the inequality for x , assuming that a , b , and c are positive constants: $a(bx - c) \geq bc$

$$abx - ac - bc \geq 0$$

$$abx - c(a + b) \geq 0$$

$$abx \geq c(a + b)$$

$$x \geq \frac{c(a + b)}{ab}$$

$$\left[\frac{c(a + b)}{ab}, \infty\right)$$

Week 3 –

Show that $f(x) = \ln(x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1})$ is an odd function.

What would the inverse of this function be?

$$f(-x) = \ln(-x + \sqrt{(-x)^2 + 1})$$

$$\ln(-x + \sqrt{(x)^2 + 1})$$

We could rationalize the numerator to get

$$\ln[-x + \sqrt{(x)^2 + 1} \times \frac{x + \sqrt{(x)^2 + 1}}{x + \sqrt{(x)^2 + 1}}]$$

$$\ln\left[\frac{-x^2 + x^2 + 1}{x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1}}\right]$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{1}{x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1}}\right)$$

$$\ln\left(x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1}\right)^{-1} = -\ln\left(x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1}\right) = -f(x)$$

This is an odd function

In finding the inverse, let $y = \ln(x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1})$

$$x = \ln(y + \sqrt{y^2 + 1})$$

$$e^x = y + \sqrt{y^2 + 1}$$

$$e^x - y = \sqrt{y^2 + 1}$$

$$(e^x - y)^2 = (\sqrt{y^2 + 1})^2$$

$$e^{2x} - 2ye^x + y^2 = y^2 + 1$$

$$e^{2x} - 2ye^x = 1$$

$$\frac{e^{2x} - 1}{2e^x} = y$$

Week 4 –

$$\text{Show that } \tan\left(\frac{u}{2}\right) = \frac{1 - \cos u}{\sin u}$$

Method 1: We know that $\sin^2 a = \frac{1 - \cos 2a}{2}$, therefore $\sin^2\left(\frac{u}{2}\right) = \frac{1 - \cos u}{2} \rightarrow 2 \sin^2\left(\frac{u}{2}\right) = 1 - \cos u$

$$\sin u = 2 \sin \frac{u}{2} \cos \frac{u}{2}$$

Putting it all together, we get:

$$\frac{2 \sin^2 \frac{u}{2}}{2 \sin \frac{u}{2} \cos \frac{u}{2}} = \frac{\sin \frac{u}{2}}{\cos \frac{u}{2}} = \tan\left(\frac{u}{2}\right)$$

Method 2: We know that $\sin^2 a = \frac{1 - \cos 2a}{2}$, therefore $\sin^2 \left(\frac{u}{2}\right) = \frac{1 - \cos u}{2} \rightarrow \sin \left(\frac{u}{2}\right) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos u}{2}}$

Likewise, $\cos \left(\frac{u}{2}\right) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 + \cos u}{2}}$

$$\tan\left(\frac{u}{2}\right) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos u}{1 + \cos u}}$$

$$\tan\left(\frac{u}{2}\right) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos u}{1 + \cos u} \times \frac{1 - \cos u}{1 - \cos u}}$$

$$\tan\left(\frac{u}{2}\right) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{(1 - \cos u)^2}{1 - \cos^2 u}}$$

$$\tan\left(\frac{u}{2}\right) = \pm \frac{|1 - \cos u|}{|\sin u|}$$

Now, $1 - \cos u$ is nonnegative for all values of u . It is also true that $\sin u$ and $\tan \frac{u}{2}$ always have the same sign. It follows that

$$\tan\left(\frac{u}{2}\right) = \frac{1 - \cos u}{\sin u}$$