
P2 Chapter 6: CoAngle Trigonometry

Secant Identities

New Identities

In Pure-1 we had the Pythagorean Trig Identity:

$$\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$$

There are two tangent identities to know:

Dividing by $\cos^2 x$:

$$1 + \tan^2 x = \sec^2 x$$

Dividing by $\sin^2 x$:

$$1 + \cot^2 x = \operatorname{cosec}^2 x$$

"Prove that $1 + \tan^2 x \equiv \sec^2 x$."

$$\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x \equiv 1$$

$$\frac{\sin^2 x}{\cos^2 x} + \frac{\cos^2 x}{\cos^2 x} \equiv \frac{1}{\cos^2 x}$$

$$\tan^2 x + 1 \equiv \sec^2 x$$

Tip: This has been asked in an exam! You must explicitly show each term being divided by $\cos^2 x$.

Tip: remember this one by starting with the above then putting 'co-' on front of each trig function.

Examples

[Textbook] Prove that $\cosec^4 \theta - \cot^4 \theta = \frac{1+\cos^2 \theta}{1-\cos^2 x}$

?

Solve the equation $4 \cosec^2 \theta - 9 = \cot \theta$ in the interval $0 \leq \theta \leq 360^\circ$

?

This is just like in Year-1; if you had a mixture of $\sin \theta$, $\sin^2 \theta$, $\cos^2 \theta$: you'd change the $\cos^2 \theta$ to $1 - \sin^2 \theta$ in order to get a quadratic in terms of \sin .

Examples

[Textbook] Prove that $\cosec^4 \theta - \cot^4 \theta = \frac{1+\cos^2 \theta}{1-\cos^2 x}$

$$\begin{aligned} LHS &= (\cosec^2 \theta + \cot^2 \theta)(\cosec^2 \theta - \cot^2 \theta) \\ &= \cosec^2 \theta + \cot^2 \theta \\ &= \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} + \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} \\ &= \frac{1 + \cos^2 \theta}{1 - \cos^2 x} = RHS \end{aligned}$$

Solve the equation $4 \cosec^2 \theta - 9 = \cot \theta$ in the interval $0 \leq \theta \leq 360^\circ$

$$4(1 + \cot^2 \theta) - 9 = \cot \theta$$

$$4 \cot^2 \theta - \cot \theta - 5 = 0$$

$$(4 \cot \theta - 5)(\cot \theta + 1) = 0$$

$$\therefore \cot \theta = \frac{5}{4} \text{ or } \cot \theta = -1$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{4}{5} \text{ or } \tan \theta = -1$$

$$\theta = 135^\circ, 315^\circ$$

This is just like in Year-1; if you had a mixture of $\sin \theta, \sin^2 \theta, \cos^2 \theta$: you'd change the $\cos^2 \theta$ to $1 - \sin^2 \theta$ in order to get a quadratic in terms of \sin .

Test Your Understanding

Edexcel C3 June 2013 (R)

6. (ii) Solve, for $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$, the equation

$$3\sec^2 \theta + 3 \sec \theta = 2 \tan^2 \theta$$

You must show all your working. Give your answers in terms of π .

(6)

?

- Q Solve, for $0 \leq x < 2\pi$, the equation

$$2\cosec^2 x + \cot x = 5$$

giving your solutions to 3sf.

?

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$$\begin{aligned}3 \sec^2 \theta + 3 \sec \theta &= 2(\sec^2 \theta - 1) \\ \sec^2 \theta + 3 \sec \theta + 2 &= 0 \quad \rightarrow (\sec \theta + 2)(\sec \theta + 1) = 0 \\ \frac{1}{\cos \theta} &= -2 \quad \rightarrow \cos \theta = -\frac{1}{2} \quad \rightarrow \theta = \frac{2\pi}{3}, \frac{4\pi}{3} \\ \frac{1}{\cos \theta} &= -1 \quad \rightarrow \cos \theta = -1 \quad \rightarrow \theta = \pi\end{aligned}$$

- Q Solve, for $0 \leq x < 2\pi$, the equation

$$2\cosec^2 x + \cot x = 5$$

giving your solutions to 3sf.

$$2(1 + \cot^2 x) + \cot x - 5 = 0$$

$$2 + 2 \cot^2 x + \cot x - 5 = 0$$

$$2 \cot^2 x + \cot x - 3 = 0$$

$$(2 \cot x + 3)(\cot x - 1) = 0$$

$$\cot x = -\frac{3}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad \cot x = 1$$

$$\tan x = -\frac{2}{3} \quad \text{or} \quad \tan x = 1$$

$$x = 2.55, \quad 5.70, \quad 0.785, \quad 3.93$$

Exercise 6.4

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Homework Exercise

Give answers to 3 significant figures where necessary.

- 1 Simplify each of the following expressions.

a $1 + \tan^2 \frac{1}{2}\theta$

b $(\sec \theta - 1)(\sec \theta + 1)$

c $\tan^2 \theta (\cosec^2 \theta - 1)$

d $(\sec^2 \theta - 1) \cot \theta$

e $(\cosec^2 \theta - \cot^2 \theta)^2$

f $2 - \tan^2 \theta + \sec^2 \theta$

g $\frac{\tan \theta \sec \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \theta}$

h $(1 - \sin^2 \theta)(1 + \tan^2 \theta)$

i $\frac{\cosec \theta \cot \theta}{1 + \cot^2 \theta}$

j $(\sec^4 \theta - 2 \sec^2 \theta \tan^2 \theta + \tan^4 \theta)$

k $4 \cosec^2 2\theta + 4 \cosec^2 2\theta \cot^2 2\theta$

- 2 Given that $\cosec x = \frac{k}{\cosec x}$, where $k > 1$, find, in terms of k , possible values of $\cot x$.

- 3 Given that $\cot \theta = -\sqrt{3}$, and that $90^\circ < \theta < 180^\circ$, find the exact values of:

a $\sin \theta$

b $\cos \theta$

- 4 Given that $\tan \theta = \frac{3}{4}$, and that $180^\circ < \theta < 270^\circ$, find the exact values of:

a $\sec \theta$

b $\cos \theta$

c $\sin \theta$

- 5 Given that $\cos \theta = \frac{24}{25}$, and that θ is a reflex angle, find the exact values of:

a $\tan \theta$

b $\cosec \theta$

Homework Exercise

6 Prove the following identities.

a $\sec^4 \theta - \tan^4 \theta \equiv \sec^2 \theta + \tan^2 \theta$

c $\sec^2 A(\cot^2 A - \cos^2 A) \equiv \cot^2 A$

e $\frac{1 - \tan^2 A}{1 + \tan^2 A} \equiv 1 - 2 \sin^2 A$

g $\operatorname{cosec} A \sec^2 A \equiv \operatorname{cosec} A + \tan A \sec A$

b $\operatorname{cosec}^2 x - \sin^2 x \equiv \cot^2 x + \cos^2 x$

d $1 - \cos^2 \theta \equiv (\sec^2 \theta - 1)(1 - \sin^2 \theta)$

f $\sec^2 \theta + \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta \equiv \sec^2 \theta \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta$

h $(\sec \theta - \sin \theta)(\sec \theta + \sin \theta) \equiv \tan^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta$

7 Given that $3 \tan^2 \theta + 4 \sec^2 \theta = 5$, and that θ is obtuse, find the exact value of $\sin \theta$.

8 Solve the following equations in the given intervals.

a $\sec^2 \theta = 3 \tan \theta, 0 \leq \theta \leq 360^\circ$

c $\operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta + 1 = 3 \cot \theta, -180^\circ \leq \theta \leq 180^\circ$

e $3 \sec \frac{1}{2}\theta = 2 \tan^2 \frac{1}{2}\theta, 0 \leq \theta \leq 360^\circ$

g $\tan^2 2\theta = \sec 2\theta - 1, 0 \leq \theta \leq 180^\circ$

b $\tan^2 \theta - 2 \sec \theta + 1 = 0, -\pi \leq \theta \leq \pi$

d $\cot \theta = 1 - \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$

f $(\sec \theta - \cos \theta)^2 = \tan \theta - \sin^2 \theta, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$

h $\sec^2 \theta - (1 + \sqrt{3}) \tan \theta + \sqrt{3} = 1, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$

9 Given that $\tan^2 k = 2 \sec k$,

a find the value of $\sec k$ (4 marks)

b deduce that $\cos k = \sqrt{2} - 1$. (2 marks)

c Hence solve, in the interval $0 \leq k \leq 360^\circ$, $\tan^2 k = 2 \sec k$, giving your answers to 1 decimal place. (3 marks)

Homework Exercise

10 Given that $a = 4 \sec x$, $b = \cos x$ and $c = \cot x$,

a express b in terms of a (2 marks)

b show that $c^2 = \frac{16}{a^2 - 16}$ (3 marks)

11 Given that $x = \sec \theta + \tan \theta$,

a show that $\frac{1}{x} = \sec \theta - \tan \theta$. (3 marks)

b Hence express $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} + 2$ in terms of θ , in its simplest form. (5 marks)

12 Given that $2 \sec^2 \theta - \tan^2 \theta = p$ show that $\operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta = \frac{p-1}{p-2}$, $p \neq 2$. (5 marks)

Homework Answers

1 a $\sec^2\left(\frac{1}{2}\theta\right)$

d $\tan\theta$

g $\sin\theta$

j 1

2 $\pm\sqrt{k-1}$

3 a $\frac{1}{2}$

b $\tan^2\theta$

e 1

h 1

k $4 \operatorname{cosec}^4 2\theta$

c 1

f 3

i $\cos\theta$

4 a $-\frac{5}{4}$

b $-\frac{4}{5}$

c $-\frac{3}{5}$

5 a $-\frac{7}{24}$

b $-\frac{25}{7}$

6 a L.H.S. $\equiv (\sec^2\theta - \tan^2\theta)(\sec^2\theta + \tan^2\theta)$
 $\equiv 1(\sec^2\theta + \tan^2\theta) = \text{R.H.S.}$

b L.H.S. $\equiv (1 + \cot^2 x) - (1 - \cos^2 x)$
 $\equiv \cot^2 x + \cos^2 x = \text{R.H.S.}$

c L.H.S. $\equiv \frac{1}{\cos^2 A} \left(\frac{\cos^2 A}{\sin^2 A} - \cos^2 A \right) \equiv \frac{1}{\sin^2 A} - 1$
 $\equiv \operatorname{cosec}^2 A - 1 = \cot^2 A = \text{R.H.S.}$

d R.H.S. $\equiv \tan^2\theta \times \cos^2\theta \equiv \frac{\sin^2\theta}{\cos^2\theta} \times \cos^2\theta \equiv \sin^2\theta$
 $\equiv 1 - \cos^2\theta = \text{L.H.S.}$

e L.H.S. $\equiv \frac{1 - \tan^2 A}{\sec^2 A} \equiv \cos^2 A \left(1 - \frac{\sin^2 A}{\cos^2 A} \right)$
 $\equiv \cos^2 A - \sin^2 A \equiv (1 - \sin^2 A) - \sin^2 A$
 $\equiv 1 - 2\sin^2 A = \text{R.H.S.}$

6 e L.H.S. $\equiv \frac{1 - \tan^2 A}{\sec^2 A} \equiv \cos^2 A \left(1 - \frac{\sin^2 A}{\cos^2 A} \right)$

$\equiv \cos^2 A - \sin^2 A \equiv (1 - \sin^2 A) - \sin^2 A$
 $\equiv 1 - 2\sin^2 A = \text{R.H.S.}$

f L.H.S. $\equiv \frac{1}{\cos^2\theta} + \frac{1}{\sin^2\theta} \equiv \frac{\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta}{\cos^2\theta \sin^2\theta}$
 $\equiv \frac{1}{\cos^2\theta \sin^2\theta} \equiv \sec^2\theta \operatorname{cosec}^2\theta = \text{R.H.S.}$

g L.H.S. $\equiv \operatorname{cosec} A (1 + \tan^2 A) \equiv \operatorname{cosec} A \left(1 + \frac{\sin^2 A}{\cos^2 A} \right)$
 $\equiv \operatorname{cosec} A + \frac{1}{\sin A} \cdot \frac{\sin^2 A}{\cos^2 A} \equiv \operatorname{cosec} A + \frac{\sin A}{\cos A} \cdot \frac{1}{\cos A}$
 $\equiv \operatorname{cosec} A + \tan A \sec A = \text{R.H.S.}$

h L.H.S. $\equiv \sec^2\theta - \sin^2\theta \equiv (1 + \tan^2\theta) - (1 - \cos^2\theta)$
 $\equiv \tan^2\theta + \cos^2\theta \equiv \text{R.H.S.}$

7 $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}$

8 a $20.9^\circ, 69.1^\circ, 201^\circ, 249^\circ$

b $\pm\frac{\pi}{3}$

c $-153^\circ, -135^\circ, 26.6^\circ, 45^\circ$

d $\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{2}, \frac{7\pi}{4}$

e 120°

f $0, \frac{\pi}{4}, \pi$

g $0^\circ, 180^\circ$

h $\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi}{4}, \frac{4\pi}{3}$

Homework Answers

9 a $1 + \sqrt{2}$

b $\cos k = \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{2} - 1}{(\sqrt{2} - 1)(\sqrt{2} + 1)} = \sqrt{2} - 1$

c $65.5^\circ, 294.5^\circ$

10 a $b = \frac{4}{a}$

b $c^2 = \cot^2 x = \frac{\cos^2 x}{\sin^2 x} = \frac{b^2}{1 - b^2} = \frac{\left(\frac{4}{a}\right)^2}{1 - \left(\frac{4}{a}\right)^2}$

$$= \frac{16}{a^2} \times \frac{a^2}{(a^2 - 16)} = \frac{16}{a^2 - 16}$$

11 a $\frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{\sec \theta + \tan \theta} = \frac{\sec \theta - \tan \theta}{(\sec \theta - \tan \theta)(\sec \theta + \tan \theta)}$
 $= \frac{\sec \theta - \tan \theta}{(\sec^2 \theta - \tan^2 \theta)} = \frac{\sec \theta - \tan \theta}{1}$

b $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} + 2 = \left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 = (2 \sec \theta)^2 = 4 \sec^2 \theta$

12 $p = 2(1 + \tan^2 \theta) - \tan^2 \theta = 2 + \tan^2 \theta$

$$\Rightarrow \tan^2 \theta = p - 2 \Rightarrow \cot^2 \theta = \frac{1}{p - 2}$$

$$\operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta = 1 + \cot^2 \theta = 1 + \frac{1}{p - 2} = \frac{(p - 2) + 1}{p - 2} = \frac{p - 1}{p - 2}$$