

# Precalculus Practice Problems: Midterm 1

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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Trig (I): Right Triangle and Unit Circle</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Review problems . . . . .	2
1.2	Challenge problems . . . . .	3
<b>2</b>	<b>Trig (II): Graphs and Inverses</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1	Review problems . . . . .	6
2.2	Challenge problems . . . . .	7
<b>3</b>	<b>Trig (III): Identities</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1	Review problems . . . . .	8
3.2	Challenge problems . . . . .	9
<b>4</b>	<b>Parametric and polar equations</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1	Review problems . . . . .	10
4.2	Challenge problems . . . . .	11

# 1 Trig (I): Right Triangle and Unit Circle

## 1.1 Review problems

1. *Unit conversions for angles.*
  - (a) 360 degrees to radians
  - (b)  $\pi$  radians to degrees
  - (c) 60 degrees to radians
  - (d)  $3\pi/4$  radians to degrees
  - (e)  $\pi/5$  degrees to radians
2. *Trig functions as ratios of lengths.* Let  $ABC$  be a triangle with a right angle at  $B$ . Suppose  $AB = 8$  and  $BC = 15$ .
  - (a) Evaluate  $\tan A$  and  $\cot A$ .
  - (b) Find the length of  $AC$ .
  - (c) Evaluate  $\sin A$ ,  $\cos A$ ,  $\sec A$ , and  $\csc A$ .
3. *Using one trig function to compute another.* Throughout, assume  $\theta$  is acute.
  - (a) If  $\sin \theta = 1/3$ , what is  $\cos \theta$ ?
  - (b) If  $\sec \theta = \sqrt{10}$ , what is  $\tan \theta$ ?
  - (c) If  $\tan \theta = 2/5$ , what is  $\csc \theta$ ?
4. *Important acute angles.*

$\theta$ (deg)	$\theta$ (rad)	$\sin \theta$	$\cos \theta$	$\tan \theta$	$\sec \theta$	$\csc \theta$	$\cot \theta$
30							
45							
	$\pi/3$						

5. *Unit circle calculations.*

- (a)  $\cos(0)$
- (b)  $\sin(150^\circ)$
- (c)  $\cos(-3\pi/4)$
- (d)  $\sin(7\pi/3)$
- (e)  $\cos(330^\circ)$
- (f)  $\sin(-\pi/4)$

6. *Unit circle identities.* Express each of the following in terms of  $\sin \theta$  and/or  $\cos \theta$ .

- (a)  $\sin(\pi - \theta)$
- (b)  $\cos(\pi - \theta)$
- (c)  $\sin(\pi + \theta)$
- (d)  $\cos(\pi + \theta)$
- (e)  $\sin(-\theta)$
- (f)  $\cos(-\theta)$
- (g)  $\sin(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta)$
- (h)  $\cos(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta)$
- (i)  $\sin(\frac{\pi}{2} + \theta)$
- (j)  $\cos(\frac{\pi}{2} + \theta)$

7. *Some triangle geometry.* In acute triangle  $ABC$ , it is given that  $AB = 13$ , that  $BC = 14$ , and that  $\sin B = 12/13$ .

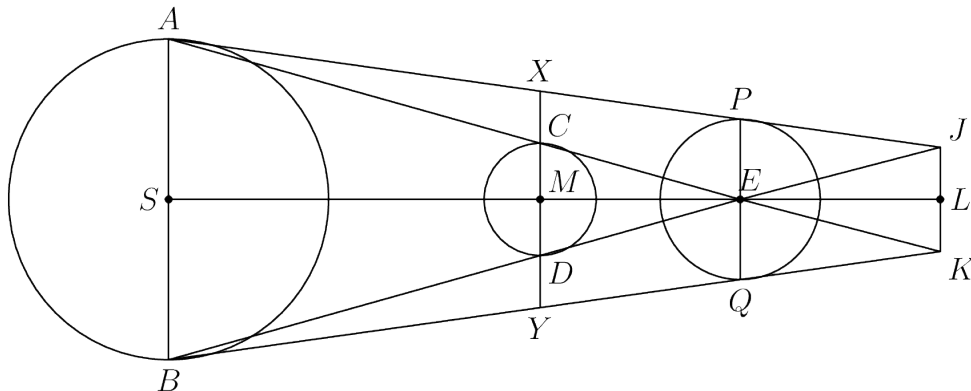
- (a) Find the area of triangle  $ABC$ .
- (b) Find the length of  $AC$ .
- (c) Find  $\sin A$ .

## 1.2 Challenge problems

8. Much of classical trigonometry was done in terms of the *chord function*, which is defined for angles  $0 < \theta < 180^\circ$  as follows. Let  $O$  be the center of a circle of radius 1, and let  $A$  and  $B$  be points on the circle so that  $\angle AOB = \theta$ . Then  $\text{chd } \theta = AB$ .

- (a) Compute  $\text{chd } 90^\circ$ ,  $\text{chd } 60^\circ$ , and  $\text{chd } 30^\circ$ .
- (b) Express  $\text{chd } \theta$  in terms of the sine function.
- (c) Prove that  $\text{chd}^2 \theta + \text{chd}^2(180^\circ - \theta) = 4$ .

9. A method for estimating the distances to the Sun and the Moon using measurements of solar and lunar eclipses dates back to the Greek astronomer Hipparchus (c.190 BC to c.120 BC). In this problem, we work through the relevant geometric argument.



In the diagram, points  $S$ ,  $M$ ,  $E$ , and  $L$  lie on a line, with  $S$ ,  $M$ , and  $E$  representing the centers of the Sun, Moon, and Earth, respectively. Segments  $\overline{AB}$ ,  $\overline{CD}$ , and  $\overline{PQ}$  are diameters of their respective circles, all perpendicular to  $\overline{SL}$ . Segment  $\overline{JK}$  is also perpendicular to  $\overline{SL}$ . Points  $A, X, P, J$  are collinear, points  $B, Y, Q, K$  are collinear, points  $X, C, D, Y$  are collinear, points  $A, C, E$  are collinear, and points  $B, D, E$  are collinear. Finally,  $E$  is the midpoint of  $\overline{LM}$ . Let  $PE = 1$  (so lengths are in terms of Earth radii) and define

$$\ell = EM = EL, \quad s = ES, \quad \theta = \angle CEM, \quad \phi = \angle JEL.$$

- (a) Show that

$$s = \frac{\ell}{(\tan \theta + \tan \phi)\ell - 1}$$

- (b) (Calculator recommended) The measurements used by Hipparchus were

$$\ell \approx 67\frac{1}{3}, \quad \theta \approx 0.277^\circ, \quad \phi \approx 0.693^\circ.$$

Given these measurements, what value do we get for  $s$ ?

- (c) (Calculator recommended) Currently, our measurements for the same quantities are

$$\ell = 60.268, \quad \theta \approx 0.267^\circ, \quad \phi \approx 0.746^\circ.$$

Given these measurements, what value do we get for  $s$ ?

*Remark:* The true value of  $s$  is  $s \approx 23,455$ , so some of the approximations made in order to set up the diagram turn out to be substantial sources of error.

10. A *Pythagorean triple* is a triple  $(X, Y, Z)$  of positive integers for which  $X^2 + Y^2 = Z^2$ . Note that if  $(X, Y, Z)$  is a Pythagorean triple, then  $(x, y) = (X/Z, Y/Z)$  is a point on the unit circle whose coordinates are rational numbers.

- (a) Let  $O = (-1, 0)$ . If  $P \neq O$  has rational coordinates and lies on the unit circle, then the slope of  $\overline{OP}$  is rational. Conversely, show that if  $\ell$  is a line passing through  $O$  which has rational slope, then the other point  $P \neq O$  at which  $\ell$  intersects the unit circle must have rational coordinates.
- (b) Use part (a) to show that every point on the unit circle with rational coordinates can be written in the form  $\left( \frac{n^2 - m^2}{n^2 + m^2}, \frac{2mn}{n^2 + m^2} \right)$  for integers  $m$  and  $n$ .

*Remark:* A result going back to Euclid states that every *primitive* Pythagorean triple, meaning a Pythagorean triple  $(X, Y, Z)$  where  $\gcd(X, Y, Z) = 1$ , can be written as either

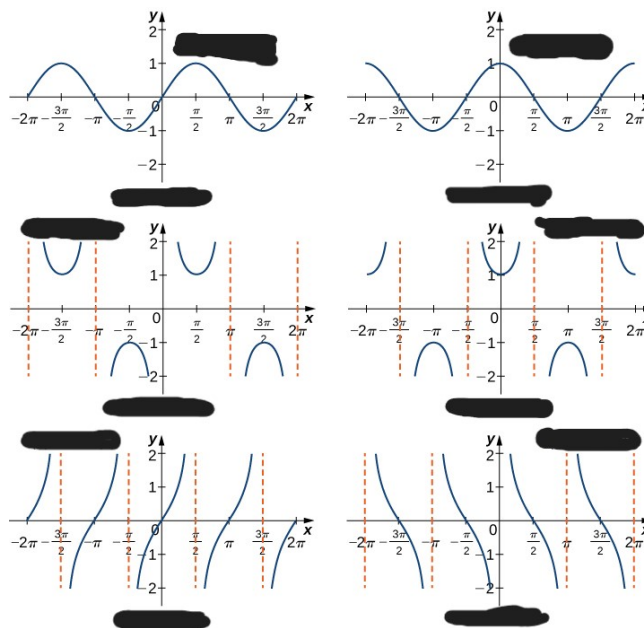
$$X = n^2 - m^2, \quad Y = 2mn, \quad Z = n^2 + m^2$$

with  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$  and  $m + n$  odd, or in the same form with  $X$  and  $Y$  swapped.

## 2 Trig (II): Graphs and Inverses

### 2.1 Review problems

1. *The six basic graphs.* Match each of the graphs below to one of the six basic trig functions.



2. *Period and frequency.* A function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is *periodic* if there is a positive real number  $T$  such that  $f(x + T) = f(x)$  for all real  $x$ . The smallest such  $T$ , if it exists, is the *period* of  $f$ . If  $f$  is a periodic function with period  $T$ , the *natural frequency* of  $f$  is  $\nu = 1/T$  while the *angular frequency* of  $f$  is  $\omega = 2\pi/T = 2\pi\nu$ . For each of the six basic trig functions, what are the period, natural frequency, and angular frequency?
3. *Transformed sinusoidal waves.* For each of the following functions  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , find the period, amplitude, and phase shift relative to  $\sin(\omega x)$ , where  $\omega$  is the angular frequency of the function.
  - (a)  $\sin x$
  - (b)  $\cos x$
  - (c)  $3 \sin(5x - \frac{\pi}{7})$
  - (d)  $2 \sin(2x) - 2 \cos(2x)$
4. *Domain and range.* What are the standard domains and ranges of arcsin, arccos, and arctan?

5. *Calculating inverses.*

- (a)  $\arcsin(1/2)$
- (b)  $\arccos(-1/\sqrt{2})$
- (c)  $\arcsin(-\sqrt{3}/2)$
- (d)  $\arctan(-1)$
- (e)  $\arcsin(\sin(7\pi/6))$
- (f)  $\cos(\arccos(-1/3))$
- (g)  $\cos(\arctan(1/2))$

6. *Counting solutions.* Find the number of solutions for  $x$  in each of the following equations.

- (a)  $\sin \theta = 0.5$  when  $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$
- (b)  $\cos \theta = -2$  when  $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$
- (c)  $\sec \theta = 1$  when  $-\pi < \theta \leq \pi$
- (d)  $\tan \theta = 1$  when  $-\pi < \theta \leq \pi$
- (e)  $\sin(3\theta) = 0.2024$  when  $0 \leq \theta < 10\pi$
- (f)  $\cos(\frac{22}{7}\theta) = 0.5$  when  $-20 < \theta < 20$

7. What are the standard domains and ranges of  $\sec^{-1}$ ,  $\csc^{-1}$ , and  $\cot^{-1}$ ?

## 2.2 Challenge problems

8. Karen has a calculator which only has seven buttons:  $\sin$ ,  $\cos$ ,  $\tan$ ,  $\arcsin$ ,  $\arccos$ ,  $\arctan$ , and Reset. The first six apply these functions to the number in the display, while Reset changes the display back to its default state of showing 0. All calculations assume radian measure.

- (a) Starting from a positive real number  $x$  in the display, show that there is a sequence of buttons that changes the display to  $1/x$ .
- (b) Starting from a non-negative real number  $x$  in the display, show that there is a sequence of buttons that changes the display to  $\sqrt{x^2 + 1}$ .
- (c) Show that for every positive rational number  $q$ , there is a sequence of buttons that changes the display from 0 to  $\sqrt{q}$ .

9. Find the period of the following functions, or show that no period exists.

- (a)  $\sin(3x) + \sin(4x)$
- (b)  $\sin(20x) + \sin(24x)$
- (c)  $\sin(x) + \sin(\sqrt{2}x)$

10. A function  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is *doubly-periodic* if there are non-zero constants  $u, v \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $u/v$  is non-real and  $f(z) = f(z + u) = f(z + v)$  for all complex numbers  $z$ . Write down an example of a non-constant doubly-periodic function.

### 3 Trig (III): Identities

#### 3.1 Review problems

1. *Angle sum and difference identities.*

- (a)  $\sin(\alpha + \beta) =$
- (b)  $\sin(\alpha - \beta) =$
- (c)  $\cos(\alpha + \beta) =$
- (d)  $\cos(\alpha - \beta) =$
- (e)  $\tan(\alpha + \beta) =$
- (f)  $\tan(\alpha - \beta) =$

2. *Calculation.*

- (a) Compute  $\cos(75^\circ)$ .
- (b) Supposing  $\sin(\alpha) = 5/13$  and  $\sin(\beta) = 3/5$ , compute  $\sin(\alpha + \beta)$ .

3. *Double angle identities.* (There are three useful expressions for  $\cos(2\theta)$ .)

- (a)  $\sin(2\theta) =$
- (b)  $\cos(2\theta) =$
- (c)  $\cos(2\theta) =$
- (d)  $\cos(2\theta) =$
- (e)  $\tan(2\theta) =$

4. *Half angle calculations.*

- (a) If  $\cos \theta = 3/5$ , what are the possible values of  $\cos(\theta/2)$ ?
- (b) Calculate  $\tan(\pi/8)$ .

5. *The tangent half-angle substitution.* Let  $t = \tan(\theta/2)$ . Show that

$$\cos \theta = \frac{1 - t^2}{1 + t^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sin \theta = \frac{2t}{1 + t^2}.$$

These are sometimes used in calculus to change expressions involving trig functions into expressions involving rational functions.

6. *Product-to-sum and sum-to-product identities.*

- (a)  $\cos \alpha \cos \beta =$
- (b)  $\sin \alpha \sin \beta =$
- (c)  $\sin \alpha \cos \beta =$
- (d)  $\sin \theta + \sin \phi =$
- (e)  $\cos \theta + \cos \phi =$



7. *Some equations.* Find all real solutions to the following equations. (These will generally involve an integer parameter and may involve inverse trig functions.)

- (a)  $\sin \alpha = 1$
- (b)  $2 \cos(2t) + 5 = 8 \cos t$
- (c)  $\sin \theta = \cos^2(2\pi/9) - \sin^2(2\pi/9)$
- (d)  $3 \sin x + 5 \cos x = 23/4$

### 3.2 Challenge problems

8. For each non-negative integer  $n$ , the *degree- $n$  Chebyshev polynomial of the first kind*, denoted  $T_n(X)$ , is defined by the property that  $T_n(\cos \theta) = \cos(n\theta)$  for all real  $\theta$ . Thus  $T_0(X) = 1$  and  $T_1(X) = X$ .

- (a) Compute  $T_2(X)$ ,  $T_3(X)$ , and  $T_4(X)$ .
- (b) Find the roots of  $T_n(X)$  for  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ .
- (c) Prove that  $T_{n+1}(X) = 2X \cdot T_n(X) - T_{n-1}(X)$  for all positive integers  $n$ .

9. Show that for all positive integers  $n$ ,

$$1 + 2 \cos \theta + 2 \cos(2\theta) + \cdots + 2 \cos(n\theta) = \frac{\sin((n + \frac{1}{2})\theta)}{\sin(\frac{1}{2}\theta)}.$$

*Remark:* If we denote either side of this equation by  $D_n(\theta)$ , then the sequence of functions  $D_0, D_1, D_2, \dots$  is known as the *Dirichlet kernel*.

10. Prove the following for a triangle  $ABC$ :

- (a)  $\tan A + \tan B + \tan C = \tan A \tan B \tan C$
- (b)  $\cot(\frac{A}{2}) + \cot(\frac{B}{2}) + \cot(\frac{C}{2}) = \cot(\frac{A}{2}) \cot(\frac{B}{2}) \cot(\frac{C}{2})$
- (c)  $\sin(2A) + \sin(2B) + \sin(2C) = 4 \sin A \sin B \sin C$

## 4 Parametric and polar equations

### 4.1 Review problems

- Graphing parametric curves.* Graph each of the following and write down equivalent equations using  $x$  and  $y$  only.
  - $x(t) = 2 + 3t$  and  $y(t) = 4 - t$
  - $x(t) = \cos t$  and  $y(t) = \sin t$
  - $x(t) = t$  and  $y(t) = t^3$
  - $x(t) = 1 + 2 \sin t$  and  $y(t) = 3 - 2 \cos t$
- Parameterizing standard curves.* Write down parametric equations for each of the following curves in the plane.
  - The line passing through  $(3, 2)$  and  $(6, 7)$
  - The circle with center  $(-2, 3)$  and radius 4
  - The ray emanating from  $(0, 1)$  passing through  $(-4, -4)$
- Plane polar coordinates.* Make each of the following conversions.
  - Polar  $(3, 0)$  to cartesian (rectangular,  $(x, y)$ )
  - Polar  $(2, 2\pi/3)$  to cartesian
  - Cartesian  $(-4, 0)$  to polar
  - Cartesian  $(1, 1)$  to polar
- Lines and circles.* Graph each of the following and write down equivalent equations using cartesian coordinates  $(x$  and  $y)$ .
  - $r = 5$
  - $\theta = \arctan(1/4)$ , where  $r$  is allowed to be any real number
  - $r = -2 \sin \theta$
  - $r = 2 \cos \theta + 4 \sin \theta$
  - $r = \frac{7}{3 \cos \theta - 2 \sin \theta}$
- Limaçons and roses.* Match each equation with its corresponding graph. (Not every graph has a corresponding equation.)

Equation	Graph
$r = 1 + 3 \cos \theta$	Limaçon with indentation
$r = 3 + 3 \cos \theta$	Rose with 3 petals
$r = 5 + 3 \cos \theta$	Limaçon with inner loop
$r = 7 + 3 \cos \theta$	Convex limaçon
$r = \cos \theta$	Rose with 4 petals
$r = \cos(2\theta)$	Circle
$r = \cos(3\theta)$	Rose with 2 petals
	Rose with 6 petals
	Cardioid (limaçon with cusp)

6. *Arc length parameterization.* An *arc length parameterization* of a curve in the plane is a parameterization  $(x(s), y(s))$  with the property that whenever a particle moves along the curve from  $s = s_1$  to  $s = s_2$ , where  $s_1 < s_2$ , the distance it travels is  $s_2 - s_1$ .
- (a) Prove that  $x(s) = 1 + \frac{3}{5}s$  and  $y(s) = 1 + \frac{4}{5}s$  is an arc length parameterization for the line passing through  $(1, 1)$  and  $(4, 5)$ .
  - (b) Find an arc length parameterization for the circle centered at  $(1, -1)$  with radius 2 that traverses the circle clockwise starting at  $(3, -1)$  when  $s = 0$ .
7. *Roulettes.* Let  $P$  be a point on a circle of radius 1. Parameterize the path traced by  $P$  as the circle rolls along each of the following, assuming that  $P$  is at the point of contact at time  $t = 0$ . (You are free to choose exactly where the initial point of contact is.)
- (a) *Cycloid.* Rolling on top of the  $x$ -axis
  - (b) *Cardioid.* Rolling on the outside of a circle of radius 1
  - (c) *Nephroid.* Rolling on the outside of a circle of radius 2
  - (d) *Deltoid.* Rolling on the inside of a circle of radius 3
  - (e) *Astroid.* Rolling on the inside of a circle of radius 4

*Remark:* The cardioid and nephroid are examples of *epicycloids* while the deltoid and astroid are examples of *hypocycloids*.

## 4.2 Challenge problems

8. Let  $e > 0$  and  $\ell > 0$  be given. The conic section with eccentricity  $e$  whose focus is the point  $F = (0, 0)$  and whose directrix is the line  $x = -\ell$  is the set of all points satisfying

$$\frac{\text{distance from } P \text{ to } F}{\text{distance from } P \text{ to the directrix}} = e.$$

Note that when  $e = 1$ , this matches the usual focus-directrix definition of the parabola.

- (a) Show that the above curve has polar equation

$$r = \frac{e\ell}{1 - e \cos \theta}.$$

- (b) Show that when  $0 < e < 1$ , the conic is an ellipse. What is the other focus of the ellipse?
- (c) Show that when  $e > 1$ , the conic is a hyperbola. In terms of  $e$  and/or  $\ell$ , what are the slopes of the asymptotes?
- (d) Convert the polar equation to cartesian form.
- (e) Suppose the conic passes through  $(-p, 0)$ , where  $p > 0$ . Express  $\ell$  in terms of  $e$  and  $p$ .
- (f) Holding  $p$  fixed, what happens to the conic and the directrix as  $e$  approaches 0?

9. Parameterization works for curves in three dimensions as well.

(a) Graph the line  $x(t) = t$ ;  $y(t) = 1 + 2t$ ;  $z(t) = 2 + t$ .

(b) Graph the *helix*  $x(t) = \cos t$ ;  $y(t) = \sin t$ ;  $z(t) = t$ .

(c) Find the intersection point (if it exists) of the lines

$$x_1(t) = 2 - t; \quad y_1(t) = 2 + t; \quad z_1(t) = 3t$$

and

$$x_2(t) = -1 + t; \quad y_2(t) = 7 - 2t; \quad z_2(t) = 2 + t.$$

10. By using two parameters, we can describe surfaces in three dimensions. For each pair of values  $(u, v)$ , we get a corresponding point on the surface.

(a) Graph the plane  $x(u, v) = u + v$ ,  $y(u, v) = u - v$ , and  $z(u, v) = 1 + 4u + 6v$ . Write down an equation for this plane using only  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$ .

(b) Graph the (infinite) cylinder  $x(u, v) = 2 \cos u$ ,  $y(u, v) = 2 \sin u$ , and  $z(u, v) = v$ .

(c) Assuming the Earth is a perfect sphere of radius  $R$  centered at the origin with the prime meridian and equator intersecting at  $(R, 0, 0)$ , let  $\phi$  denote latitude, ranging from  $-90^\circ$  at the south pole to  $90^\circ$  at the north pole, and let  $\theta$  denote longitude, increasing from  $-180^\circ$  to  $180^\circ$  moving eastward with the prime meridian at  $\theta = 0^\circ$ . Parameterize points on the surface of the Earth using  $\theta$  and  $\phi$ .