

Answer on Question #50655 – Math – Trigonometry

$$\sin^{-1}(\cos \theta) = \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) - \theta \text{ or } \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) + \theta \text{ I think both are correct but not sure.}$$

Here my thinking

$$\sin^{-1}(\cos \theta) = \sin^{-1}(\sin((\pi/2) - \theta)) = (\pi/2) - \theta$$

Or in another way

$$\sin^{-1}(\cos \theta) = \sin^{-1}(\sin((\pi/2) + \theta)) = (\pi/2) + \theta$$

I want to differentiate $\sin^{-1}(\cos \theta)$. So what should we differentiate $(\pi/2) - \theta$ or $(\pi/2) + \theta$. please let me know

Solution

You are right.

$$\sin^{-1}(\cos \theta) = \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) - \cos^{-1}(\cos \theta) = \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) - \theta.$$

But

$$\cos \theta = \cos(-\theta).$$

So,

$$\sin^{-1}(\cos \theta) = \sin^{-1}(\cos(-\theta)) = \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) - \cos^{-1}(\cos(-\theta)) = \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) + \theta.$$

You need

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\theta}(\sin^{-1}(\cos \theta)) &= \frac{d}{d\cos \theta}(\sin^{-1}(\cos \theta)) \cdot \frac{d}{d\theta}(\cos \theta) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - (\cos \theta)^2}} \cdot \sin \theta = -\frac{\sin \theta}{|\sin \theta|} \\ &= -\text{Sign}(\theta). \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\text{Sign}(\theta) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{when } \theta > 0 \\ 0, & \text{when } \theta = 0 \\ -1, & \text{when } \theta < 0 \end{cases}$$