for independence
for confidence
for creativity
for insight

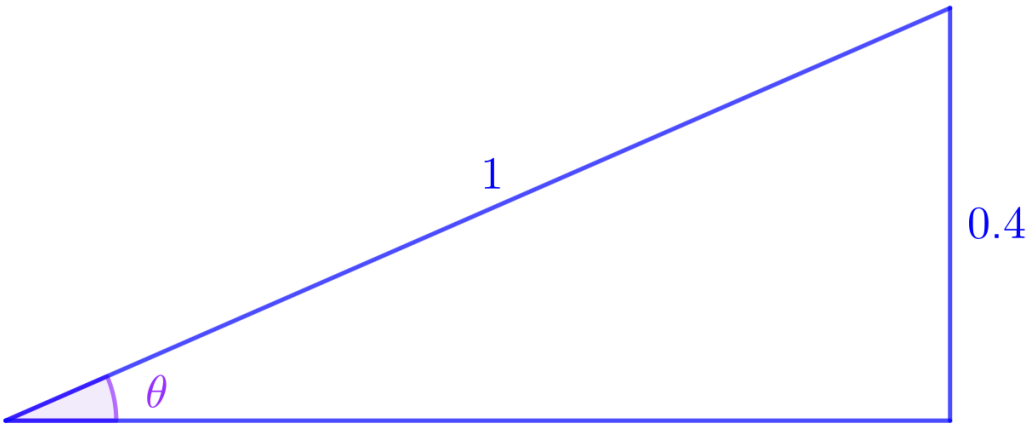
Circular functions 2

Solving circular functions equations: equations involving sin, cos, and tan

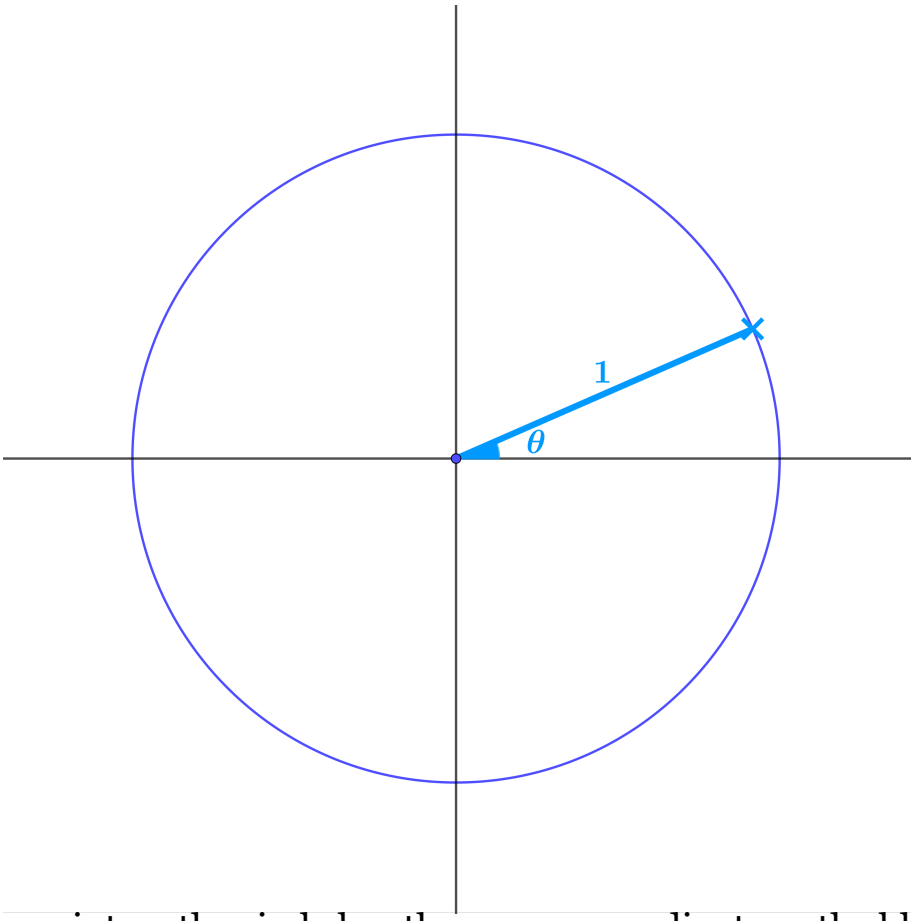
student version

Solving equations with circular functions

Use your calculator to find the angle θ.

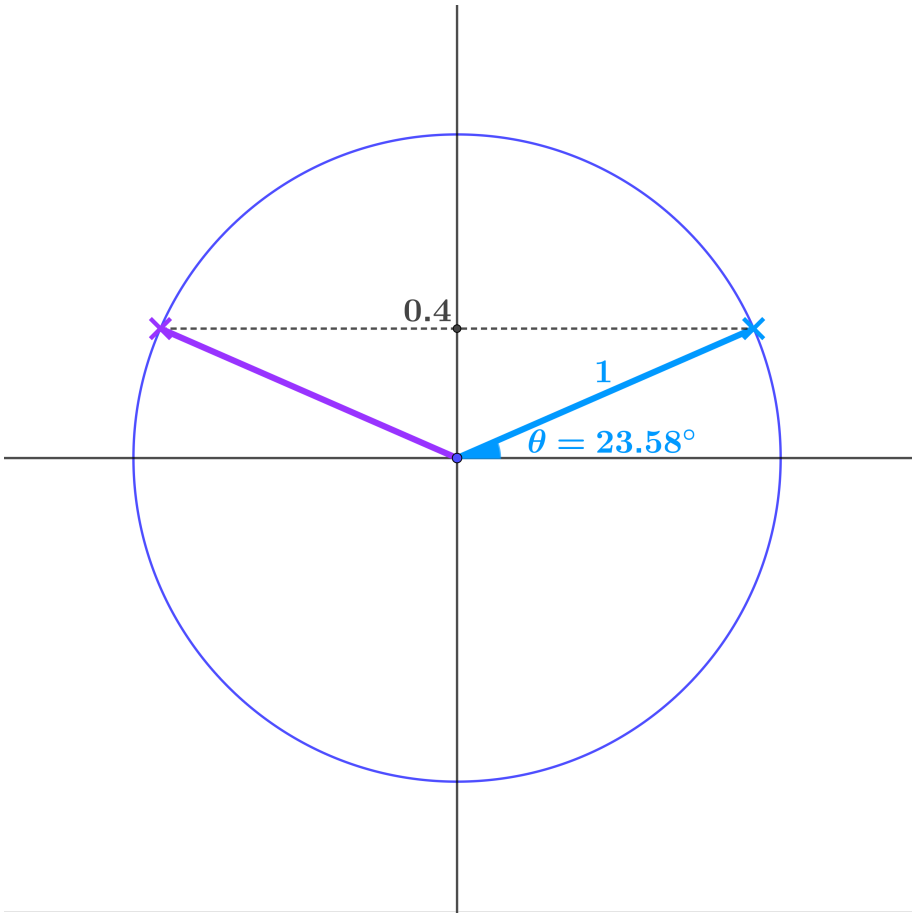


If the y coordinate of the blue point is 0.4, find the angle θ.

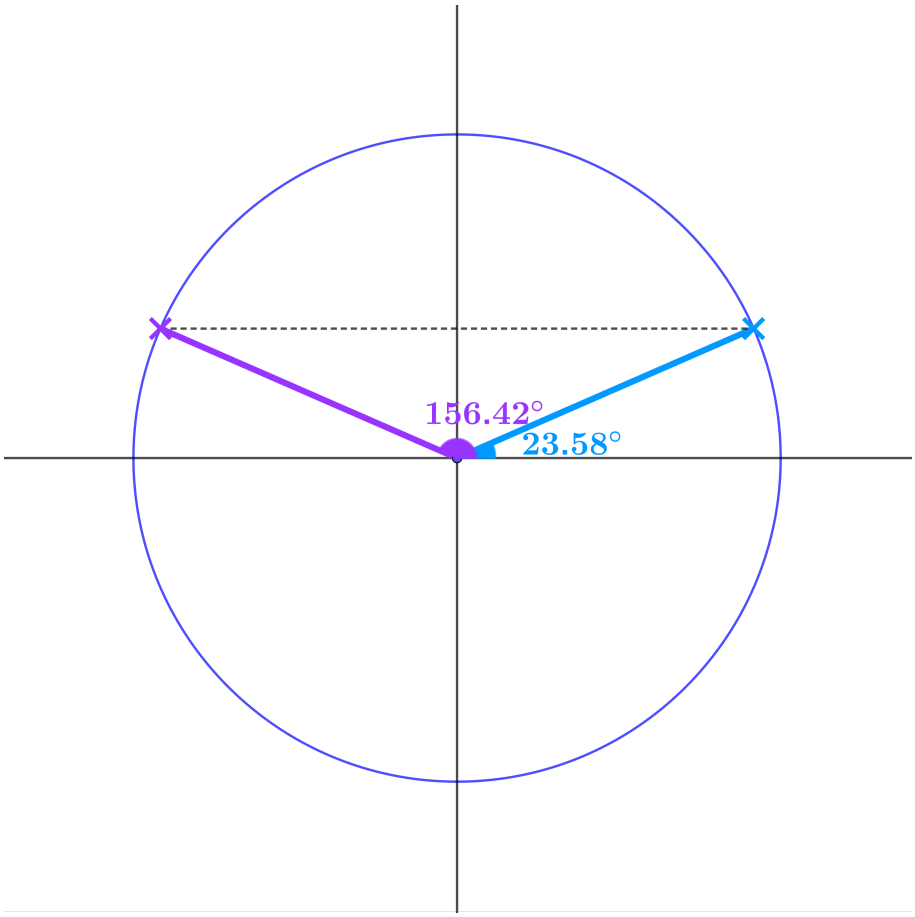


What other point on the circle has the same y coordinate as the blue point?

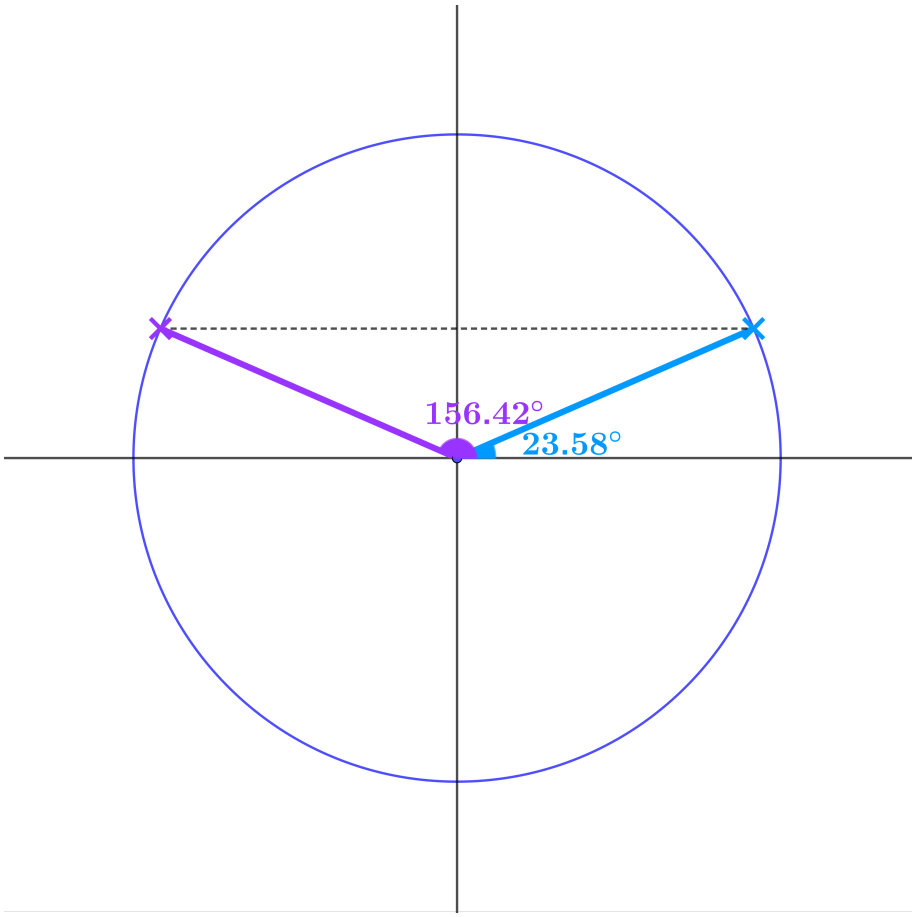
What other positive angle between $0°$ and $360°$ is a solution of $\sin\theta = 0.4$?



What negative angles between -360° and 0° are solutions of $\sin\theta = 0.4$?



Solve the equation $\sin\theta = 0.4$



If α is any solution of the equation $\sin\theta = k$, which of the following are also solutions of the equation:

$180 - \alpha$

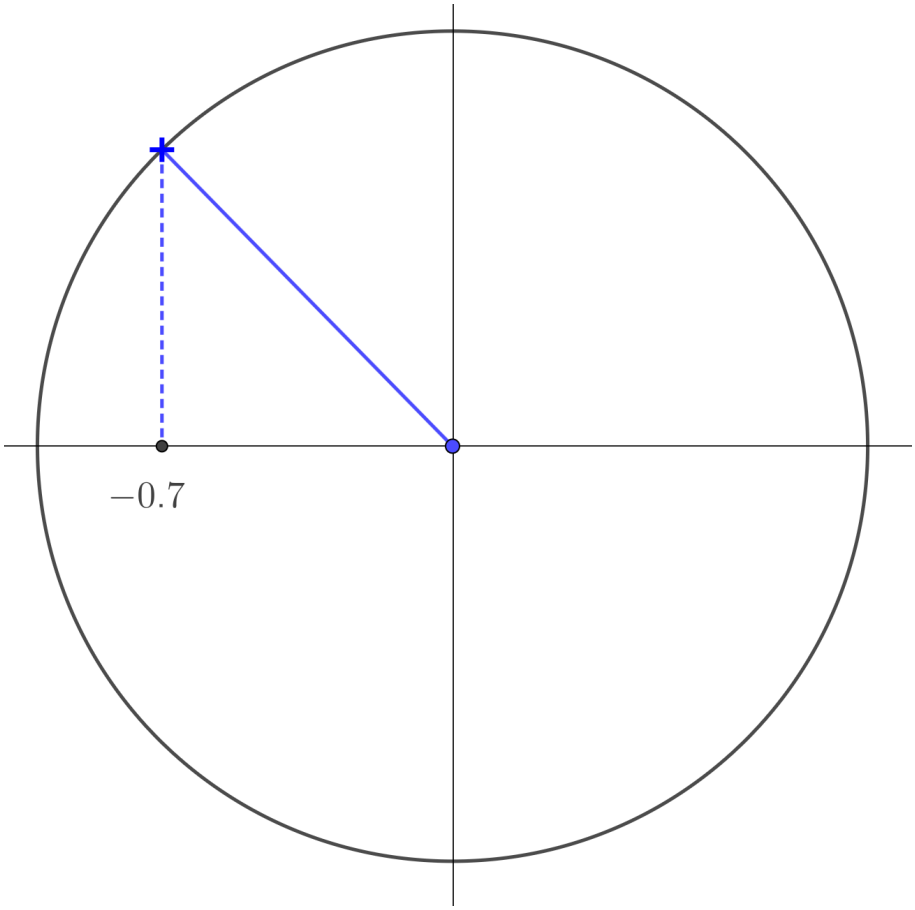
$180 + \alpha$

$-\alpha$

$\alpha + 360$

$\alpha - 360$

Adapt the previous method to solve the equation $\cos\theta = -0.7$.



If α is any solution of the equation $\cos\theta = k$, which of the following are also solutions of the equation:

$180 - \alpha$

$180 + \alpha$

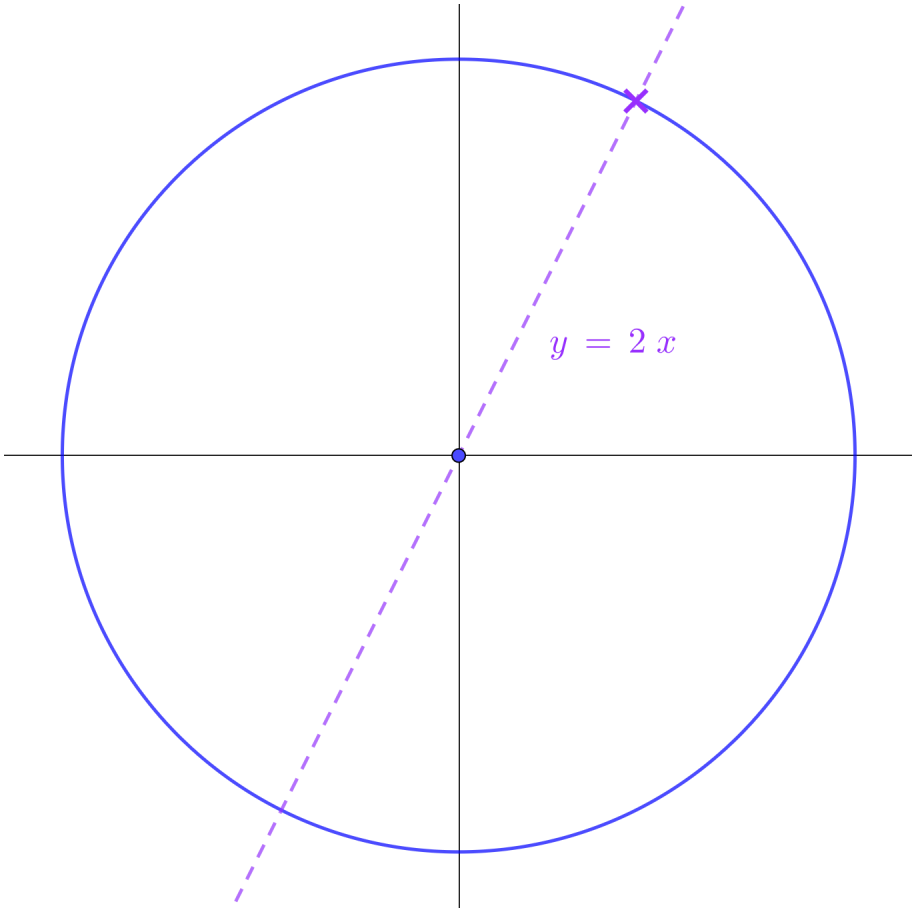
$-\alpha$

$\alpha + 360$

$\alpha - 360$

Use this diagram and a calculator to solve the equation

$$\tan\theta = 2$$



If α is any solution of the equation $\tan\theta = k$, which of the following are also solutions of the equation:

$180 - \alpha$

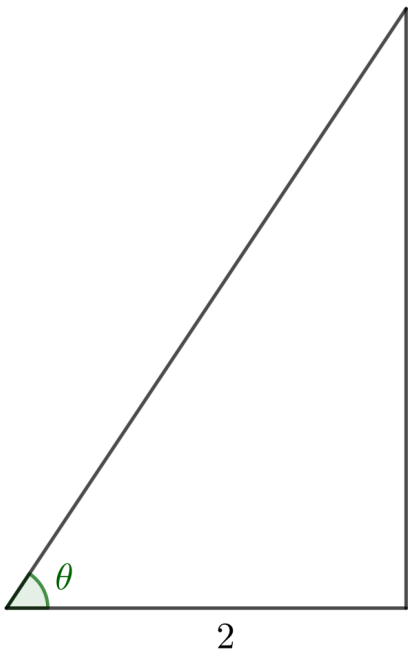
$180 + \alpha$

$-\alpha$

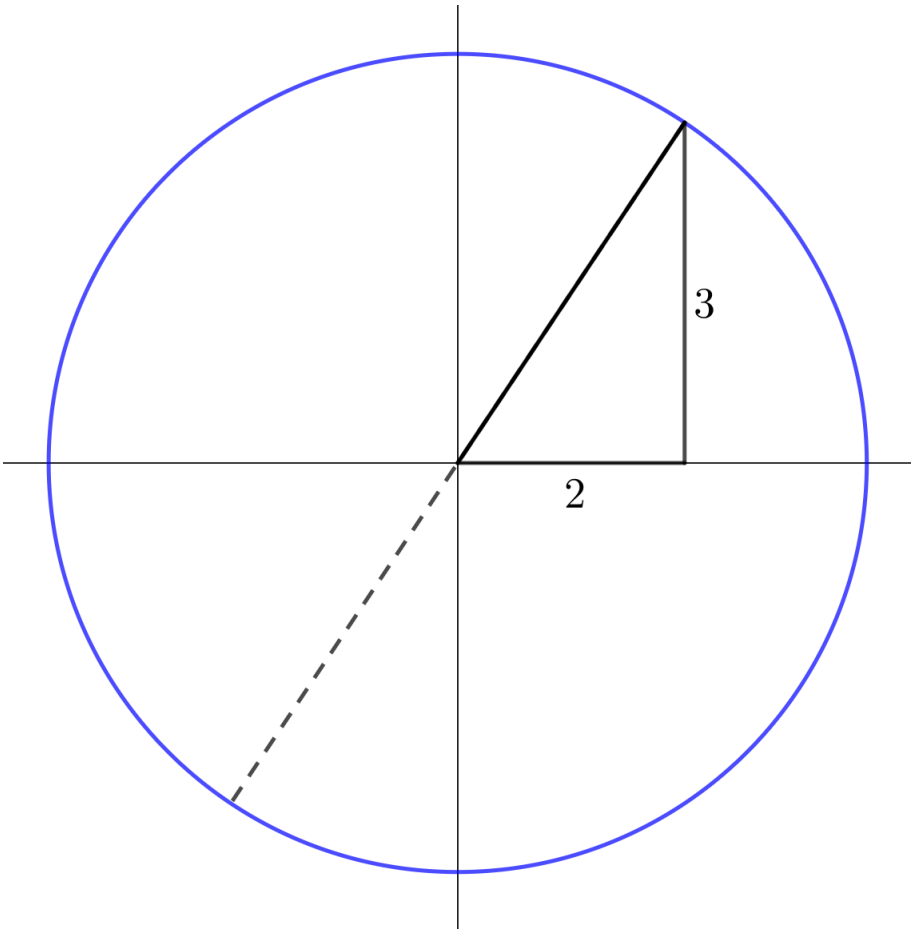
$\alpha + 360$

$\alpha - 360$

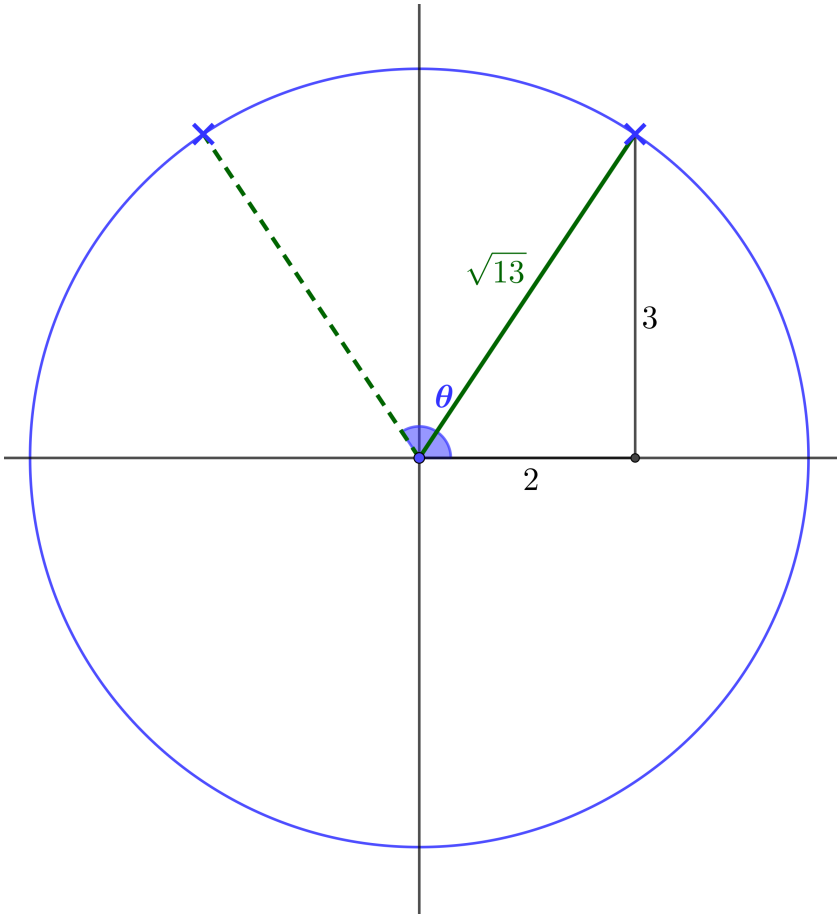
If $\tan\theta = \frac{3}{2}$, find $\sin\theta$ and $\cos\theta$.



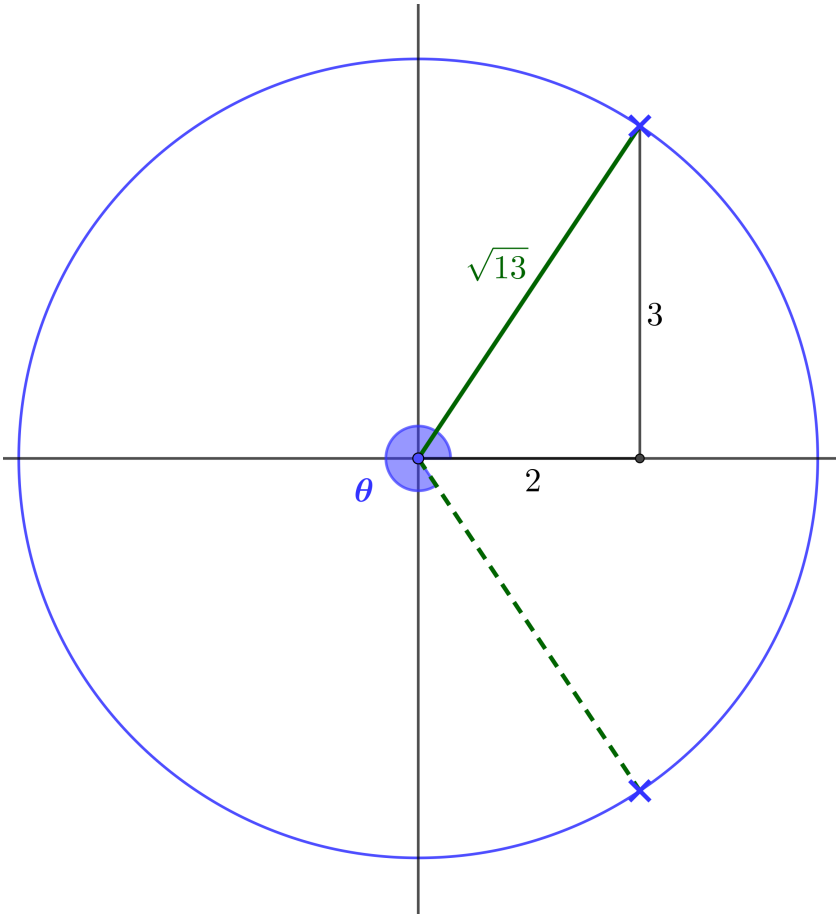
If $\tan\theta = \frac{3}{2}$, and θ is reflex, find $\sin\theta$ and $\cos\theta$.



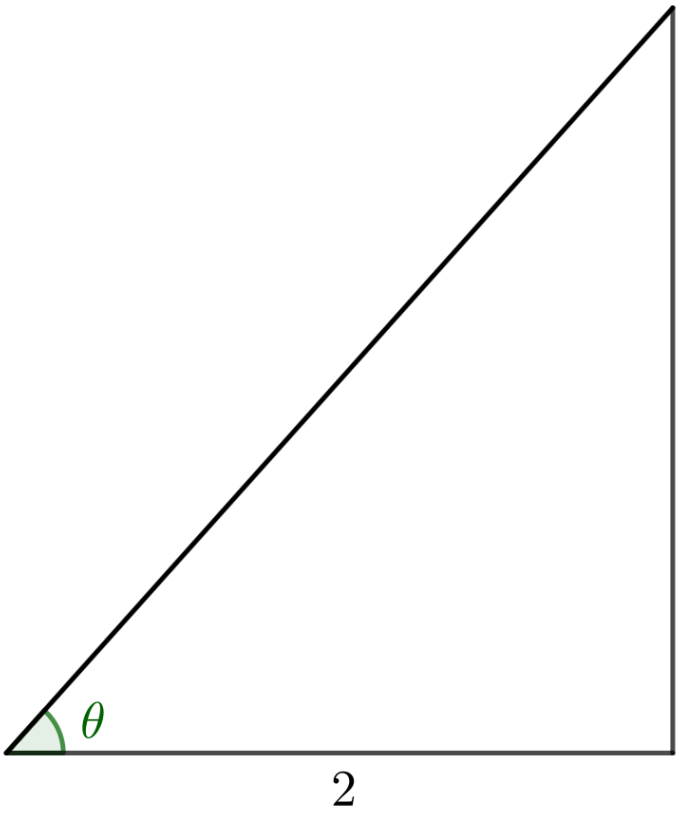
If $\tan\theta = -\frac{3}{2}$, and θ is obtuse, find $\sin\theta$ and $\cos\theta$.



If $\tan\theta = -\frac{3}{2}$, and θ is reflex, find $\sin\theta$ and $\cos\theta$.



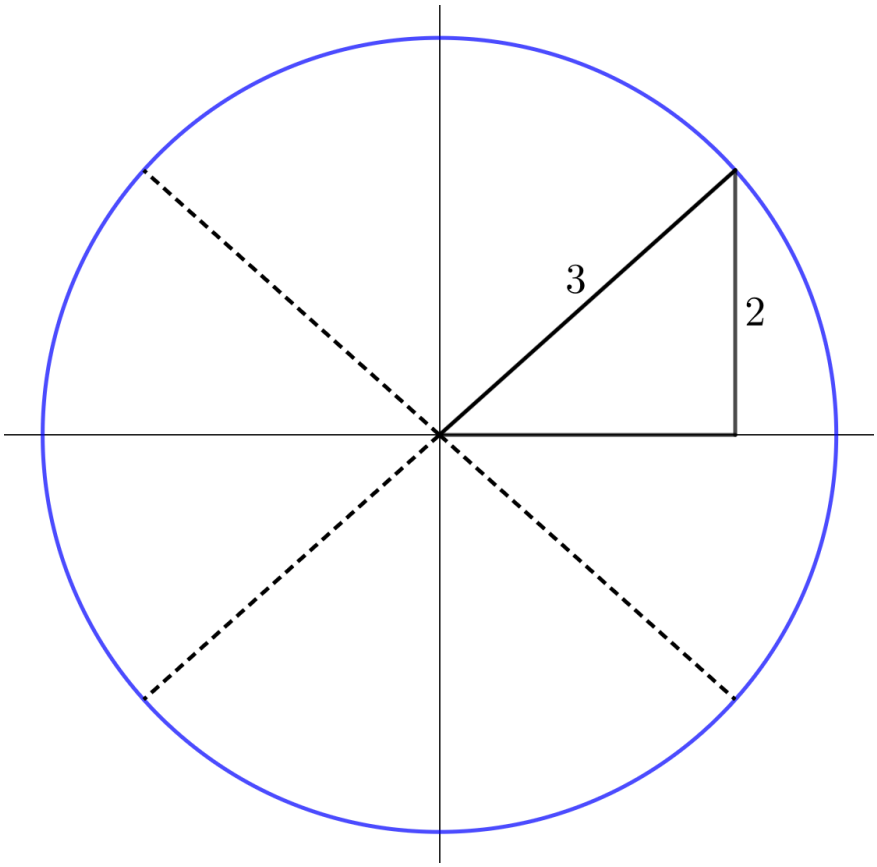
If $\cos\theta = \frac{2}{3}$, find $\tan\theta$ and $\sin\theta$.



Find $\tan\theta$ and $\sin\theta$ when:

$\cos\theta = \frac{2}{3}$, and θ is between 270° and 360°

$\cos\theta = -\frac{2}{3}$, and θ is between 180° and 270°

$\cos\theta = -\frac{2}{3}$, and θ is obtuse.

Find $\tan\theta$ and $\cos\theta$ when $\sin\theta = \pm\dfrac{2}{3}$ for the various possible values of θ.