

1 Trigonometry Review



Figure 1: Scenario in Problem 1.



Figure 2: Scenario in Problem 2.

1. Prove the Pythagorean theorem using “conservation of area.” Start with Figure 1.

In Figure 1, the larger square has side length $a + b$. The smaller, nested square has side length c . Four copies of the right triangle with side lengths a, b, c are placed around the square. We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 A_{\text{triangles}} + A_{\text{small sq.}} &= A_{\text{big sq.}} && \text{[Conservation of area]} \\
 4A_{\text{triangle}} + A_{\text{small sq.}} &= A_{\text{big sq.}} \\
 4\left(\frac{1}{2}ab\right) + c^2 &= (a+b)^2 && \text{[Areas of triangle, square]} \\
 2ab + c^2 &= a^2 + 2ab + b^2 && \text{[Expanding]} \\
 c^2 &= a^2 + b^2. && \text{Q.E.D.}
 \end{aligned}$$

2. Prove the Pythagorean theorem using a right triangle with an altitude drawn to its hypotenuse, as shown in Figure 2, making use of similar right triangles.

Let $h = CF$, the length of the altitude to the hypotenuse. $\triangle ACF \sim \triangle ABC$ by AA Similarity because they share an angle and both have a right angle. Therefore, $\frac{AF}{AC} = \frac{AC}{AB}$. Substituting named variables for these lengths, we get

$$\frac{AF}{b} = \frac{b}{c} \implies AF = \frac{b^2}{c}.$$

Applying the same logic to $\triangle CFB$, we get $\triangle CFB \sim \triangle ABC$, so $\frac{BF}{BC} = \frac{BC}{AB}$. Substituting, we get

$$\frac{BF}{a} = \frac{a}{c} \implies BF = \frac{a^2}{c}.$$

Since F is between A and B , we have $AB = AF + FB$; substituting our found values for AF and FB , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 c &= AB = AF + FB \\
 c &= \frac{b^2}{c} + \frac{a^2}{c} \\
 c^2 &= b^2 + a^2. && \text{Q.E.D.}
 \end{aligned}$$

3. We now prove the trigonometric identities.

(a) Draw and label a right triangle and a unit circle, then write trig definitions for \cos , \sin , \tan , and \sec in terms of your drawing.

The scenario is depicted in Figure 3. By the definition of sine and cosine, we have $\sin \theta = AP$ and $\cos \theta = OA$. Since $\triangle OAP \sim \triangle OPT$ by AA Similarity, we have $\frac{TP}{OP} = \frac{AP}{OA}$. Substituting known values, we get

$$\frac{TP}{1} = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \implies TP = \tan \theta.$$

Also, $\triangle OAP \sim \triangle OKS$ by AA, so $\frac{OS}{OK} = \frac{1}{\cos \theta}$. Similarly, we have

$$\frac{OS}{1} = \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \Rightarrow OS = \sec \theta.$$

Finally, as an alternate interpretation of \tan , we have $\frac{KS}{OK} = \frac{AP}{OA}$, so

$$\frac{KS}{1} = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \Rightarrow KS = \tan \theta.$$



Figure 3: The right triangle and unit circle.

(b) Use a right triangle and the definitions of \sin and \cos to find and prove a value for $\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta$.

Referring back to Figure 3, focus on $\triangle OAP$. It is a right triangle with side lengths $a = \cos \theta$, $b = \sin \theta$, and $c = 1$. By the Pythagorean theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} OA^2 + AP^2 &= OP^2 && \text{[Pythagorean theorem]} \\ \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta &= 1^2 && \text{[Substitution]} \\ \sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta &= 1. && \text{[Rearrange]} \end{aligned}$$

(c) Use the picture of the unit circle in Figure 4 to find and prove a value for $\cos(A - B)$. Note that D_1 and D_2 are the same length because they subtend the same size arc of the circle. Set them equal and work through the algebra, using the distance formula and part (b) of this problem.

We have $D_1 = D_2$, so

$$\begin{aligned} D_1^2 &= D_2^2 \\ (\cos A - \cos B)^2 + (\sin A - \sin B)^2 &= (\cos(A - B) - 1)^2 + \sin^2(A - B) \\ \cos^2 A - 2 \cos A \cos B + \cos^2 B + \sin^2 A - 2 \sin A \sin B + \sin^2 B &= \cos^2(A - B) - 2 \cos(A - B) + \\ &\quad 1 + \sin^2(A - B) \\ (\cos^2 A + \sin^2 A) + (\cos^2 B + \sin^2 B) - 2 \sin A \sin B &= (\cos^2(A - B) + \sin^2(A - B)) + \\ &\quad 1 - 2 \cos(A - B) \\ \cancel{1} + \cancel{1} - 2 \sin A \sin B - 2 \cos A \cos B &= \cancel{1} + \cancel{1} - 2 \cos(A - B) \\ 2 \sin A \sin B + 2 \cos A \cos B &= 2 \cos(A - B) \\ \sin A \sin B + \cos A \cos B &= \cos(A - B). \end{aligned}$$

Q.E.D.



Figure 4: Scenario in Problem 3.

4. Write down as many trig identities as you can—no need to prove these.

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 \sin(A + B) = & \sin(A - B) = & \cos(A + B) = \\
 \tan(A + B) = & \tan(A - B) = & \sin(2A) = \\
 \cos(2A) = & \tan(2A) = & \sin\left(\frac{A}{2}\right) = \\
 \cos\left(\frac{A}{2}\right) = & \tan\left(\frac{A}{2}\right) = &
 \end{array}$$

You should probably memorize these for convenience.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sin(A + B) &= \sin A \cos B + \cos A \sin B \\
 \sin(A - B) &= \sin A \cos B - \cos A \sin B \\
 \cos(A + B) &= \cos A \cos B - \sin A \sin B \\
 \tan(A + B) &= \frac{\tan A + \tan B}{1 - \tan A \tan B} \\
 \tan(A - B) &= \frac{\tan A - \tan B}{1 + \tan A \tan B} \\
 \sin(2A) &= 2 \sin A \cos A \\
 \cos(2A) &= 2 \cos^2 A - 1 = 1 - 2 \sin^2 A = \cos^2 A - \sin^2 A \\
 \tan(2A) &= \frac{2 \tan A}{1 - \tan^2 A} \\
 \sin\left(\frac{A}{2}\right) &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos A}{2}} \\
 \cos\left(\frac{A}{2}\right) &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 + \cos A}{2}} \\
 \tan\left(\frac{A}{2}\right) &= \frac{\sin A}{1 + \cos A} = \frac{1 - \cos A}{\sin A}
 \end{aligned}$$

5. Let's review complex numbers and DeMoivre's theorem.

(a) Recall that you can write a complex number both in Cartesian and polar forms. Let

$$a + bi = (a, b) = (r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) = r \cos \theta + ir \sin \theta.$$

What is r in terms of a and b ?

r is just the distance to the origin from $a + bi$. Draw a right triangle as shown in Figure 5. By the pythagorean theorem, $r = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$.



Figure 5: $a + bi$ in the complex plane.

(b) Expand $(a + bi)(c + di)$ the usual way.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a + bi)(c + di) &= ac + adi + bci + (bi)(di) \\
 &= ac + (ad + bc)i - bd \\
 &= ac - bd + (ad + bc)i.
 \end{aligned}$$

(c) Let $a + bi = r_1(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$ and $c + di = r_2(\cos \phi + i \sin \phi)$. Multiply them, and use your results from Problems 3c and 3d to show that multiplying two complex numbers involves multiplying their lengths and adding their angles. This is DeMoivre's theorem!

$$\begin{aligned}
 r_1(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)r_2(\cos \phi + i \sin \phi) &= r_1 r_2(\cos \theta \cos \phi - \sin \theta \sin \phi + i(\sin \theta \cos \phi + \cos \theta \sin \phi)) \\
 &= r_1 r_2(\cos(\theta + \phi) + i \sin(\theta + \phi)).
 \end{aligned}$$

(d) Use part (c) to simplify $(\sqrt{3} + i)^{18}$.

$$\text{We have } \sqrt{3} + i = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) = 2 \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{6} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{6} \right).$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left(2 \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{6} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{6} \right) \right)^{18} &= 2^{18} \cdot \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{6} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{6} \right)^{18} \\
 &= 2^{18} \cdot \underbrace{\left(\cos \frac{\pi}{6} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{6} \right) \cdots \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{6} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{6} \right)}_{18 \text{ copies}} \\
 &= 2^{18} \cdot \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{3} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{3} \right) \underbrace{\left(\cos \frac{\pi}{6} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{6} \right) \cdots \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{6} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{6} \right)}_{16 \text{ copies}} \\
 &=: \\
 &= 2^{18} \cdot (\cos 3\pi + i \sin 3\pi) \\
 &= 2^{18} \cdot -1 \\
 &= -2^{18}.
 \end{aligned}$$

6. Here is a review of 2D rotation.

(a) Recall that we can graph complex numbers as ordered pairs in the complex plane. Now, consider the complex number $z = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$, where θ is fixed. What is the magnitude of z ?

We have

$$|z| = \sqrt{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta} = \sqrt{1} = 1.$$

(b) Multiplying $z \cdot (x + yi)$ yields a rotation of the point (x, y) counterclockwise around the origin by the angle θ . Notice that rotating the graph counterclockwise around the origin has the same effect as rotating the coordinate axes clockwise around the origin by the same angle θ . What if we wanted to rotate clockwise by θ instead?

We can multiply by the conjugate of z , since

$$\bar{z} = \cos \theta - i \sin \theta = \cos -\theta + i \sin -\theta.$$

Thus, the operation is $\bar{z} \cdot (x + yi)$ to rotate clockwise by θ .

7. Rotate the following conics by (i) 30° , (ii) 45° , and (iii) θ :

(a) $x^2 - y^2 = 1$

i. 30°

We make the substitution $x' = x \cos 30^\circ - y \sin 30^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}x - \frac{y}{2}$ and $y' = x \sin 30^\circ + y \cos 30^\circ = \frac{x}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}y$:

$$\begin{aligned} x'^2 - y'^2 &= 1 \\ \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}x - \frac{y}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{x}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}y\right)^2 &= 1 \\ x^2/2 - \sqrt{3}xy - y^2/2 &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

ii. 45°

We make the substitution $x' = x \cos 45^\circ - y \sin 45^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y$ and $y' = x \sin 45^\circ + y \cos 45^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y$:

$$\begin{aligned} x'^2 - y'^2 &= 1 \\ \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y\right)^2 - \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y\right)^2 &= 1 \\ -2xy &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

iii. θ

We make the substitution $x' = x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta$ and $y' = x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta$:

$$\begin{aligned} x'^2 - y'^2 &= 1 \\ (x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta)^2 - (x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta)^2 &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

(b) $\frac{x^2}{16} - \frac{y^2}{9} = 1$

i. 30°

We make the substitution $x' = x \cos 30^\circ - y \sin 30^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}x - \frac{y}{2}$ and $y' = x \sin 30^\circ + y \cos 30^\circ = \frac{x}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}y$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x'^2}{16} - \frac{y'^2}{9} &= 1 \\ \frac{\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}x - \frac{y}{2}\right)^2}{16} - \frac{\left(\frac{x}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}y\right)^2}{9} &= 1 \\ \frac{1}{576}(11x^2 - 50\sqrt{3}xy - 39y^2) &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

ii. 45°

We make the substitution $x' = x \cos 45^\circ - y \sin 45^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y$ and $y' = x \sin 45^\circ + y \cos 45^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x'^2}{16} - \frac{y'^2}{9} &= 1 \\ \frac{\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y\right)^2}{16} - \frac{\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y\right)^2}{9} &= 1 \\ \frac{1}{288}(-x - 7y)(7x + y) &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

iii. θ

We make the substitution $x' = x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta$ and $y' = x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x'^2}{16} - \frac{y'^2}{9} &= 1 \\ \frac{(x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta)^2}{16} - \frac{(x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta)^2}{9} &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

(c) $y^2 = 4Cx$

i. 30°

We make the substitution $x' = x \cos 30^\circ - y \sin 30^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}x - \frac{y}{2}$ and $y' = x \sin 30^\circ + y \cos 30^\circ = \frac{x}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}y$:

$$\begin{aligned} y'^2 &= 4Cx' \\ \left(\frac{x}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}y\right)^2 &= 4C\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}x - \frac{y}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

ii. 45°

We make the substitution $x' = x \cos 45^\circ - y \sin 45^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y$ and $y' = x \sin 45^\circ + y \cos 45^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y$:

$$\begin{aligned} y'^2 &= 4Cx' \\ \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y\right)^2 &= 4C\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y\right) \\ \frac{1}{2}(x + y)^2 &= 2C\sqrt{2}(x - y). \end{aligned}$$

iii. θ

We make the substitution $x' = x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta$ and $y' = x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta$:

$$\begin{aligned} y'^2 &= 4Cx' \\ (x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta)^2 &= 4C(x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta). \end{aligned}$$