Precalculus

The equation $\cos \theta = b$, special angles

Todor Miley

2019

Example

Find all solutions and then find those that lie between -180° and 180°.

$$\cos\theta = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$\theta = 45^{\circ} + k \cdot 360^{\circ} = \dots -675^{\circ}, -315^{\circ}, 45^{\circ}, 405^{\circ}, \dots$$
or
$$-45^{\circ} + k \cdot 360^{\circ} = \dots -765^{\circ}, -405^{\circ}, -45^{\circ}, 315^{\circ}, \dots$$

$$\theta = \frac{675^{\circ}, 315^{\circ}, 45^{\circ}, 405^{\circ}, \dots}{465^{\circ}, 405^{\circ}, 405^{\circ}, \dots}$$



