Math 1210: Calculus I
Trigonometry Review

Department of Mathematics, University of Utah

Spring 2025

Accompanying text: Varberg, Purcell, and Rigdon 2007, Section 0.7

Trigonometry

Trigonometry is the mathematical study of angles and their relations to lengths of triangles.

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- We consider the unit circle in the plane.
- We know the circumference of this circle is 2π.
- Let t satisfy $0 \leqslant t \leqslant 2\pi$.
- We consider a point P on the unit circle that is a distance of t counterclockwise along the circle starting from the point $(1, 0)$.
- We'll also consider the (right) triangle whose vertices are the origin, P, and the projection of P onto the horizontal (x) axis.

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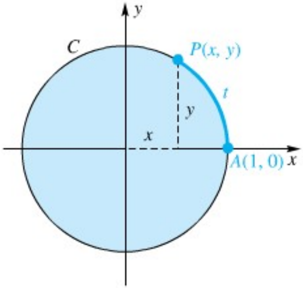
- We'll also consider the (right) triangle whose vertices are the origin, P, and the projection of P onto the horizontal (x) axis.
- For a fixed t, we let (x, y) be the coordinates of P.



The unit circle

Figure 2

The sine and cosine functions

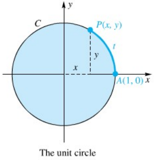


Figure 2

Definition

Under the previous setup, $\cos t = x$, and $\sin t = y$.

The definition applies to any real number t, even negative t (clockwise movement along circle).

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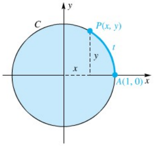

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From this geometric definition, there are some immediate consequences we can observe:

– These functions are *periodic*: $\sin t = \sin(t + 2\pi)$ and $\cos t = \cos(t + 2\pi)$ for any t.
  (This is because the unit circle has circumference 2π so $P(t) = P(t + 2\pi)$).

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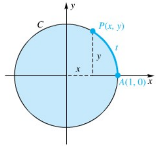

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- When comparing $P(t)$ versus $P(-t)$, only y changes by a negative sign. Hence:
  $\cos(-t) = \cos(t)$ and $\sin(-t) = -\sin(t)$, i.e., $\cos$ is an even function, and $\sin$ is an odd function.

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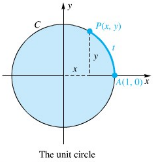

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- Because $\sin t$ and $\cos t$ are the lengths of the two smaller sides of a hypotenuese-1 triangle,

$$\sin^2 t + \cos^2 t = 1 \qquad \text{for any value of } t$$

Example

Using the geometric interpretation for sine, cosine, compute values for,

$$\sin 0 \qquad \sin\frac{\pi}{4} \qquad \sin\frac{\pi}{2} \qquad \sin\frac{3\pi}{4} \qquad \sin\pi$$

$$\cos 0 \qquad \cos\frac{\pi}{4} \qquad \cos\frac{\pi}{2} \qquad \cos\frac{3\pi}{4} \qquad \cos\pi.$$

More values for sine, cosine

t	$\sin t$	$\cos t$
0	0	1
$\pi/6$	$1/2$	$\sqrt{3}/2$
$\pi/4$	$\sqrt{2}/2$	$\sqrt{2}/2$
$\pi/3$	$\sqrt{3}/2$	$1/2$
$\pi/2$	1	0
$2\pi/3$	$\sqrt{3}/2$	$-1/2$
$3\pi/4$	$\sqrt{2}/2$	$-\sqrt{2}/2$
$5\pi/6$	$1/2$	$-\sqrt{3}/2$
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These values allow us to graph these functions:

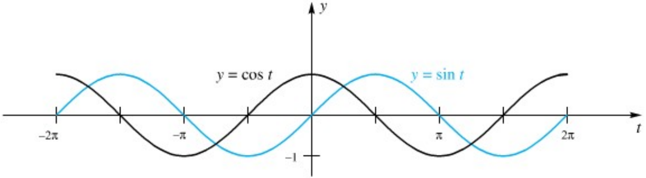

Figure 6

Example

Sketch the graph of $y = \cos(2\pi t)$.

Example

Sketch the graph of $y = \sin\left(2t + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$.

"Derived" trig functions

We can use $\sin$ and $\cos$ to define other trig functions:

$$\tan t = \frac{\sin t}{\cos t}, \qquad \cot t = \frac{\cos t}{\sin t}, \qquad \sec t = \frac{1}{\cos t}, \qquad \csc t = \frac{1}{\sin t}.$$

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Plotting these functions is a little more involved, but can still be done.

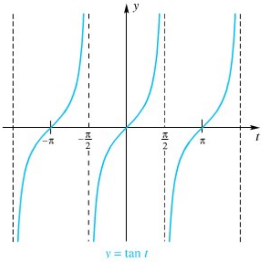

Figure 11

Example

Show that $1 + \tan^2 t = \sec^2 t$ for all t where the involved functions are defined.

An advanced example: putting some things together

Example

Compute $\lim_{x\to 0} x^2 \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$.

Recall some identities

Odd–even identities

$$\sin(-x) = -\sin x$$

$$\cos(-x) = \cos x$$

$$\tan(-x) = -\tan x$$

Cofunction identities

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

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

$$\tan\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - x\right) = \cot x$$

Pythagorean identities

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

$$1 + \tan^2 x = \sec^2 x$$

$$1 + \cot^2 x = \csc^2 x$$

Addition identities

$$\sin(x + y) = \sin x \cos y + \cos x \sin y$$

$$\cos(x + y) = \cos x \cos y - \sin x \sin y$$

$$\tan(x + y) = \frac{\tan x + \tan y}{1 - \tan x \tan y}$$

Double-angle identities

$$\sin 2x = 2 \sin x \cos x$$

$$\begin{aligned} \cos 2x &= \cos^2 x - \sin^2 x \\ &= 2\cos^2 x - 1 \\ &= 1 - 2\sin^2 x \end{aligned}$$

Half-angle identities

$$\sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \pm\sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos x}{2}}$$

$$\cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \pm\sqrt{\frac{1 + \cos x}{2}}$$

References I

Varberg, D.E., E.J. Purcell, and S.E. Rigdon (2007). *Calculus*. 9th. Pearson Prentice Hall. ISBN: 978-0-13-142924-6.