

Exercise 46

Show that $\frac{d}{dx} \sqrt[4]{\frac{1 + \tanh x}{1 - \tanh x}} = \frac{1}{2}e^{x/2}$.

Solution

Simplify the function before taking the derivative for convenience.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt[4]{\frac{1 + \tanh x}{1 - \tanh x}} &= \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt[4]{\frac{1 + \frac{\sinh x}{\cosh x}}{1 - \frac{\sinh x}{\cosh x}}} \\
 &= \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt[4]{\frac{1 + \frac{\sinh x}{\cosh x}}{1 - \frac{\sinh x}{\cosh x}} \times \frac{\cosh x}{\cosh x}} \\
 &= \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt[4]{\frac{\cosh x + \sinh x}{\cosh x - \sinh x}} \\
 &= \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt[4]{\frac{\left(\frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}\right)}{\left(\frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}\right) - \left(\frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}\right)}} \\
 &= \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt[4]{\frac{\frac{1}{2}e^x + \frac{1}{2}e^{-x} + \frac{1}{2}e^x - \frac{1}{2}e^{-x}}{\frac{1}{2}e^x + \frac{1}{2}e^{-x} - \frac{1}{2}e^x + \frac{1}{2}e^{-x}}} \\
 &= \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt[4]{\frac{e^x}{e^{-x}}} \\
 &= \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt[4]{e^{2x}} \\
 &= \frac{d}{dx} (e^{2x/4}) \\
 &= \frac{d}{dx} (e^{x/2}) \\
 &= e^{x/2} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \\
 &= e^{x/2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2}e^{x/2}
 \end{aligned}$$