**Barron’s Let’s Review Regents – Algebra II**

# Chapter 5 Trigonometric Expressions and Equations

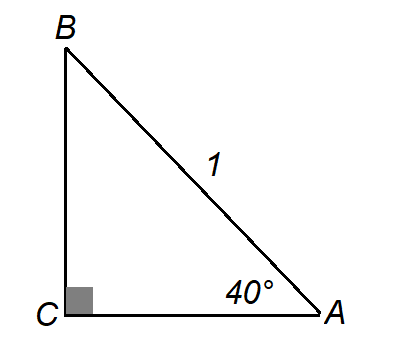
## 5.1 Unit Circle Trigonometry

**Key Ideas**

The coordinates of the points on a circle can be described with the sine and cosine of an angle. The ability to describe the location of points on a circle is a skill needed for various real-world applications related to physics.

Finding the Length of the Legs of a Right Triangle with a Unit Hypotenuse

Below is a right triangle ABC with hypotenuse   
unit. Angle C is the right angle, and angle A has a measure of 40 degrees.

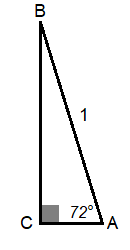


One way to think about sine 40° is that it is the length of the side opposite the 40° angle in a right triangle with a hypotenuse of length 1 unit. If your calculator is in degree monde and you enter sin(40), it should display approximately 0.6428. This means that in triangle ABC, side BC is approximately 0.6428 units long.

If your calculator is not in degree mode, set it to degree mode.

**Example 1**

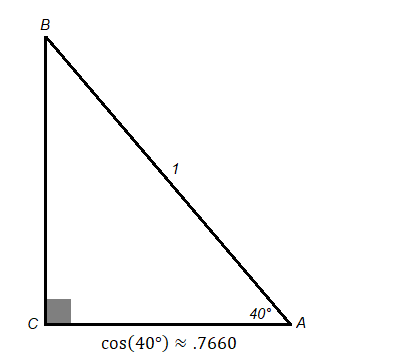
In the triangle below, what is the length of side BC?



*Solution*: The length of the side opposite the 72 degree angle in a right triangle with hypotenuse 1 is sine 72 degrees, which is approximately 0.9511.

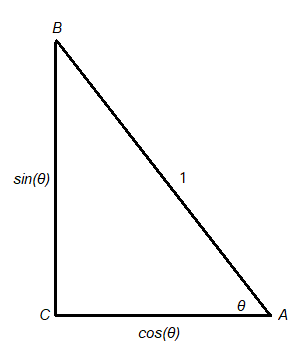
The cosine of an angle can be though of as the length of the side adjacent to the angle in a right triangle that has a hypotenuse of length 1 unit.

In triangle ABC from above, cosine will display the length of side AC, which is adjacent to angle A. (Side AB also seems adjacent to angle A.. Since AB is already the hypotenuse, it can be two things!) If you enter cos(40) on the calculator, it will display approximately 0.7660. If you enter cos(40) on the calculator, it will display approximately 0.7660.



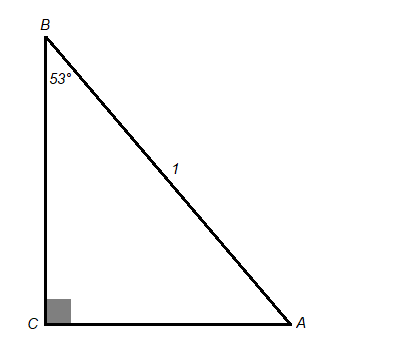
**Math Facts**

In a right triangle with hypotenuse of length 1 unit, the length of a side opposite one of the acute angles is the sine of that angle. The length of a side adjacent to one of the acute angles is the cosine of that angle.



**Example 2**

If AB has length 1 and if angle B has a measure of , find the length of sides AC and BC to the nearest hundredth.



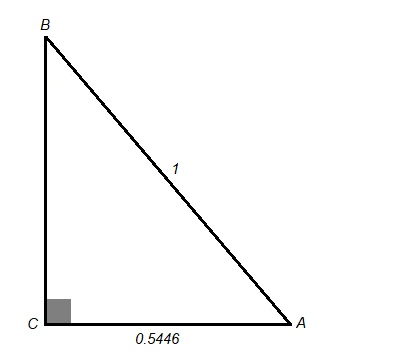
Solution: Since AC is opposite to angle B, its length is sine 53°, which is approximately 0.80. Since BC is adjacent to angle B, its length is cosine 53°, which is approximately 0.60.

In triangle ABC, hypotenuse AB has length 1 and leg BC has length 0.6293. Leg BC is opposite ∠A. So the measure of ∠A can be found by using the calculator to find the angle which has a sine using the function.

Since (make sure you are in degree mode), the measure of angle A is approximately .

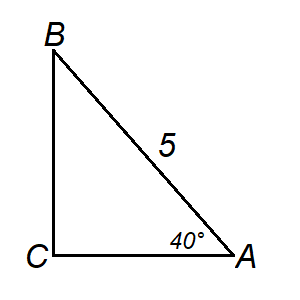
**Example 3**

In the triangle below, the length of AB is 1 and the length AC is 0.5446. Rounded to the nearest degree, what is the measure of Angle A?



*Solution*: Since AC is adjacent to angle A, the measure of angle A can be found by calculating . Rounded to the nearest degree, the angle is .

Even if the hypotenuse of the right triangle is not 1, cosine and sine can be used to find the lengths of the sides if one of the acute angles is known. In the triangle below, the hypotenuse is 5, angle A is 40 degrees, and the length of side BC is the unknown.



If the hypotenuse were 1, the length of BC would be . Since the hypotenuse is 5 times greater than 1, the side BC will be 5 times greater than 0.6428. Since , this is the length of BC.

**Math Facts**

If the hypotenuse of the triangle has length , the length of the side opposite angle A will be and the length of the side adjacent to angle A will be



To find an unknown acute angle when one of the legs is unknown and the hypotenuse is not 1, divide the lengths of the known sides by the length of the hypotenuse. This changes the triangle into a similar triangle with hypotenuse 1. The angle can then be solved with (if the adjacent side was known) or with if the opposite side was known.

**Example 4**

The length of AB is 8 and the length of BC is approximately 7.1904. What is the measure of ∠A rounded to the nearest degree?

Solution: When the lengths of sides AB and BC are both divided by 8, which is the length of the hypotenuse, AB becomes 1 and BC becomes 0.8988. Since BC is the side opposite ∠A, the measure of ∠A can be found with . Since is approximately , this is the measure of ∠A.

If in a right triangle only the two legs are known, the Pythagorean theorem can be used to find the hypotenuse first. Then either sine or cosine can be used to find the measure of the angle.

Example 5

The right triangle below has a vertex at (-3, 4). What is the measure of ∠BOP? What is the measure of angle BOP?

A graph paper with a triangle and points

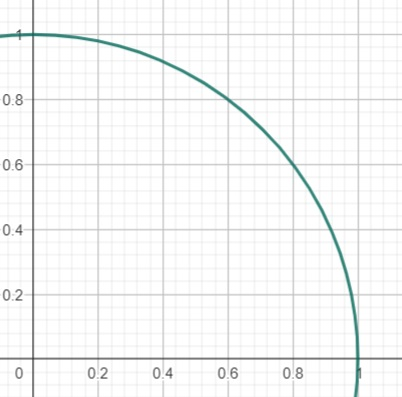
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Solution: The length of OP can be calculated with the Pythagorean theorem. . So   
. Divide the three sides by 5, and the triangle becomes:

Since ∠AOP is supplementary to ∠BOP,   
.

**Locating Points on the Unit Quarter Circle**

The unit quarter circle is the part of a circle centered at (0, 0) with a radian of 1 and that is in the first quadrant.



If a radius is drawn so the angle between the radius OP and OA is , it is possible to find the coordinates of the endpoint of the radius P by drawing a line segment PR perpendicular to the -axis.

<https://www.geogebra.org/m/U3HATYTv>

**Example 6**

IN this unit quarter circle, angle AOP is 61°. What are the coordinates of point P.

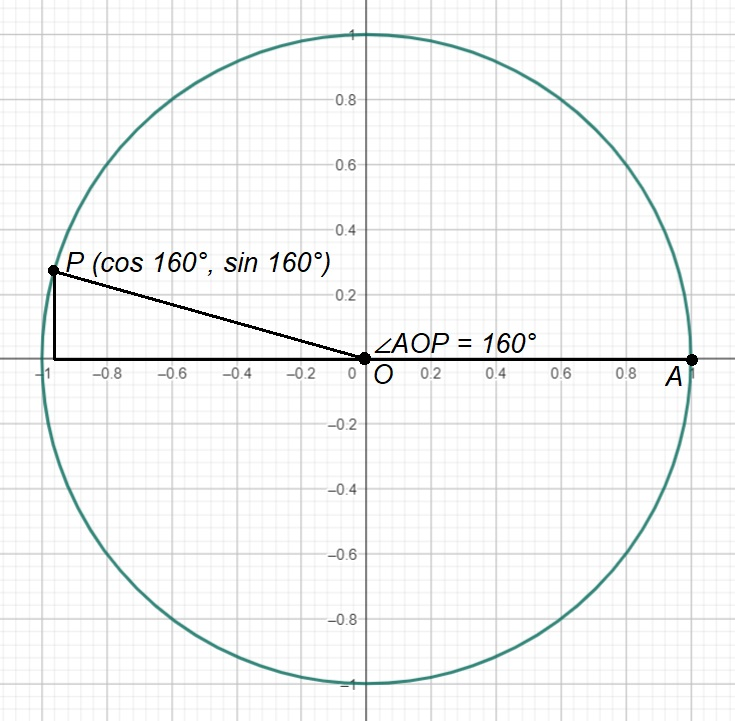
*Solution*: The coordinates of point P are   
(cosine 61°, sine 61°) (0.48, 0.87)

A graph of a function

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**Locating Points on the Full Unit Circle**

Even if ∠AOP is greater than , the -coordinate of point P will be the cosine of ∠AOP and the -coordinate will be the sine of ∠AOP.

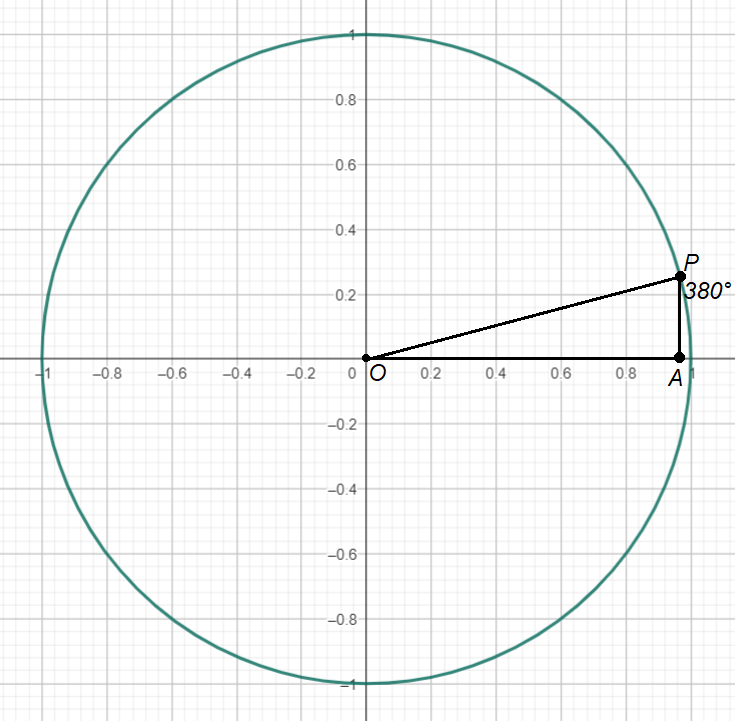


In the unit circle above, ∠AOP is 160°. The coordinates of point P are (cosine , sine ). This can be approximated on the calculator as   
(-0.94, 0.34).

This way of thinking about sine and cosign with a unit circle is related to, but different from, thinking about them with a right triangle.

If you reflect segment OP over the -axis to become , that acute ∠AOP would be . The acute angle you get when you reflect point into quadrant I is known as the *reference angle*.

If ∠AOP is greater than , point “wraps around” and will be in the same location as some other point that is less than . For example, the point at is at the same location as the point   
. This is why the sine of is the same as the sine of .



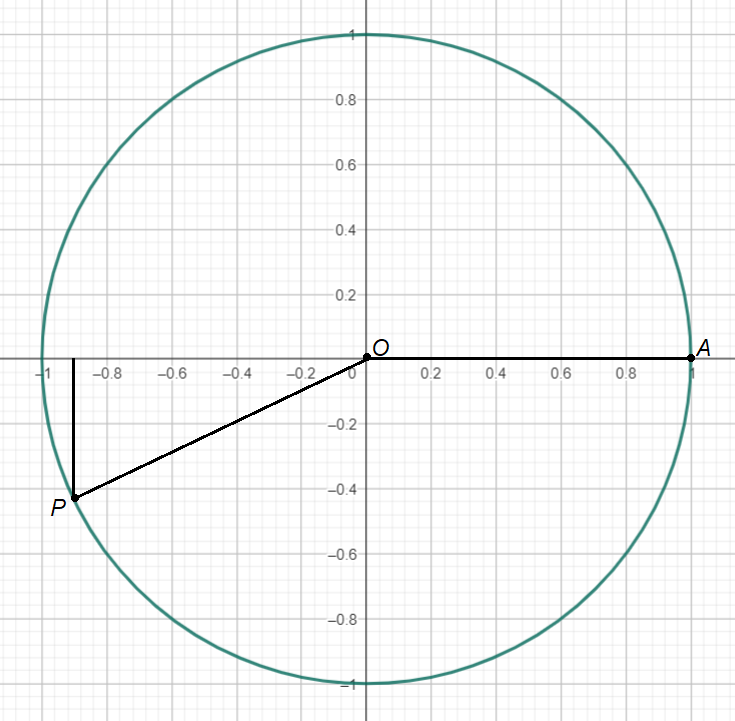
**Math Facts**

If circle is a unit circle centered at (0, 0), point A is located at (1, 0) and point P is on the circle, the coordinates of point P are (cosine ∠AOP, sine ∠AOP). Depending on which quadrant P is in, sine, cosine, or both could be negative.

Example 7

If ∠AOP is between and , what can be inferred about sine ∠AOP and cosine ∠AOP?  
  
(1) They are both positive.  
(2) Sine ∠AOP is positive, but cosine ∠AOP is negative.  
(3) Sine ∠AOP is negative, but cosine ∠AOP is positive.  
(4) They are both negative.

*Solution*: Choice (4) is correct. Every point in the quadrant III, including point P, has a negative   
-coordinate and a negative -coordinate. Since the -coordinate is cosine ∠AOP and since the   
-coordinate is negative, cosine ∠AOP must also be negative. Since the -coordinate is sine ∠AOP and since the -coordindate is negative, sine ∠AOP must also be negative.



An alternate way to answer this question would be to choose some angle between and , such as . Then enter cos(205) and sin(205) into the calculator (be sure you are in degree mode) to see they are both negative.

**Example 8**

Point P is on the unit circle with point at (1, 0). If the sine of ∠AOP is negative and cosine of ∠AOP is positive, what is true about ∠AOP?

(1) It is between 0° and 90°.  
(2) It is between 90° and 180°.  
(3) It is between 180° and 270°.  
(4) It is between 270° and 360°

*Solution*: On the unit circle, the points that have a positive -coordinate and a negative -coordinate are in quadrant IV. The points on the unit circle in quadrant IV range from 270° to 360°, so the answer is choice (4).

A graph with a red circle

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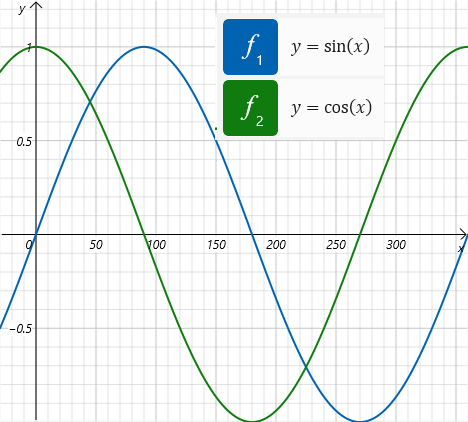
**Example 9**

If sin ∠AOP is negative, in what two quadrants can point P be in?

(1) I or II  
(2) II or III  
(3) III or IV  
(4) I or IV

Solution: Since sine is related to the -coordinate of point P and since points in quadrant III and IV have negative -coordinates, the answer is choice (3).

If the coordinates of point P are known, it is possible to determine the measure of ∠AOP with the graphing calculator. Calculating the angle’s measure does differ a bit depending on what quadrant point is in.



**If point P is in quadrant I:**

**If point P is in quadrant II:**

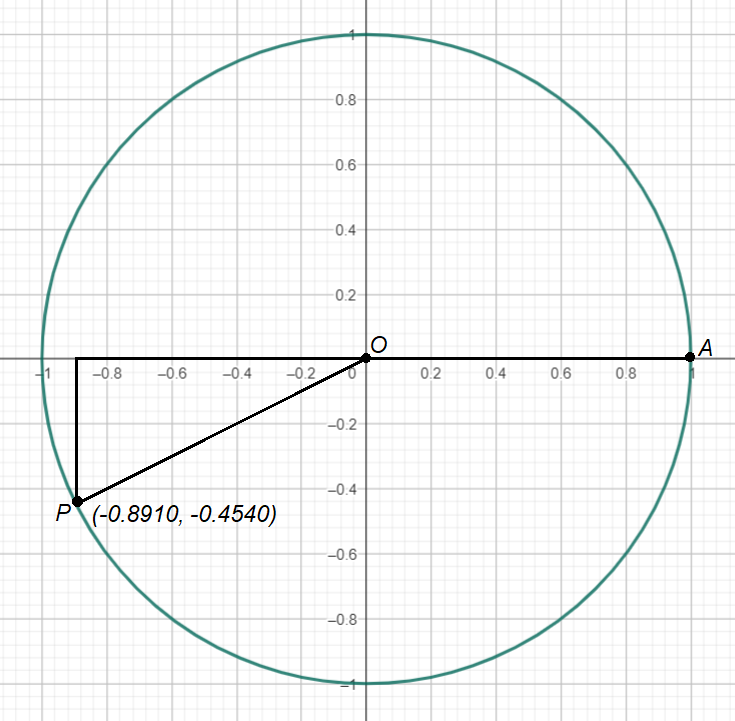
**If point P is in quadrant III:**

**If point P is in quadrant IV:**

**Example 10**

If point has coordinates (-0.8910, -04540), what is the measure of ∠AOP rounded to the nearest degree?

*Solution*: A sketch of the unit circle shows that the measure of the angle will be between and .



Since point P is in quadrant III, the angle can be calculated with either or . Either way, the answer is .

Notice that with the process described above, you should always put a positive number into the or function, even if the -coordinate or   
-coordinate is negative.

**Example 11**

If sin ∠AOP is 0.6 and cos ∠AOP is negative, what is the value of cos ∠AOP?

*Solution*: Since the sine is positive, point must be in either quadrants I or II. Since cosine is negative, point must be in either quadrant II or III. So, point must be in quadrant II since that is where both sine is positive and cosine is negative.

∠AOP can be calculated with the formula . Then use the calculator to find cosine .

**Example 12**If sin ∠AOP is and cos ∠AOP is positive, what is the value of cos ∠AOP?

(1)   
(2)   
(3)   
(4)

*Solution*: Since the sine is negative, point must be in either quadrants III or IV. Since cosine is positive, point must be in quadrants I or IV. So point must be in quadrant IV since that is where both sine is negative, and cosine is positive.

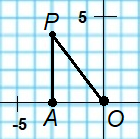
∠AOP can be calculated with the formula

.

Then use the calculator to get cosine . Of the choices that are positive, , which is very close to 0.9205. The answer is choice (1).

**Example 13**

If the coordinates of A are (-3, 0), of O are (0, 0) and of P are (-3, 4), what is the cosine of ∠AOP?



*Solution*: The sine of ∠AOP is the -coordinate of the point of intersection (Q) between the unit circle and the line OP. The length of the sides of triangle AOP are 3, 4 and 5. Since the hypotenuse OP has a length of 5, dividing all sides b 5 will create a triangle with hypotenuse of 1. The lengths of the sides of similar triangle BOQ are Point Q has coordinates

