

Use the definitions of the hyperbolic functions to find each of the following limits.¹

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \tanh(x)$

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \tanh(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}} \cdot \frac{e^{-x}}{e^{-x}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 - e^{-2x}}{1 + e^{-2x}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 - \frac{1}{e^{2x}}}{1 + \frac{1}{e^{2x}}}\end{aligned}$$

As $x \rightarrow \infty$, $\frac{1}{e^{2x}} \rightarrow 0$, so we have

$$\begin{aligned}&= \frac{1 - 0}{1 + 0} \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \tanh(x)$

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \tanh(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}} \cdot \frac{e^x}{e^x} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{e^{2x} - 1}{e^{2x} + 1}\end{aligned}$$

As $x \rightarrow -\infty$, $e^{2x} \rightarrow 0$, so we have

$$\begin{aligned}&= \frac{0 - 1}{0 + 1} \\ &= -1\end{aligned}$$

¹Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 264, #23.