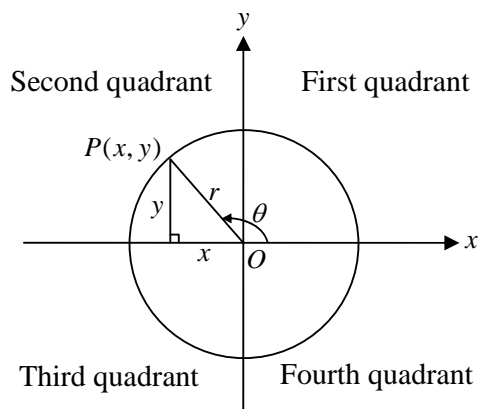


MA1200 Calculus and Basic Linear Algebra I
Chapter 4 Trigonometric Functions and Inverse Trigonometric Functions

1 Trigonometric Functions

1. In elementary trigonometry, the trigonometric functions are defined as the ratios of sides of a right-angled triangle and the angles are restricted to acute angles.
2. The six trigonometric functions are called **sine**, **cosine**, **tangent**, **cosecant**, **secant** and **cotangent**, which are written as sin, cos, tan, csc (or cosec), sec and cot respectively. We define their angles of any magnitude as follows:



$\sin \theta = \frac{y}{r}$	$\cos \theta = \frac{x}{r}$	$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x}$
$\csc \theta = \frac{r}{y}$	$\sec \theta = \frac{r}{x}$	$\cot \theta = \frac{x}{y}$

Figure 1

where r is taken to be positive, and the signs of x and y depend on the quadrant in which the point P lies.

3. With the above definitions, the signs of the six trigonometric ratios in four quadrants are tabulated below.

	1 st quadrant	2 nd quadrant	3 rd quadrant	4 th quadrant
$\sin \theta, \csc \theta$	+	+	−	−
$\cos \theta, \sec \theta$	+	−	−	+
$\tan \theta, \cot \theta$	+	−	+	−

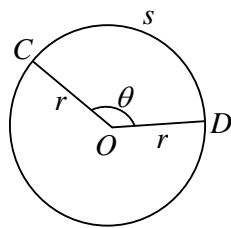
Remark We may indicate the positive functions in each quadrant with a diagram. The word CAST is the key for memory.

The followings are special angles of sine, cosine and tangent and have to be *memorized*:

	30°	45°	60°
sin	1/2	$\sqrt{2}/2$	$\sqrt{3}/2$
cos	$\sqrt{3}/2$	$\sqrt{2}/2$	1/2
tan	$\sqrt{3}/3$	1	$\sqrt{3}$

Radian Measures

A radian, denoted by rad, is the measure of an angle subtended at the centre of a circle by an arc with length equal to its radius.



If the length of the arc CD is s and $\angle COD = \theta$, where θ is measure in radian, then $\theta = \frac{s}{r}$.

In particular, if $\theta = 180^\circ$, then $s = \pi r$. It follows that $\theta = \frac{s}{r} = \frac{\pi r}{r} = \pi$, so that $\pi \text{ rad} = 180^\circ$.

Example 1 (a) Convert the following angles to radians.

- (i) 30° (ii) 45° (iii) 90° (iv) 210°

(b) Convert the following angles to degrees.

- (i) $\frac{5\pi}{12} \text{ rad}$ (ii) $\frac{3\pi}{2} \text{ rad}$ (iii) $\frac{5\pi}{6} \text{ rad}$ (iv) $\frac{3\pi}{4} \text{ rad}$

Solutions

- (a) (i) $30^\circ = 30 \cdot \frac{\pi}{180} \text{ rad} = \frac{\pi}{6} \text{ rad}$ (ii) $45^\circ = 45 \cdot \frac{\pi}{180} \text{ rad} = \frac{\pi}{4} \text{ rad}$
(iii) $90^\circ = 90 \cdot \frac{\pi}{180} \text{ rad} = \frac{\pi}{2} \text{ rad}$ (iv) $210^\circ = 210 \cdot \frac{\pi}{180} \text{ rad} = \frac{7\pi}{6} \text{ rad}$
- (b) (i) $\frac{5\pi}{12} \text{ rad} = \frac{5\pi}{12} \cdot \frac{180^\circ}{\pi} = 75^\circ$ (ii) $\frac{3\pi}{2} \text{ rad} = \frac{3\pi}{2} \cdot \frac{180^\circ}{\pi} = 270^\circ$
(iii) $\frac{5\pi}{6} \text{ rad} = \frac{5\pi}{6} \cdot \frac{180^\circ}{\pi} = 150^\circ$ (iv) $\frac{3\pi}{4} \text{ rad} = \frac{3\pi}{4} \cdot \frac{180^\circ}{\pi} = 135^\circ$

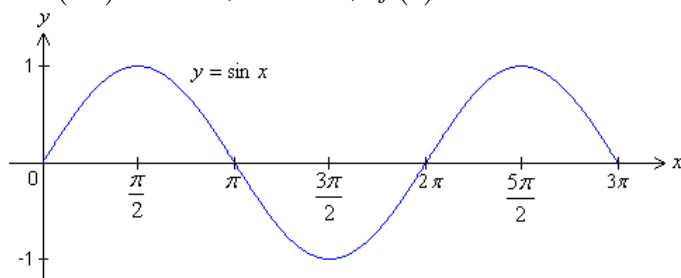
A Graph of the Trigonometric Functions

The graphs of $f(x) = \sin x$, $f(x) = \cos x$ and $f(x) = \tan x$ are drawn.

(a) $f(x) = \sin x$

Its domain is \mathbf{R} and its range is $[-1, 1]$. Its period is 2π .

Since $f(-x) = \sin(-x) = -\sin x$, therefore, $f(x) = \sin x$ is odd.

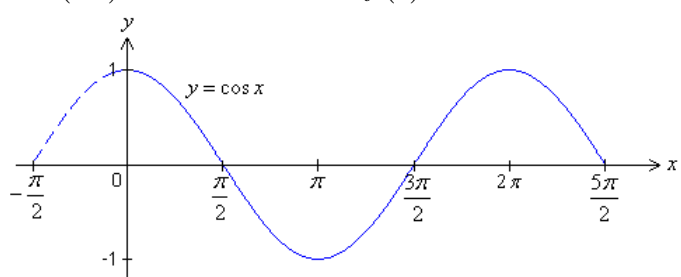


$y = \sin x$

(b) $f(x) = \cos x$

Its domain is \mathbf{R} and its range is $[-1, 1]$. Its period is 2π .

Since $f(-x) = \cos(-x) = \cos x$, therefore, $f(x) = \cos x$ is even.

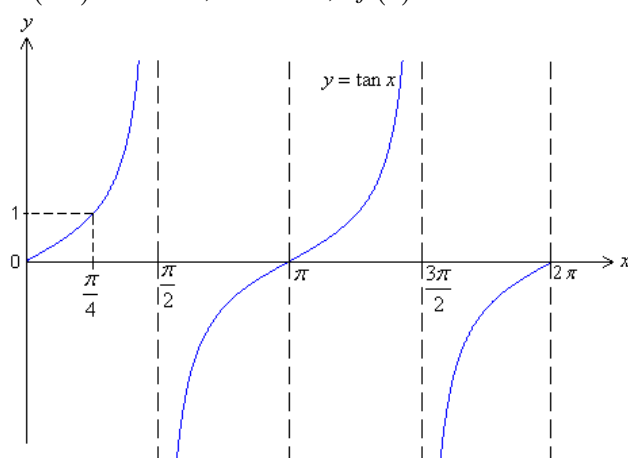


$y = \cos x$

(c) $f(x) = \tan x$

Its range is \mathbf{R} . Its period is π . Question: What is the domain of $f(x) = \tan x$?

Since $f(-x) = \tan(-x) = -\tan x$, therefore, $f(x) = \tan x$ is odd.



$y = \tan x$

Questions: For each of the functions below, (a) plot its graph; (b) find its domain and range; (c) find its period.

(i) $f(x) = \sin 2x$

(ii) $f(x) = \sin \frac{x}{3}$

(iii) $f(x) = \cos 3x$

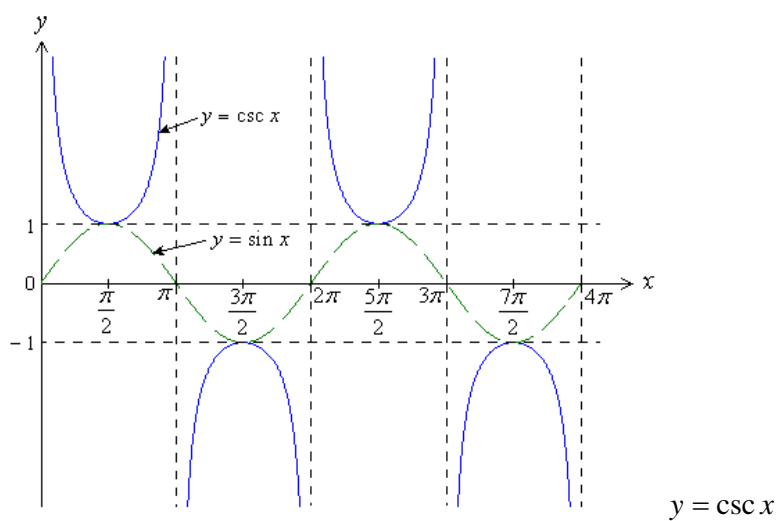
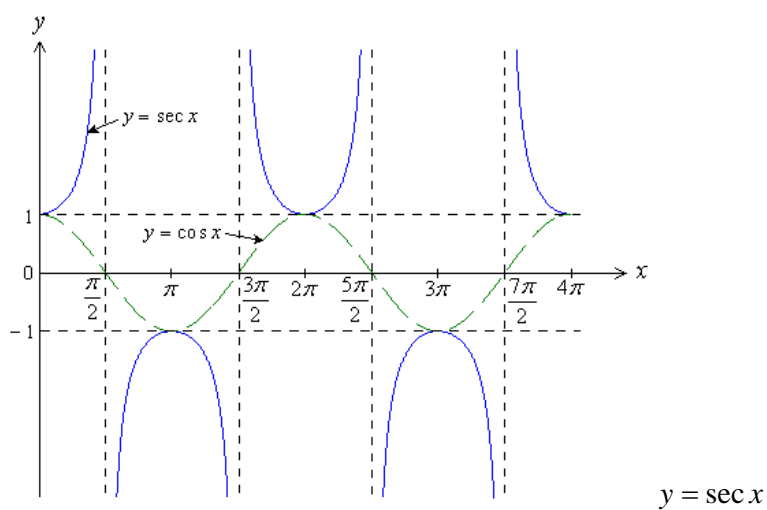
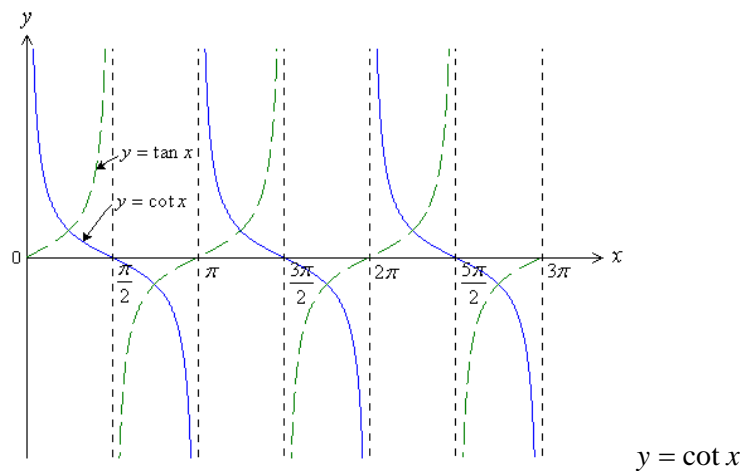
(iv) $f(x) = \cos \frac{x}{5}$

(v) $f(x) = \tan \frac{x}{2}$

(vi) $f(x) = 2 \sin \left(x - \frac{\pi}{4} \right) + 1$

(vii) $f(x) = \cos \left(2x - \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$

The graphs of $y = \cot x$, $y = \sec x$ and $y = \csc x$ are also drawn.



B Elementary formulae

I. Review

$\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1$	$1 + \tan^2 \theta = \sec^2 \theta$	$1 + \cot^2 \theta = \csc^2 \theta$		
$\tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}$	$\cot \theta = \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta}$	$\csc \theta = \frac{1}{\sin \theta}$	$\sec \theta = \frac{1}{\cos \theta}$	$\cot \theta = \frac{1}{\tan \theta}$
$\sin(-\theta) = -\sin \theta$	$\cos(-\theta) = \cos \theta$	$\tan(-\theta) = -\tan \theta$	$\pi \text{ rad} = 180^\circ$	

Example 2 Prove the following identities.

(a) $\sin x (\tan x + \cot x) = \sec x$

(b) $\frac{\tan x}{1 + \tan^2 x} = \sin x \cos x$

Solutions

(a) $\sin x (\tan x + \cot x) = \sin x \left(\frac{\sin x}{\cos x} + \frac{\cos x}{\sin x} \right) = \sin x \left(\frac{\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x}{\sin x \cos x} \right) = \frac{1}{\cos x} = \boxed{\sec x}.$

(b) $\frac{\tan x}{1 + \tan^2 x} = \frac{\frac{\sin x}{\cos x}}{\sec^2 x} = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \cdot \cos^2 x = \boxed{\sin x \cos x}.$

II. Trigonometric Functions of $(90^\circ n \pm \theta)$ or $(\frac{n\pi}{2} \pm \theta)$

To remember the formulae, always remember “Odd changed Even unchanged, sign refers to CAST.”

Trigonometric Functions of $(90^\circ \pm \theta)$ or $(\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \theta)$

	$90^\circ - \theta$ (or $\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta$)	$90^\circ + \theta$ (or $\frac{\pi}{2} + \theta$)
sin	$\cos \theta$	$\cos \theta$
cos	$\sin \theta$	$-\sin \theta$
tan	$\cot \theta$	$-\cot \theta$

Question: How about $\csc(90^\circ \pm \theta)$, $\sec(90^\circ \pm \theta)$ and $\cot(90^\circ \pm \theta)$?

Trigonometric Functions of $(180^\circ \pm \theta)$ or $(\pi \pm \theta)$

	$180^\circ - \theta$ (or $\pi - \theta$)	$180^\circ + \theta$ (or $\pi + \theta$)
sin	$\sin \theta$	$-\sin \theta$
cos	$-\cos \theta$	$-\cos \theta$
tan	$-\tan \theta$	$\tan \theta$

Question: How about $\csc(180^\circ \pm \theta)$, $\sec(180^\circ \pm \theta)$ and $\cot(180^\circ \pm \theta)$?

Trigonometric Functions of $(360^\circ \pm \theta)$ or $(2\pi \pm \theta)$

	$360^\circ - \theta$ (or $2\pi - \theta$)	$360^\circ + \theta$ (or $2\pi + \theta$)
sin	$-\sin \theta$	$\sin \theta$
cos	$\cos \theta$	$\cos \theta$
tan	$-\tan \theta$	$\tan \theta$

Question: How about $\csc(360^\circ \pm \theta)$, $\sec(360^\circ \pm \theta)$ and $\cot(360^\circ \pm \theta)$?

Important: You can remember easily whether a -ve sign should be resulted by realizing whether the value obtained from the function should be -ve in the corresponding quadrant.

Example 3 Evaluate the following.

(a) $\sin(-30^\circ)$ (b) $\tan(-135^\circ)$ (c) $\cos\left(\frac{5}{4}\pi\right)$ (d) $\sec\left(-\frac{\pi}{3}\right)$

Solutions

(a) $\sin(-30^\circ) = -\sin 30^\circ = -\frac{1}{2}$

(b) $\tan(-135^\circ) = -\tan 135^\circ = -\tan(180^\circ - 45^\circ) = -(-\tan 45^\circ) = 1$

(c) $\cos\left(\frac{5}{4}\pi\right) = \cos\left(\pi + \frac{\pi}{4}\right) = -\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$

(d) $\sec\left(-\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{1}{\cos\left(-\frac{\pi}{3}\right)} = \frac{1}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right)} = 2$

Example 4 Simplify the following expressions.

(a) $1 + \tan^2(270^\circ - \theta)$ (b) $\frac{\cos(360^\circ - A)\sin(90^\circ - A)\tan(A - 180^\circ)}{\sin(-A)\sin(180^\circ + A)\cot(-A)}$

(c) $\frac{\cos\left(A - \frac{3\pi}{2}\right)\cot(A - \pi)}{\tan\left(A + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)}$

Solutions

(a) $1 + \tan^2(270^\circ - \theta) = 1 + [\tan(270^\circ - \theta)]^2 = 1 + [\cot \theta]^2 = 1 + \cot^2 \theta = \csc^2 \theta$

(b) $\frac{\cos(360^\circ - A)\sin(90^\circ - A)\tan(A - 180^\circ)}{\sin(-A)\sin(180^\circ + A)\cot(-A)} = \frac{\cos A \cos A \tan[-(180^\circ - A)]}{(-\sin A)(-\sin A)(-\cot A)}$
 $= \frac{-\cos^2 A \tan(180^\circ - A)}{-\sin^2 A} \cdot \tan A = \frac{-\cos^2 A \tan A}{\sin^2 A} \cdot \tan A = -1$

(c) $\frac{\cos\left(A - \frac{3\pi}{2}\right)\cot(A - \pi)}{\tan\left(A + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)} = \frac{\cos\left(\frac{3\pi}{2} - A\right)[- \cot(\pi - A)]}{-\cot A} = \frac{(-\sin A)(\cot A)}{-\cot A} = \sin A$

2 Inverse Trigonometric Functions

The *inverse sine* (or *arcsine*) function, denoted by \sin^{-1} (or \arcsin), is defined by

$$y = \sin^{-1} x \quad \text{if and only if} \quad x = \sin y$$

for $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq y \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$.

The *inverse cosine* (or *arccosine*) function, denoted by \cos^{-1} (or \arccos), is defined by

$$y = \cos^{-1} x \quad \text{if and only if} \quad x = \cos y$$

for $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ and $0 \leq y \leq \pi$.

The *inverse tangent* (or *arctangent*) function, denoted by \tan^{-1} (or \arctan), is defined by

$$y = \tan^{-1} x \quad \text{if and only if} \quad x = \tan y$$

for every real number x and for $-\frac{\pi}{2} < y < \frac{\pi}{2}$.

Question: What is the domain and range for $y = \sin^{-1} x$, $y = \cos^{-1} x$ and $y = \tan^{-1} x$?

Remarks:

1. Note that $\sin^{-1} x \neq \frac{1}{\sin x}$ (similarly for $\cos^{-1} x$ and $\tan^{-1} x$.)
2. The ranges of the inverse trigonometric functions are known as the *principal ranges*.

Question: Find the values of each of the following.

(a) $\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$

(b) $\sin^{-1}(\sin(30^\circ))$

(c) $\sin^{-1}(\sin(390^\circ))$

(d) $\cos^{-1}\left(-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$

(e) $\cos^{-1}(\cos(-45^\circ))$

(f) $\sin^{-1}(\cos(390^\circ))$

(g) $\tan^{-1}(-\sqrt{3})$

(h) $\tan^{-1}(\tan(225^\circ))$

3 Trigonometric Identities

A. Formulae for $\sin(A \pm B)$, $\cos(A \pm B)$ and $\tan(A \pm B)$

Please note that $\sin(A \pm B) \neq \sin A \pm \sin B$ and $\cos(A \pm B) \neq \cos A \pm \cos B$.

e.g. $\sin(30^\circ + 60^\circ) = \sin 90^\circ = 1$

$$\text{but } \sin 30^\circ + \sin 60^\circ = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \\ \neq 1$$

In general, we have the following **Compound Angle Formulae**.

$$\begin{aligned}\sin(A - B) &= \sin A \cos B - \cos A \sin B \\ \sin(A + B) &= \sin A \cos B + \cos A \sin B\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\cos(A - B) &= \cos A \cos B + \sin A \sin B \\ \cos(A + B) &= \cos A \cos B - \sin A \sin B\end{aligned}$$

$$\tan(A + B) = \frac{\tan A + \tan B}{1 - \tan A \tan B}$$

$$\tan(A - B) = \frac{\tan A - \tan B}{1 + \tan A \tan B}$$

Example 5 Simplify the following expressions.

$$(a) \cos(x + y) \cos y + \sin(x + y) \sin y \quad (b) \frac{\cos^2 A - \sin^2 A}{\cos 3A \cos A + \sin 3A \sin A}$$

Solutions

$$(a) \cos(x + y) \cos y + \sin(x + y) \sin y = \cos[(x + y) - y] = \cos x$$

$$\begin{aligned}(b) \frac{\cos^2 A - \sin^2 A}{\cos 3A \cos A + \sin 3A \sin A} &= \frac{\cos A \cos A - \sin A \sin A}{\cos 3A \cos A + \sin 3A \sin A} \\ &= \frac{\cos(A + A)}{\cos(3A - A)} \\ &= \frac{\cos 2A}{\cos 2A} \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

Example 6 Prove that $\sin(30^\circ + x) + \cos(60^\circ + x) - \cos x = 0$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\text{L.H.S.} &= \sin(30^\circ + x) + \cos(60^\circ + x) - \cos x \\ &= [\sin 30^\circ \cos x + \cos 30^\circ \sin x] + [\cos 60^\circ \cos x - \sin 60^\circ \sin x] - \cos x \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cos x + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin x + \frac{1}{2} \cos x - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin x - \cos x \\ &= 0 \\ &= \text{R.H.S.} \\ \therefore \sin(30^\circ + x) + \cos(60^\circ + x) - \cos x &\equiv 0\end{aligned}$$

Example 7 Find the value of the following in surd form.

(a) $\sin 15^\circ$ (b) $\cos \frac{5\pi}{12}$

Solutions

(a) $\sin 15^\circ = \sin (45^\circ - 30^\circ)$
 $= \sin 45^\circ \cos 30^\circ - \cos 45^\circ \sin 30^\circ$
 $= \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) - \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{6} - \sqrt{2}}{4}$

(b) Note that $\frac{5\pi}{12} = \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{6}$. Therefore,
 $\cos \frac{5\pi}{12} = \cos \left(\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{6}\right) = \cos \frac{\pi}{4} \cos \frac{\pi}{6} - \sin \frac{\pi}{4} \sin \frac{\pi}{6}$
 $= \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) - \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} = \frac{\sqrt{6} - \sqrt{2}}{4}$

B. Double and half angle formulae

Double angle formulae

Note that $\sin 2A = \sin(A + A)$
 $= \sin A \cos A + \cos A \sin A$
 $= 2 \sin A \cos A$

and $\cos 2A = \cos(A + A)$
 $= \cos A \cos A - \sin A \sin A$
 $= \cos^2 A - \sin^2 A$

So, we have

$\sin 2A = 2 \sin A \cos A$ $\cos 2A = \cos^2 A - \sin^2 A$

Half angle formulae

Note that

$\cos A = \cos^2 \frac{A}{2} - \sin^2 \frac{A}{2}$ $= \cos^2 \frac{A}{2} - \left(1 - \cos^2 \frac{A}{2}\right)$ $= 2 \cos^2 \frac{A}{2} - 1$	$\cos A = \cos^2 \frac{A}{2} - \sin^2 \frac{A}{2}$ $= \left(1 - \sin^2 \frac{A}{2}\right) - \sin^2 \frac{A}{2}$ $= 1 - 2 \sin^2 \frac{A}{2}$
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So, we have

$\cos^2 \frac{A}{2} = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos A)$ $\sin^2 \frac{A}{2} = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos A)$

Example 8 Prove the following identities.

$$(a) \quad 2 \sin^2 \frac{x}{2} \cdot \tan x = \tan x - \sin x \quad (b) \quad \sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \theta = \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{8} \cos 4\theta$$

Solutions

$$\begin{aligned} (a) \quad \text{L.H.S.} &= 2 \sin^2 \frac{x}{2} \cdot \tan x = (1 - \cos x) \cdot \tan x \\ &= \tan x - \cos x \cdot \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} = \tan x - \sin x = \text{R.H.S.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore 2 \sin^2 \frac{x}{2} \cdot \tan x \equiv \tan x - \sin x$$

$$\begin{aligned} (b) \quad \text{L.H.S.} &= \sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \theta = (\sin \theta \cos \theta)^2 \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2} \sin 2\theta \right)^2 = \frac{1}{4} \sin^2 2\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{2} (1 - \cos 4\theta) = \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{8} \cos 4\theta = \text{R.H.S.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \theta \equiv \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{8} \cos 4\theta$$

C. Sum-to-product and product-to-sum formulae

Using the formulae for $\sin(A \pm B)$ and $\cos(A \pm B)$, we have the following.

$$\begin{aligned} \sin A \cos B &= \frac{1}{2} [\sin(A+B) + \sin(A-B)] \\ \cos A \sin B &= \frac{1}{2} [\sin(A+B) - \sin(A-B)] \\ \cos A \cos B &= \frac{1}{2} [\cos(A+B) + \cos(A-B)] \\ \sin A \sin B &= -\frac{1}{2} [\cos(A+B) - \cos(A-B)] \end{aligned}$$

These are called the **Product-to-Sum Formulae**.

$$\begin{aligned} \sin x + \sin y &= 2 \sin \left(\frac{x+y}{2} \right) \cos \left(\frac{x-y}{2} \right) \\ \sin x - \sin y &= 2 \cos \left(\frac{x+y}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{x-y}{2} \right) \\ \cos x + \cos y &= 2 \cos \left(\frac{x+y}{2} \right) \cos \left(\frac{x-y}{2} \right) \\ \cos x - \cos y &= -2 \sin \left(\frac{x+y}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{x-y}{2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

These are called the **Sum-to-Product Formulae**.

Example 9 Prove the following identities.

$$(a) \frac{\sin 4\theta + \sin 2\theta}{\cos 4\theta + \cos 2\theta} = \tan 3\theta$$

$$(b) \frac{\sin(x+y) + \sin(x-y)}{\sin(x+y) - \sin(x-y)} = \tan x \cot y$$

Solutions

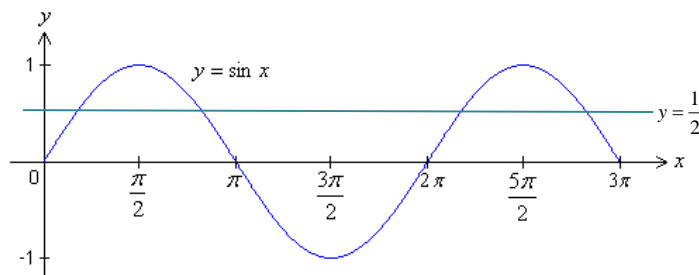
$$\begin{aligned} (a) \quad \text{L.H.S.} &= \frac{\sin 4\theta + \sin 2\theta}{\cos 4\theta + \cos 2\theta} \\ &= \frac{2 \sin \frac{4\theta + 2\theta}{2} \cos \frac{4\theta - 2\theta}{2}}{2 \cos \frac{4\theta + 2\theta}{2} \cos \frac{4\theta - 2\theta}{2}} = \frac{2 \sin 3\theta \cos \theta}{2 \cos 3\theta \cos \theta} \\ &= \tan 3\theta \\ &= \text{R.H.S.} \\ \therefore \quad \frac{\sin 4\theta + \sin 2\theta}{\cos 4\theta + \cos 2\theta} &\equiv \tan 3\theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (b) \quad \text{L.H.S.} &= \frac{\sin(x+y) + \sin(x-y)}{\sin(x+y) - \sin(x-y)} \\ &= \frac{2 \sin \left[\frac{(x+y) + (x-y)}{2} \right] \cos \left[\frac{(x+y) - (x-y)}{2} \right]}{2 \cos \left[\frac{(x+y) + (x-y)}{2} \right] \sin \left[\frac{(x+y) - (x-y)}{2} \right]} \\ &= \frac{2 \sin x \cos y}{2 \cos x \sin y} \\ &= \tan x \cot y \\ &= \text{R.H.S.} \\ \therefore \quad \frac{\sin(x+y) + \sin(x-y)}{\sin(x+y) - \sin(x-y)} &\equiv \tan x \cot y \end{aligned}$$

4 Trigonometric Equations and Their Solutions

A trigonometric equation is an equation that contains a trigonometric expression with a variable, such as $\cos x$. The values that satisfy such an equation are its solutions.

Consider the trigonometric equation $\sin x = \frac{1}{2}$.



It can be observed that the solutions of $\sin x = \frac{1}{2}$ in $[0, 2\pi)$ are

$$x = \frac{\pi}{6} \quad \text{and} \quad x = \pi - \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{5\pi}{6}.$$

Since the graph of $y = \sin x$ is periodic of 2π , any multiple of 2π added to the two values above are still the solutions of the equation. We can express the solutions for the equation $\sin x = \frac{1}{2}$ as

$$x = n\pi + (-1)^n \frac{\pi}{6}. \quad (n \text{ is any integer})$$

This is the *general solution* for the equation.

The following lists the general solutions for the given trigonometric equations.

Trigonometric Equation	General Solution
$\sin \theta = k$, where $-1 \leq k \leq 1$	$\theta = n\pi + (-1)^n \alpha$, where n is any integer, $\alpha = \sin^{-1} k$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \alpha \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$.
$\cos \theta = k$, where $-1 \leq k \leq 1$	$\theta = 2n\pi \pm \alpha$, where n is any integer, $\alpha = \cos^{-1} k$ and $0 \leq \alpha \leq \pi$.
$\tan \theta = k$	$\theta = n\pi + \alpha$, where n is any integer, $\alpha = \tan^{-1} k$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2} < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$.

Example 10

Solve each of the following equations.

(a) $\sin \frac{x}{3} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

(b) $2\cos^2 x + \cos x - 1 = 0$

(c) $\cos 2x + 3\sin x - 2 = 0$, $0 \leq x < 2\pi$.

Solutions

(a) Notice that $\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{3}$, so that

$$\frac{x}{3} = n\pi + (-1)^n \frac{\pi}{3} \quad \therefore \quad x = 3n\pi + (-1)^n \pi, \text{ where } n \text{ is any integer.}$$

(b) $2\cos^2 x + \cos x - 1 = 0$

$$(2\cos x - 1)(\cos x + 1) = 0$$

$$2\cos x - 1 = 0$$

or $\cos x + 1 = 0$

$$\cos x = \frac{1}{2}$$

or $\cos x = -1$

$$x = 2n\pi \pm \frac{\pi}{3}$$

or $x = 2n\pi \pm \pi$

$$\therefore \text{ The solution is } x = 2n\pi \pm \frac{\pi}{3} \text{ or } x = (2n+1)\pi, \text{ where } n \text{ is any integer.}$$

(c) Consider $\cos 2x + 3 \sin x - 2 = 0$.

$$1 - 2 \sin^2 x + 3 \sin x - 2 = 0$$

$$2 \sin^2 x - 3 \sin x + 1 = 0$$

$$(2 \sin x - 1)(\sin x - 1) = 0$$

$$2 \sin x - 1 = 0$$

$$\sin x = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$x = n\pi + (-1)^n \frac{\pi}{6}$$

Now, as $0 \leq x < 2\pi$, the solution is

$$x = \frac{\pi}{6}, \quad x = \pi - \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{5\pi}{6}, \quad x = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

or

$$\sin x - 1 = 0$$

or

$$\sin x = 1$$

or

$$x = n\pi + (-1)^n \frac{\pi}{2}$$