

AP Calculus AB Trigonometry Summary

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Definitions

The *radian measure* of an angle is the arclength of the arc on a circle of radius 1 which subtends the angle when the vertex is placed at the center of the circle. We can convert between degrees and radians by using the fact that

$$360^\circ = 2\pi \text{ radians.}$$

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 . If $\theta < 0$, this is interpreted as moving clockwise by an arclength of $|\theta|$.

The *sine* and *cosine* functions as defined by

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

It is clear that

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

The *tangent*, *cotangent*, *secant*, and *cosecant* are defined by

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}, \quad \cot \theta = \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta}, \quad \sec \theta = \frac{1}{\cos \theta}, \quad \csc \theta = \frac{1}{\sin \theta}.$$

Trigonometric Identities

Identities that Come from Geometry

Description	Identity
Pythagorean Identity	$\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta = 1$
Symmetry	$\sin(-\theta) = -\sin \theta$ $\cos(-\theta) = \cos \theta$
Periodicity	$\sin(\theta + 2\pi) = \sin \theta$ $\cos(\theta + 2\pi) = \cos \theta$
Rotation by 180°	$\sin(\theta + \pi) = -\sin \theta$ $\cos(\theta + \pi) = -\cos \theta$
Rotation by 90°	$\sin(\theta + \frac{\pi}{2}) = \cos \theta$ $\cos(\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}) = \sin \theta$
Reflection across 45°	$\sin(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta) = \cos \theta$ $\cos(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta) = \sin \theta$
Difference of Angles Formula	$\cos(\alpha - \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta + \sin \alpha \sin \beta$

Identities that Come from Algebra

Description	Identity
Sum and Difference Formulas	$\cos(\alpha - \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta + \sin \alpha \sin \beta$ $\cos(\alpha + \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta - \sin \alpha \sin \beta$ $\sin(\alpha + \beta) = \sin \alpha \cos \beta + \sin \beta \cos \alpha$ $\sin(\alpha - \beta) = \sin \alpha \cos \beta - \sin \beta \cos \alpha$
Double Angle Formulas	$\cos(2\theta) = \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta$ $\sin(2\theta) = 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta$
Half Angle Formulas	$\sin \frac{\theta}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos \theta}{2}}$ $\cos \frac{\theta}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{1 + \cos \theta}{2}}$
Pythagorean Formulae	$1 + \tan^2 \theta = \sec^2 \theta$ $\cot^2 \theta + 1 = \csc^2 \theta$

Trigonometric Values

deg(θ)	rad(θ)	sin(θ)	cos(θ)	tan(θ)	cot(θ)	sec(θ)	csc(θ)
0°	0	0	1	0	∞	1	∞
15°	$\frac{\pi}{12}$	$\frac{\sqrt{6} - \sqrt{2}}{4}$	$\frac{\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{2}}{4}$	$\frac{2 - \sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{2 + \sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\sqrt{6} - \sqrt{2}$	$\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{2}$
18°	$\frac{\pi}{10}$	$\frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{4}$	$\frac{\sqrt{10 + 2\sqrt{5}}}{4}$	$\frac{5 - 2\sqrt{5}}{2}$	$\sqrt{5 + 2\sqrt{5}}$	$\sqrt{2\sqrt{5} - 5}$	$\sqrt{5} + 1$
	$\frac{\pi}{8}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2 - \sqrt{2}}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2}}}{2}$	$\sqrt{3 - 2\sqrt{2}}$	$\sqrt{3 + 2\sqrt{2}}$	$\sqrt{4 - 2\sqrt{2}}$	$\sqrt{4 + 2\sqrt{2}}$
30°	$\frac{\pi}{6}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$	$\sqrt{3}$	$\frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3}$	2
36°	$\frac{\pi}{5}$	$\frac{\sqrt{10 - 2\sqrt{5}}}{4}$	$\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{4}$	$\sqrt{5 - 2\sqrt{5}}$	$\frac{\sqrt{25 + 10\sqrt{5}}}{5}$	$\sqrt{5} - 1$	$\frac{10 + 2\sqrt{5}}{5}$
45°	$\frac{\pi}{4}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	1	1	$\sqrt{2}$	$\sqrt{2}$
54°	$\frac{3\pi}{10}$	$\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{4}$	$\frac{\sqrt{10 - 2\sqrt{5}}}{4}$	$\frac{\sqrt{25 + 10\sqrt{5}}}{5}$	$\sqrt{5 - 2\sqrt{5}}$	$\frac{10 + 2\sqrt{5}}{5}$	$\sqrt{5} - 1$
60°	$\frac{\pi}{3}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\sqrt{3}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$	2	$\frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3}$
	$\frac{3\pi}{8}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2}}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2 - \sqrt{2}}}{2}$	$\sqrt{3 + 2\sqrt{2}}$	$\sqrt{3 - 2\sqrt{2}}$	$\sqrt{4 + 2\sqrt{2}}$	$\sqrt{4 - 2\sqrt{2}}$
72°	$\frac{2\pi}{5}$	$\frac{\sqrt{10 + 2\sqrt{5}}}{4}$	$\frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{4}$	$\sqrt{5 + 2\sqrt{5}}$	$\frac{5 - 2\sqrt{5}}{2}$	$\sqrt{5} + 1$	$\sqrt{2\sqrt{5} - 5}$
75°	$\frac{5\pi}{12}$	$\frac{\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{2}}{4}$	$\frac{\sqrt{6} - \sqrt{2}}{4}$	$\frac{2 + \sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{2 - \sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{2}$	$\sqrt{6} - \sqrt{2}$
90°	$\frac{\pi}{2}$	1	0	∞	0	∞	1