

# Trigonometric Functions on the Perimeter of any Regular Polygon

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# 1 Introduction

This paper derives and proves a set of functions that serve to find the point of intersection between an angle in standard position and an n-sided regular polygon through only algebra. Through these, the standard equation for any regular polygon can be derived.

## 2 Theroems

**Theorem 1.1**  $\arccos(\cos(ax))$  is periodic over  $\frac{2\pi}{a*n}$ .

$\cos(ax)$  is periodic over  $\frac{2\pi}{a*n}$  thus  $\arccos(\cos(ax))$  must also be.

**Theorem 1.2** For  $x \in \mathbb{R}$   $\arccos(\cos(ax)) \in [0, \pi]$ .

$\cos(x)$  has a domain over  $\mathbb{R}$  and a range of  $[-1, 1]$ ,  $\arccos(x)$  has a domain over  $[-1, 1]$  and a range of  $[0, \pi]$ . Due to the range of  $\cos$  being the domain of  $\arccos$ , all real numbers can be an input of  $\cos$ , and all numbers on the interval  $[-1, 1]$  can be an output.

**Theorem 1.3**  $\cos(n(a + \frac{2\pi}{n})) = \cos(na)$

$\cos(n(a + \frac{2\pi}{n}))$  expands to  $\cos(na + 2\pi)$  which due to cosine's periodic nature evaluates to  $\cos(na)$

**Theorem 2.1**  $\sin(\alpha) - \sin(\beta) = 2 \sin(\frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}) \cos(\frac{\alpha-\beta}{2})$

**Theorem 2.2**  $\cos(\alpha) - \cos(\beta) = -2 \sin(\frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}) \sin(\frac{\alpha-\beta}{2})$

## 3 Trigonometric Equations

Let  $n = \{x : x \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \text{ and } x \geq 3\}$

$$\begin{aligned} d_n(\theta) &= \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{n}\right) \sec\left(\frac{\pi - \arccos(\cos(n\theta))}{n}\right) \\ \cos_n(\theta) &= d_n(\theta) \cos(\theta) \\ \sin_n(\theta) &= d_n(\theta) \sin(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

This is derived through the original functions:

$$\begin{aligned} h_n(\theta) &= \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{n} + (\theta \bmod \frac{2\pi}{n})\right) - \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{n}\right) \\ d_n(\theta) &= \frac{h_n(\theta)}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{n} + (\theta \bmod \frac{2\pi}{n})\right)} \\ \cos_n(\theta) &= (1 - d_n(\theta)) \cos(\theta) \\ \sin_n(\theta) &= (1 - d_n(\theta)) \sin(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

These functions follow the premise that any n-sided regular polygon (shape  $s_n$ ) centered at (0,0) can be circumscribed within a circle where each vertex touches the circumference of the circumcircle.

Arc  $a_n$  can be constructed which is  $\frac{1}{n^{\text{th}}}$  of a circle, its diameter will be the same length as any line which constructs  $s_n$ , and it's circumference will equal to the circumference of the section of the circumcircle spanning from adjacent vertices on  $s_n$ .

Thus, the height of  $a_n$  at a given point on a circle subtracted from the radius of the circle will result in the distance from the midpoint of  $s_n$  to the point on the perimeter of  $s_n$  which intersects the ray of angle  $\theta$  drawn in standard position.

$h_n(\theta)$  serves to find the height of  $a_n$  at a position by splitting the circumcircle into  $n^{\text{th}}$  (resulting in a period of  $\frac{2\pi}{n}$ ), finding the height of a point on  $a_n$  through sin and changing from the "left" vertex to the "right" vertex over the period of  $a_n$ . The use of mod makes the function repeat over each period. It then subtracts by the height of the "right" vertex to equal 0 when  $\theta = 0$

$d_n(\theta)$  divides the height ( $h_n(\theta)$ ) by the angle between the assumed intersection point on  $s_n$  and the intersection point on the circumcircle to get the actual distance.

These functions then simplify to:

$$\begin{aligned} d_n(\theta) &= \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{n}\right) \sec\left(\frac{\pi}{n} - (\theta \bmod \frac{2\pi}{n})\right) \\ \cos_n(\theta) &= d_n(\theta) \cos(\theta) \\ \sin_n(\theta) &= d_n(\theta) \sin(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

Which is not algebraic due to mod (and the resultant floor function behind it), yet it can be noted that due to the nature of the original  $h_n(\theta)$ ,  $\theta \bmod \frac{2\pi}{n}$  can be substituted for an equivalent function which has an equal period of  $\frac{2\pi}{n}$ , increases linearly over  $[0, \frac{2\pi}{n}]$  to  $[0, \frac{\pi}{n}]$  and decreases linearly at the same rate from  $[\frac{\pi}{n}, \frac{2\pi}{n}]$ .

These requirements can be met by  $\frac{\arccos(\cos(n\theta))}{n}$ , which due to **Theorem 1.1** is periodic over  $\frac{2\pi}{n}$  and due to **Theorem 1.2** has a domain of  $n\theta \in \mathbb{R}$  and a range of  $[0, \frac{\pi}{n}]$  thus changing the above equations to:

$$\begin{aligned} d_n(\theta) &= \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{n}\right) \sec\left(\frac{\pi - \arccos(\cos(n\theta))}{n}\right) \\ \cos_n(\theta) &= d_n(\theta) \cos(\theta) \\ \sin_n(\theta) &= d_n(\theta) \sin(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

### 3.1 Identities

#### Identity 1.1

$$\begin{aligned}\cos_n(\theta + \frac{2\pi}{n}) &= d_n(\theta) \cos(\theta + \frac{2\pi}{n}) \\ \sin_n(\theta + \frac{2\pi}{n}) &= d_n(\theta) \sin(\theta + \frac{2\pi}{n})\end{aligned}$$

This identity is true due to **Theorem 1.3**

**Identity 1.2** When  $0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{2\pi}{n}$  then  $d_n(\theta) = \cos(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sec(\frac{\pi}{n} - \theta)$

When  $\theta$  only spans one period,  $\frac{\arccos(\cos(n\theta))}{n}$  is not required to make the function periodic.

**Identity 1.3** Let  $i = \mathbb{Z}$  then:

$$\begin{aligned}\cos_n(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) &= (1) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) = \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \\ \sin_n(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) &= (1) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) = \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n})\end{aligned}$$

This is true because  $\arccos(\cos(n\theta))$  evaluates to 0 whenever  $\theta = i \frac{2\pi}{n}$ , which means  $\sec(\frac{\pi}{n} - \frac{\arccos(\cos(n\theta))}{n})$  simplifies to  $\sec(\frac{\pi}{n})$  which means  $d_n = \sec(\frac{\pi}{n}) \cos(\frac{\pi}{n}) = 1$

## 4 Proof

Let  $i = \mathbb{Z}$ . Assume  $s_n$  is made of  $n$  vertices and  $n$  line segments with the  $i^{\text{th}}$  vertex at the point  $(\cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}), \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}))$ . The  $i^{\text{th}}$  line segment,  $L_i$ , spans between  $v_i$  and  $v_{i+1}$  and is represented by the equation

$$L_i = \frac{\sin((i+1) \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n})}{\cos((i+1) \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})} x + \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \frac{\sin((i+1) \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n})}{\cos((i+1) \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})} \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})$$

which due to **Theorem 2.1** and **Theorem 2.2** simplifies to

$$L_i = -\cot((2i+1) \frac{\pi}{n}) x + \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) + \cot((2i+1) \frac{\pi}{n}) x$$

Let  $0 \leq a < b \leq \frac{2\pi}{n}$ , a "modified" line can be drawn with the equation  $\sin_n(\theta)$  and  $\cos_n(\theta)$  which would be written as

$$y_m = \frac{\sin_n(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \sin_n(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})}{\cos_n(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \cos_n(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})} x + \sin_n(a) - \frac{\sin_n(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \sin_n(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})}{\cos_n(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \cos_n(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})} \cos_n(a)$$

the slope of  $y_m$  can be simplified through these steps:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{d_n(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \sin(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - d_n(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \sin(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})}{d_n(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \cos(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - d_n(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \cos(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})} \\
& \frac{\cancel{\cos(\frac{\pi}{n})} \sec(\frac{\pi}{n} - b) \sin(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \sec(\frac{\pi}{n} - a) \sin(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})}{\cancel{\cos(\frac{\pi}{n})} \sec(\frac{\pi}{n} - b) \cos(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \sec(\frac{\pi}{n} - a) \cos(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})} * \frac{\cos(\frac{\pi}{n} - a) \cos(\frac{\pi}{n} - b)}{\cos(\frac{\pi}{n} - a) \cos(\frac{\pi}{n} - b)} \\
& \frac{\sin(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \cos(\frac{\pi}{n} - a) - \sin(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \cos(\frac{\pi}{n} - b)}{\cos(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \cos(\frac{\pi}{n} - a) - \cos(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \cos(\frac{\pi}{n} - b)} \\
& \frac{\sin(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(\frac{\pi}{n}) \cos(a) + \sin(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(a)) - \sin(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(\frac{\pi}{n}) \cos(b) + \sin(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(b))}{\cos(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(\frac{\pi}{n}) \cos(a) + \sin(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(a)) - \cos(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(\frac{\pi}{n}) \cos(b) + \sin(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(b))} * \frac{\sec(\frac{\pi}{n})}{\sec(\frac{\pi}{n})} \\
& \frac{\sin(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(a) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(a)) - \sin(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(b) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(b))}{\cos(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(a) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(a)) - \cos(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(b) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(b))} \quad (3.1)
\end{aligned}$$

Splitting the equation up the numerator simplifies like so:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sin(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(a) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(a)) - \sin(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(b) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(b)) \\
& (\sin(b) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) + \cos(b) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}))(\cos(a) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(a)) - \dots \\
& \dots (\sin(a) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) + \cos(a) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}))(\cos(b) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(b)) \\
& \cos(a) \sin(b) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) + \cancel{\sin(a) \sin(b) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n})} + \cancel{\cos(a) \cos(b) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n})} + \dots \\
& \dots \sin(a) \cos(b) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) - \sin(a) \cos(b) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \cancel{\sin(a) \sin(b) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n})} - \dots \\
& \dots \cancel{\cos(a) \cos(b) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n})} - \cos(a) \sin(b) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \\
& \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(a) \sin(b) - \sin(a) \cos(b)) + \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n})(\sin(a) \cos(b) - \cos(a) \sin(b)) \\
& \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n})(\sin(a) \cos(b) - \cos(a) \sin(b)) - \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\sin(a) \cos(b) - \cos(a) \sin(b)) \\
& (\sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) - \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}))(\sin(a) \cos(b) - \cos(a) \sin(b))
\end{aligned}$$

$$(\sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) - \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})) \sin(a - b)$$

and the denominator simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned} & \cos(b + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(a) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(a)) - \cos(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\cos(b) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(b)) \\ & (\cos(b) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \sin(b) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}))(\cos(a) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(a)) - \dots \\ & \dots (\cos(a) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \sin(a) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}))(\cos(b) + \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(b)) \\ & \cancel{\cos(a) \cos(b) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})} + \sin(a) \cos(b) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) - \cos(a) \sin(b) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) - \dots \\ & \dots \cancel{\sin(a) \sin(b) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n})} - \cancel{\cos(a) \cos(b) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})} - \cos(a) \sin(b) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) + \dots \\ & \dots \sin(a) \cos(b) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) + \cancel{\sin(a) \sin(b) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n})} \\ & (\cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}))(\sin(a) \cos(b) - \cos(a) \sin(b)) + \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n})(\sin(a) \cos(b) - \cos(a) \sin(b)) \\ & (\cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) + \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}))(\sin(a) \cos(b) - \cos(a) \sin(b)) \\ & (\cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) + \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n})) \sin(a - b) \end{aligned}$$

meaning that we can now simplify the original fraction (denoted **3.1**) to become:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(\sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) - \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})) \sin(a - b)}{(\cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) + \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n})) \sin(a - b)} \\ & \frac{\sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) - \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})}{\cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \tan(\frac{\pi}{n}) + \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n})} * \frac{\cos(\frac{\pi}{n})}{\cos(\frac{\pi}{n})} \\ & \frac{\sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \sin(\frac{\pi}{n}) - \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \cos(\frac{\pi}{n})}{\cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \sin(\frac{\pi}{n}) + \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \cos(\frac{\pi}{n})} \\ & \frac{-(\cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \cos(\frac{\pi}{n}) - \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) \sin(\frac{\pi}{n}))}{\sin(\frac{\pi}{n}) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) + \cos(\frac{\pi}{n}) \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n})} \\ & \frac{-\cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n} + \frac{\pi}{n})}{\sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n} + \frac{\pi}{n})} \\ & -\cot(i \frac{2\pi}{n} + \frac{\pi}{n}) \end{aligned}$$

$$- \cot((2i+1) \frac{\pi}{n})$$

meaning that the equation of the "modified" line becomes:

$$y_m = - \cot((2i+1) \frac{\pi}{n})x + \sin_n(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) + \cot((2i+1) \frac{\pi}{n}) \cos_n(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n})$$

This leads to the conclusion that when  $0 \leq a < b \leq \frac{2\pi}{n}$  the slopes of  $y_m$  and  $y$  are equal. This leads to the fact that if  $a = 0$ , due to **Identity 1.3**, then for any applicable value of  $b$   $y_m$  becomes:

$$y_m = - \cot((2i+1) \frac{\pi}{n})x + \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n}) + \cot((2i+1) \frac{\pi}{n}) \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})$$

Meaning that  $y_m = L_i$  when  $a = 0$  and due to **Identity 1.3**  $\sin_n(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) = \sin(i \frac{2\pi}{n})$  and  $\cos_n(a + i \frac{2\pi}{n}) = \cos(i \frac{2\pi}{n})$  thus the point at point  $p_a$  (located at  $(\cos_n(a), \sin_n(a))$ ) is equal to point  $v_i$ .

Because  $y_m = L_i$ , point  $p_b$  (located at  $(\cos_n(b), \sin_n(b))$ ) is always on line segment  $L_i$ , thus when  $a \neq 0$ ,  $p_a$  must also always be on line segment  $L_i$ .

This means that for any value  $x$  where  $0 \leq x \leq \frac{2\pi}{n}$ , the point  $p_x$  (found at  $(\cos_n(x + i \frac{2\pi}{n}), \sin_n(x + i \frac{2\pi}{n}))$ ) falls on line  $L_i$  of shape  $s_n$ , and since  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ , any point  $p_\theta$  (found at  $(\cos_n(\theta), \sin_n(\theta))$ ) will always be located on the perimeter of shape  $s_n$ .

## 5 Shape Equations

From these formulas, the equation for any regular polygon can be derived. The equation is found through a mutation of the ellipse equation by  $d_n(\theta)$ :

$$\frac{(x-h)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(y-k)^2}{b^2} = d_n^2(\theta) * 1$$

To derive theta, one would start with the assumption that  $\theta = \arctan(\frac{(y-k)a}{(x-h)b})$ , which would find the angle at the correct point offset from the center, but, due to the left side of the equation involving  $x^2$ , the shape is mirrored over  $x = h$ , which works perfectly for even sided polygons as they are symmetric over  $x = h$ . Yet, odd-sided polygons do not work due to their anti-symmetry over  $x = h$ . This can be fixed by firstly noting that the angle is calculated correctly in Quadrants I and IV, and  $\pi$  radians off from the expected angle in Quadrants II and III. Thus when  $x < h$ ,  $\pi$  must be added to  $\theta$ . Using the sign function, which is defined as

$$\text{sgn}(x) = \frac{x}{|x|} = \frac{|x|}{x}$$



and modifying sgn to equal 1 when  $x < h$  and 0 when  $x \geq h$  results in the formula:

$$-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-h}{|x-h|}-1\right)$$

which when multiplied by  $\pi$  and added to  $\theta$ ,  $\theta$  becomes equal to:

$$\arctan\left(\frac{(y-k)a}{(x-h)b}\right) - \frac{\pi}{2}\left(\frac{x-h}{|x-h|}-1\right)$$

meaning that the standard equation, with the above equation substituted for  $\theta$  becomes:

$$\frac{(x-h)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(y-k)^2}{b^2} = d_n^2\left(\arctan\left(\frac{(y-k)a}{(x-h)b}\right) - \frac{\pi}{2}\left(\frac{x-h}{|x-h|}-1\right)\right)$$

Interestingly, due to the existence of  $\theta$  inside this equation, a constant value can be added to it to make any shape rotate, allowing for quick and efficient rotation calculations.