

Trigonometric Identities

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Definition

The *wrapping function* $P : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is defined to be the point $P(\theta)$ on the unit circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ obtained by moving counterclockwise along the circle an arclength of θ . Then

$$\sin \theta = \text{the } y\text{-coordinate of } P(\theta) \quad \text{and} \quad \cos \theta = \text{the } x\text{-coordinate of } P(\theta).$$

Identities that come from Geometry

(1) Pythagorean Identity

$$\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta = 1$$

(2) Symmetry

$$\sin(-\theta) = -\sin \theta$$

$$\cos(-\theta) = \cos \theta$$

(3) Periodicity

$$\sin(\theta + 2\pi) = \sin \theta$$

$$\cos(\theta + 2\pi) = \cos \theta$$

(4) Rotation by 180°

$$\sin(\theta + \pi) = -\sin \theta$$

$$\cos(\theta + \pi) = -\cos \theta$$

(5) Rotation by 90°

$$\sin\left(\theta + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \cos \theta$$

$$\cos\left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \sin \theta$$

(6) Reflection across 45°

$$\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta\right) = \cos \theta$$

$$\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta\right) = \sin \theta$$

(7) Difference of Angles Formula

$$\cos(\alpha - \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta - \sin \alpha \sin \beta$$

Description	Identity
Pythagorean Identity	$\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta = 1$