

Pre-Calculus 11

Chapter 3.8: Trigonometry Summary /

Created by Yi-Chen Lin

June 15, 2025

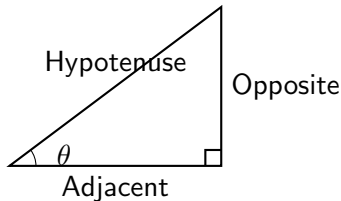
Topics Covered

- 3.1 Basic Trigonometric Functions
- 3.2 Angles in Standard Position
- 3.3 Special Triangles
- 3.4 Solving Angles in All Four Quadrants
- 3.5 Sine Law
- 3.6 Ambiguous Case of the Sine Law
- 3.7 Cosine Law

3.1 Basic Trigonometric Functions /

Key Points

- Sine, Cosine, Tangent: $\sin \theta$, $\cos \theta$, $\tan \theta$
- SOH-CAH-TOA: $\sin \theta = \frac{\text{Opp}}{\text{Hyp}}$, $\cos \theta = \frac{\text{Adj}}{\text{Hyp}}$, $\tan \theta = \frac{\text{Opp}}{\text{Adj}}$
- Pythagorean Theorem: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$



3.1 Practice Problems /

Practice

- 1 Find $\sin 30^\circ$, $\cos 60^\circ$, $\tan 45^\circ$.
- 2 In a right triangle, if $\theta = 37^\circ$ and hypotenuse = 10, find the length of the side opposite θ .
- 3 If $\sin \theta = 0.6$ and θ is acute, find $\cos \theta$.
- 4 Given a right triangle with legs 5 and 12, find all three basic trig ratios for the non-right angles.

3.1 Solutions /

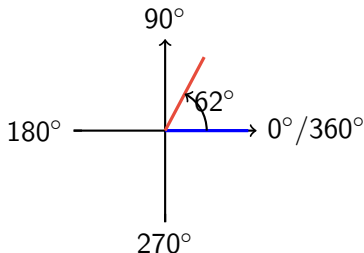
Solutions

- 1 $\sin 30^\circ = 0.5, \cos 60^\circ = 0.5, \tan 45^\circ = 1$
- 2 Opposite $= 10 \times \sin 37^\circ \approx 6.02$
- 3 $\cos \theta = \sqrt{1 - (0.6)^2} = 0.8$
- 4 Hypotenuse $= \sqrt{5^2 + 12^2} = 13; \sin = 5/13, \cos = 12/13, \tan = 5/12$

3.2 Angles in Standard Position /

Key Points

- Angles measured from the positive x -axis
- Quadrants I-IV
- Reference angle: always positive, between terminal arm and x -axis



3.2 Practice Problems /

Practice

- 1 Draw 120° in standard position and label the reference angle.
- 2 What is the reference angle for 210° ?
- 3 In which quadrant does -75° lie?
- 4 Find the reference angle for -135° .

3.2 Solutions /

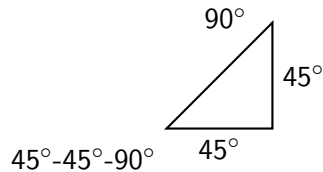
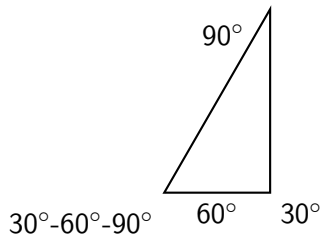
Solutions

- 1 Reference angle is $180^\circ - 120^\circ = 60^\circ$
- 2 210° is in QIII, reference angle $= 210^\circ - 180^\circ = 30^\circ$
- 3 -75° is in QIV
- 4 -135° is in QIII, reference angle $= 180^\circ - 135^\circ = 45^\circ$

3.3 Special Triangles /

Key Points

- 30° - 60° - 90° and 45° - 45° - 90° triangles
- Exact values for \sin , \cos , \tan of special angles



3.3 Practice Problems /

Practice

- 1 Find $\sin 60^\circ$ using a special triangle.
- 2 Find $\tan 30^\circ$ using a special triangle.
- 3 What are the side ratios for a 45° - 45° - 90° triangle?
- 4 Find $\cos 45^\circ$ using a special triangle.

3.3 Solutions /

Solutions

① $\sin 60^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

② $\tan 30^\circ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$

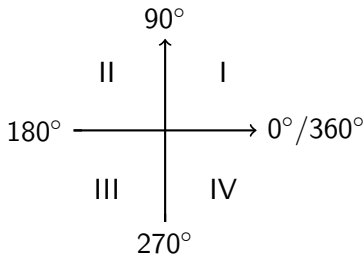
③ $1 : 1 : \sqrt{2}$

④ $\cos 45^\circ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$

3.4 Solving Angles in All Four Quadrants /

Key Points

- ASTC rule: All Students Take Calculus (signs of trig functions in each quadrant)
- Reference angle method for finding all solutions



3.4 Practice Problems /

Practice

- 1 Find all angles $0^\circ < \theta < 360^\circ$ where $\sin \theta = 0.5$.
- 2 Find all angles $0^\circ < \theta < 360^\circ$ where $\tan \theta = -1$.
- 3 In which quadrants is $\cos \theta$ negative?
- 4 Find all solutions for $\sin \theta = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ in $0^\circ < \theta < 360^\circ$.

3.4 Solutions /

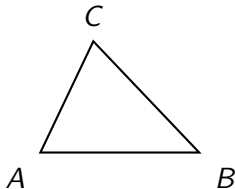
Solutions

- ① $\theta = 30^\circ, 150^\circ$
- ② $\theta = 135^\circ, 315^\circ$
- ③ QII and QIII
- ④ $225^\circ, 315^\circ$

3.5 Sine Law /

Key Points

- Sine Law: $\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$
- Use for non-right triangles when you have an angle and its opposite side



3.5 Practice Problems /

Practice

- 1 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 7$, $A = 40^\circ$, $B = 60^\circ$. Find b .
- 2 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 10$, $A = 30^\circ$, $c = 12$, $C = 80^\circ$. Find b .
- 3 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 8$, $A = 50^\circ$, $b = 10$. Find B .
- 4 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 9$, $A = 35^\circ$, $c = 11$. Find C .

3.5 Solutions /

Solutions

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} \Rightarrow b = \frac{7 \sin 60^\circ}{\sin 40^\circ} \approx 9.25$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{c}{\sin C} \Rightarrow b = \frac{a \sin B}{\sin A}, B = 180^\circ - A - C = 70^\circ, b = \frac{10 \sin 70^\circ}{\sin 30^\circ} \approx 18.79$$

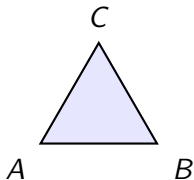
$$\textcircled{3} \quad \frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} \Rightarrow \sin B = \frac{b \sin A}{a} = \frac{10 \sin 50^\circ}{8} \approx 0.9589, B \approx 73.7^\circ$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad \frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{c}{\sin C} \Rightarrow \sin C = \frac{11 \sin 35^\circ}{9} \approx 0.7005, C \approx 44.4^\circ$$

3.6 Ambiguous Case of the Sine Law /

Key Points

- SSA case: two sides and a non-included angle
- May yield 0, 1, or 2 possible triangles
- Check for ambiguous case when using Sine Law



3.6 Practice Problems /

Practice

- 1 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 8$, $b = 10$, $A = 30^\circ$. How many possible triangles?
- 2 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 7$, $b = 12$, $A = 40^\circ$. Find all possible values for B .
- 3 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 9$, $b = 8$, $A = 50^\circ$. Find all possible values for B .
- 4 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 6$, $b = 5$, $A = 25^\circ$. How many possible triangles?

3.6 Solutions /

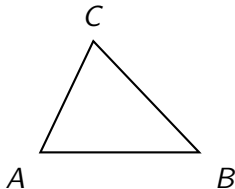
Solutions

- ① $a < b$, $a > b \sin A$ so 2 triangles possible
- ② $\sin B = \frac{12 \sin 40^\circ}{7} \approx 1.099$ (no triangle)
- ③ $\sin B = \frac{8 \sin 50^\circ}{9} \approx 0.682$, $B_1 = 43^\circ$, $B_2 = 137^\circ$
- ④ $\sin B = \frac{5 \sin 25^\circ}{6} \approx 0.352$, $B_1 = 20.6^\circ$, $B_2 = 159.4^\circ$

3.7 Cosine Law /

Key Points

- Cosine Law: $a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc \cos A$ (and cyclic)
- Use for non-right triangles with SAS or SSS



3.7 Practice Problems /

Practice

- 1 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 7$, $b = 8$, $C = 60^\circ$. Find c .
- 2 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 10$, $b = 12$, $c = 15$. Find A .
- 3 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 9$, $b = 11$, $C = 45^\circ$. Find c .
- 4 In $\triangle ABC$, $a = 5$, $b = 7$, $c = 8$. Find B .

3.7 Solutions /

Solutions

$$\textcircled{1} \quad c^2 = 7^2 + 8^2 - 2 \times 7 \times 8 \cos 60^\circ = 49 + 64 - 112 \times 0.5 = 113 - 56 = 57, \quad c = \sqrt{57} \approx 7.55$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad A = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{10^2 + 12^2 - 15^2}{2 \times 10 \times 12} \right) = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{100 + 144 - 225}{240} \right) = \cos^{-1}(-0.3375) \approx 110.7^\circ$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad c^2 = 9^2 + 11^2 - 2 \times 9 \times 11 \cos 45^\circ = 81 + 121 - 198 \times 0.7071 = 202 - 140 = 62, \quad c = \sqrt{62} \approx 7.87$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad B = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{5^2 + 8^2 - 7^2}{2 \times 5 \times 8} \right) = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{25 + 64 - 49}{80} \right) = \cos^{-1}(0.5) = 60^\circ$$

Comprehensive Review

- 1 Find $\sin 45^\circ$, $\cos 60^\circ$, $\tan 30^\circ$
- 2 Draw an angle of 120° in standard position and label the reference angle
- 3 Solve $\triangle ABC$ given $A = 40^\circ$, $a = 7$, $b = 10$
- 4 Use the Sine Law to find a missing side
- 5 Use the Cosine Law to find a missing angle
- 6 Explain the ambiguous case for Sine Law