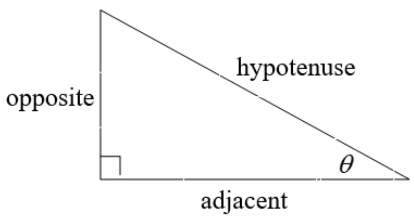
Definition of the Trig Functions

Right triangle definition

For this definition we assume that $0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ or $0^\circ < \theta < 90^\circ$.



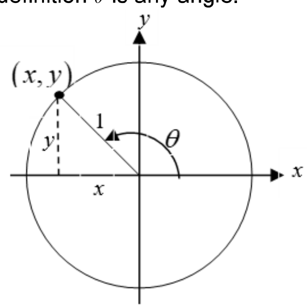
$\sin(\theta) = \frac{\text{opposite}}{\text{hypotenuse}}$ $\csc(\theta) = \frac{\text{hypotenuse}}{\text{opposite}}$

$\cos(\theta) = \frac{\text{adjacent}}{\text{hypotenuse}}$ $\sec(\theta) = \frac{\text{hypotenuse}}{\text{adjacent}}$

$\tan(\theta) = \frac{\text{opposite}}{\text{adjacent}}$ $\cot(\theta) = \frac{\text{adjacent}}{\text{opposite}}$

Unit Circle Definition

For this definition θ is any angle.



$\sin(\theta) = \frac{y}{1} = y$ $\csc(\theta) = \frac{1}{y}$

$\cos(\theta) = \frac{x}{1} = x$ $\sec(\theta) = \frac{1}{x}$

$\tan(\theta) = \frac{y}{x}$ $\cot(\theta) = \frac{x}{y}$

Facts and Properties

Domain

The domain is all the values of θ that can be plugged into the function.

$\sin(\theta)$, θ can be any angle

$\cos(\theta)$, θ can be any angle

$\tan(\theta),\ \theta \neq \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)\pi,\ \ n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots$

$\csc(\theta),\ \theta \neq n\pi,\ \ n = 0, \pm 1,\ \pm 2, \ldots$

$\sec(\theta),\ \theta \neq \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)\pi,\ \ n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots$

$\cot(\theta),\ \theta \neq n\pi,\ \ n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots$

Period

The period of a function is the number, T, such that $f(\theta + T) = f(\theta)$. So, if ω is a fixed number and θ is any angle we have the following periods.

$$\sin(\omega\,\theta) \rightarrow T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$$
$$\cos(\omega\,\theta) \rightarrow T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$$
$$\tan(\omega\,\theta) \rightarrow T = \frac{\pi}{\omega}$$
$$\csc(\omega\,\theta) \rightarrow T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$$
$$\sec(\omega\,\theta) \rightarrow T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$$
$$\cot(\omega\,\theta) \rightarrow T = \frac{\pi}{\omega}$$

Range

The range is all possible values to get out of the function.

$-1 \leq \sin(\theta) \leq 1$ $-1 \leq \cos(\theta) \leq 1$

$-\infty < \tan(\theta) < \infty$ $-\infty < \cot(\theta) < \infty$

$\sec(\theta) \geq 1$ and $\sec(\theta) \leq -1$ $\csc(\theta) \geq 1$ and $\csc(\theta) \leq -1$

Formulas and Identities

Tangent and Cotangent Identities

$\tan(\theta) = \frac{\sin(\theta)}{\cos(\theta)}$ $\cot(\theta) = \frac{\cos(\theta)}{\sin(\theta)}$

Reciprocal Identities

$\csc(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sin(\theta)}$ $\sin(\theta) = \frac{1}{\csc(\theta)}$

$\sec(\theta) = \frac{1}{\cos(\theta)}$ $\cos(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sec(\theta)}$

$\cot(\theta) = \frac{1}{\tan(\theta)}$ $\tan(\theta) = \frac{1}{\cot(\theta)}$

Pythagorean Identities

$\sin^2(\theta) + \cos^2(\theta) = 1$

$\tan^2(\theta) + 1 = \sec^2(\theta)$

$1 + \cot^2(\theta) = \csc^2(\theta)$

Even/Odd Formulas

$\sin(-\theta) = -\sin(\theta)$ $\csc(-\theta) = -\csc(\theta)$

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

$\tan(-\theta) = -\tan(\theta)$ $\cot(-\theta) = -\cot(\theta)$

Periodic Formulas

If n is an integer then,

$\sin(\theta + 2\pi n) = \sin(\theta)$ $\csc(\theta + 2\pi n) = \csc(\theta)$

$\cos(\theta + 2\pi n) = \cos(\theta)$ $\sec(\theta + 2\pi n) = \sec(\theta)$

$\tan(\theta + \pi n) = \tan(\theta)$ $\cot(\theta + \pi n) = \cot(\theta)$

Degrees to Radians Formulas

If x is an angle in degrees and t is an angle in radians then

$$\frac{\pi}{180} = \frac{t}{x} \quad \Rightarrow \quad t = \frac{\pi x}{180} \quad \text{and} \quad x = \frac{180t}{\pi}$$

Double Angle Formulas

$$\sin(2\theta) = 2\sin(\theta)\cos(\theta)$$

$$\cos(2\theta) = \cos^2(\theta) - \sin^2(\theta) = 2\cos^2(\theta) - 1 = 1 - 2\sin^2(\theta)$$

$$\tan(2\theta) = \frac{2\tan(\theta)}{1 - \tan^2(\theta)}$$

Half Angle Formulas

$$\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) = \pm\sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos(\theta)}{2}}$$

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

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

Half Angle Formulas (alternate form)

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

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

$\tan^2(\theta) = \frac{1 - \cos(2\theta)}{1 + \cos(2\theta)}$

Sum and Difference Formulas

$$\sin(\alpha \pm \beta) = \sin(\alpha)\cos(\beta) \pm \cos(\alpha)\sin(\beta)$$

$$\cos(\alpha \pm \beta) = \cos(\alpha)\cos(\beta) \mp \sin(\alpha)\sin(\beta)$$

$$\tan(\alpha \pm \beta) = \frac{\tan(\alpha) \pm \tan(\beta)}{1 \mp \tan(\alpha)\tan(\beta)}$$

Product to Sum Formulas

$$\sin(\alpha)\sin(\beta) = \tfrac{1}{2}\left[\cos(\alpha - \beta) - \cos(\alpha + \beta)\right]$$

$$\cos(\alpha)\cos(\beta) = \tfrac{1}{2}\left[\cos(\alpha - \beta) + \cos(\alpha + \beta)\right]$$

$$\sin(\alpha)\cos(\beta) = \tfrac{1}{2}\left[\sin(\alpha + \beta) + \sin(\alpha - \beta)\right]$$

$$\cos(\alpha)\sin(\beta) = \tfrac{1}{2}\left[\sin(\alpha + \beta) - \sin(\alpha - \beta)\right]$$

Sum to Product Formulas

$$\sin(\alpha) + \sin(\beta) = 2\sin\left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\alpha - \beta}{2}\right)$$

$$\sin(\alpha) - \sin(\beta) = 2\cos\left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\alpha - \beta}{2}\right)$$

$$\cos(\alpha) + \cos(\beta) = 2\cos\left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\alpha - \beta}{2}\right)$$

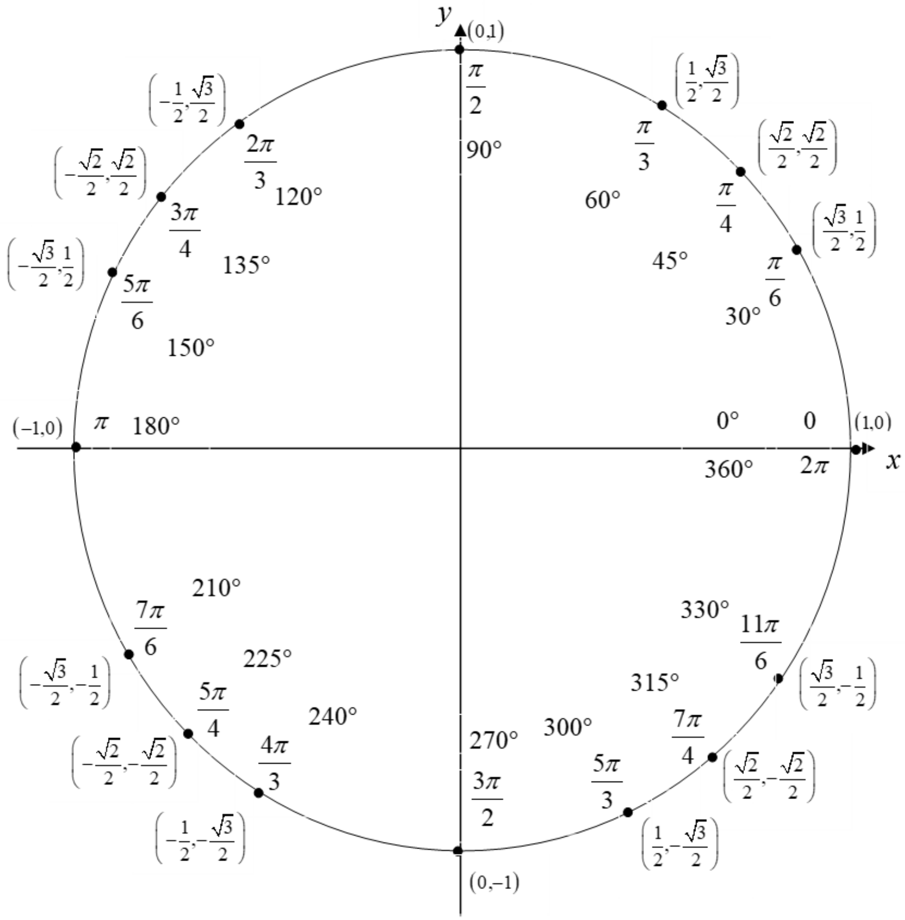
$$\cos(\alpha) - \cos(\beta) = -2\sin\left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\alpha - \beta}{2}\right)$$

Cofunction Formulas

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

$\csc\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta\right) = \sec(\theta)$ $\sec\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta\right) = \csc(\theta)$

$\tan\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta\right) = \cot(\theta)$ $\cot\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta\right) = \tan(\theta)$



For any ordered pair on the unit circle (x, y) : $\cos(\theta) = x$ and $\sin(\theta) = y$

Example

$$\cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \qquad \sin\left(\frac{5\pi}{3}\right) = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

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Trig Cheat Sheet

Inverse Trig Functions

Definition

$y = \sin^{-1}(x)$ is equivalent to $x = \sin(y)$

$y = \cos^{-1}(x)$ is equivalent to $x = \cos(y)$

$y = \tan^{-1}(x)$ is equivalent to $x = \tan(y)$

Domain and Range

Function	Domain	Range
$y = \sin^{-1}(x)$	$-1 \le x \le 1$	$-\frac{\pi}{2} \le y \le \frac{\pi}{2}$
$y = \cos^{-1}(x)$	$-1 \le x \le 1$	$0 \le y \le \pi$
$y = \tan^{-1}(x)$	$-\infty < x < \infty$	$-\frac{\pi}{2} < y < \frac{\pi}{2}$

Inverse Properties

$\cos\left(\cos^{-1}(x)\right) = x \qquad \cos^{-1}\left(\cos(\theta)\right) = \theta$

$\sin\left(\sin^{-1}(x)\right) = x \qquad \sin^{-1}\left(\sin(\theta)\right) = \theta$

$\tan\left(\tan^{-1}(x)\right) = x \qquad \tan^{-1}\left(\tan(\theta)\right) = \theta$

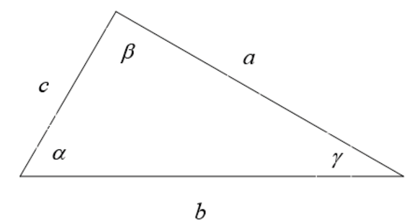
Alternate Notation

$\sin^{-1}(x) = \arcsin(x)$

$\cos^{-1}(x) = \arccos(x)$

$\tan^{-1}(x) = \arctan(x)$

Law of Sines, Cosines and Tangents



Law of Sines

$$\frac{\sin(\alpha)}{a} = \frac{\sin(\beta)}{b} = \frac{\sin(\gamma)}{c}$$

Law of Cosines

$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc\cos(\alpha)$$

$$b^2 = a^2 + c^2 - 2ac\cos(\beta)$$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab\cos(\gamma)$$

Mollweide's Formula

$$\frac{a+b}{c} = \frac{\cos\left(\frac{1}{2}(\alpha-\beta)\right)}{\sin\left(\frac{1}{2}\gamma\right)}$$

Law of Tangents

$$\frac{a-b}{a+b} = \frac{\tan\left(\frac{1}{2}(\alpha-\beta)\right)}{\tan\left(\frac{1}{2}(\alpha+\beta)\right)}$$

$$\frac{b-c}{b+c} = \frac{\tan\left(\frac{1}{2}(\beta-\gamma)\right)}{\tan\left(\frac{1}{2}(\beta+\gamma)\right)}$$

$$\frac{a-c}{a+c} = \frac{\tan\left(\frac{1}{2}(\alpha-\gamma)\right)}{\tan\left(\frac{1}{2}(\alpha+\gamma)\right)}$$

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