

## Solving harder hyperbolic equations

### Starter

1. Using the definitions, solve the equation  $3 \sinh x - \cosh x = 1$ .

#### Working:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Using the definitions:} & \frac{3(e^x - e^{-x})}{2} - \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2} &= 1 \\
 & \text{Multiply by } 2e^x: & 3e^{2x} - 3 - e^{2x} - 1 &= 2e^x \\
 & & e^{2x} - e^x - 2 &= 0 \\
 & & (e^x - 2)(e^x + 1) &= 0 \\
 & \text{Either} & e^x = 2 & \text{or} & e^x = -1 \\
 & & x = \ln 2 & \text{or} & \text{no solution} \\
 & \text{So } x = \ln 2 & \text{is the only solution.} & & 
 \end{aligned}$$

- E.g. 1** Solve  $10 \cosh x - 2 \sinh x = 11$ .

#### Working:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Using the definitions:} & \frac{10(e^x + e^{-x})}{2} - \frac{2(e^x - e^{-x})}{2} &= 11 \\
 & \text{Multiply by } e^x: & 5e^{2x} + 5 - e^{2x} + 1 &= 11e^x \\
 & & 4e^{2x} - 11e^x + 6 &= 0 \\
 & & (4e^x - 3)(e^x - 2) &= 0 \\
 & \text{Either} & e^x = \frac{3}{4} & \text{or} & e^x = 2 \\
 & & x = \ln \frac{3}{4} & \text{or} & x = \ln 2
 \end{aligned}$$

**E.g. 2** Given that  $\sinh x + \sinh y = \frac{25}{12}$  and  $\cosh x - \cosh y = \frac{5}{12}$  show that  $2e^x = 5 + 2e^{-y}$  and  $3e^{-x} = -5 + 3e^y$ . Hence find the real value of  $x$  and  $y$ .

**Working:**  $\sinh x + \sinh y = \frac{25}{12} \Rightarrow \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2} + \frac{e^y - e^{-y}}{2} = \frac{25}{12}$

**Multiply by 12:**  $6e^x - 6e^{-x} + 6e^y - 6e^{-y} = 25$  (1)

$\cosh x - \cosh y = \frac{5}{12} \Rightarrow \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2} - \frac{e^y + e^{-y}}{2} = \frac{5}{12}$

**Multiply by 12:**  $6e^x + 6e^{-x} - 6e^y - 6e^{-y} = 5$  (2)

(1) + (2):  $12e^x - 12e^{-y} = 30 \Rightarrow 2e^x = 5 + 2e^{-y}$

(1) - (2):  $-12e^{-x} + 12e^{-y} = 20 \Rightarrow 3e^{-x} = -5 + 3e^y$

$3e^{-x} = -5 + 3e^y \Rightarrow e^x = \frac{3}{-5 + 3e^y}$

**Substitute into  $2e^x = 5 + 2e^{-y}$ :**  $2 \times \frac{3}{-5 + 3e^y} = 5 + 2e^{-y}$

$6 = (5 + 2e^{-y})(-5 + 3e^y)$

$6 = -25 + 15e^y - 10e^{-y} + 6$

**Multiply by  $\frac{1}{5}e^y$ :**

$3e^{2y} - 5e^y - 2 = 0$

$(3e^y + 1)(e^y - 2) = 0$

$e^y = -\frac{1}{3}$  or  $e^y = 2$

No solution or  $y = \ln 2$

**When  $e^y = 2$ :**  $e^x = \frac{3}{-5 + 3 \times 2} = 3 \Rightarrow x = \ln 3$

$x = \ln 3$  and  $y = \ln 2$

**Equations involving identities**

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

$\sinh 2x \equiv 2 \sinh x \cosh x$

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

$\cosh 2x \equiv 2 \cosh^2 x - 1$

$\cosh 2x \equiv 1 + 2 \sinh^2 x$

**E.g. 3** Solve  $2 \sinh^2 x + 8 = 7 \cosh x$ .

**Working:**

**Replace  $\sinh^2 x$  by  $\cosh^2 x - 1$ :**  $2 \sinh^2 x + 8 = 7 \cosh x$   
 $2(\cosh^2 x - 1) + 8 = 7 \cosh x$

$2 \cosh^2 x - 7 \cosh x + 6 = 0$

$(2 \cosh x - 3)(\cosh x - 2) = 0$

$\cosh x = \frac{3}{2}$

or  $\cosh x = 2$

$x = \cosh^{-1} \frac{3}{2}$

or  $x = \cosh^{-1} 2$

$= \ln \left( \frac{3}{2} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 - 1} \right)$

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

$= \ln \left( \frac{3}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)$

$= \ln(2 + \sqrt{3})$

**E.g. 4** Solve  $20 \cosh 2x - 21 \sinh x = 200$ .

**Working:**

$$\begin{aligned} 20 \cosh 2x - 21 \sinh x &= 200 \\ \cosh 2x &\equiv 1 + 2 \sinh^2 x: & 20(1 + 2 \sinh^2 x) - 21 \sinh x &= 200 \\ & & 40 \sinh^2 x - 21 \sinh x - 180 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

**By calculator:**

$$\begin{aligned} \sinh x &= \frac{12}{5} & \text{or} & \sinh x = -\frac{15}{8} \\ x &= \sinh^{-1} \frac{12}{5} & \text{or} & x = \sinh^{-1} \left( -\frac{15}{8} \right) \\ &= \ln \left( \frac{12}{5} + \sqrt{\left( \frac{12}{5} \right)^2 + 1} \right) & &= \ln \left( -\frac{15}{8} + \sqrt{\left( -\frac{15}{8} \right)^2 + 1} \right) \\ &= \ln 5 & &= \ln \frac{1}{4} \\ & & &= -\ln 4 \end{aligned}$$

**Video:** [Solving hyperbolic equations using hyperbolic identities](#)

[Solutions to Starter and E.g.s](#)

**Exercise**

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