Higher

Mathematics

Trigonometry

Contents

CfE Edition

Trigonometry

1 Radians EF

Degrees are not the only units used to measure angles. The radian (RAD on the calculator) is a measurement also used.

Degrees and radians bear the relationship:

$$\pi \text{ radians} = 180°.$$

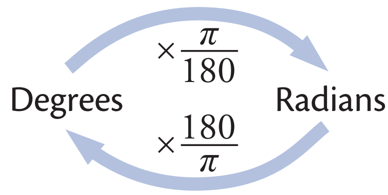
The other equivalences that you should become familiar with are:

$30° = \frac{\pi}{6}$ radians $45° = \frac{\pi}{4}$ radians $60° = \frac{\pi}{3}$ radians

$90° = \frac{\pi}{2}$ radians $135° = \frac{3\pi}{4}$ radians $360° = 2\pi$ radians.

Converting between degrees and radians is straightforward.

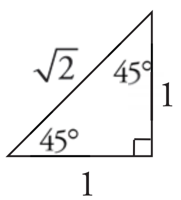
- To convert from degrees to radians, multiply by π and divide by 180.
- To convert from radians to degrees, multiply by 180 and divide by π.

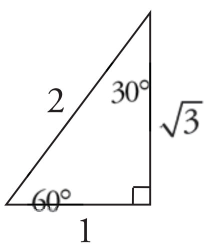


For example, $50° = 50 \times \frac{\pi}{180} = \frac{5}{18}\pi$ radians.

2 Exact Values EF

The following exact values must be known. You can do this by either memorising the two triangles involved, or memorising the table.





DEG	RAD	$\sin x$	$\cos x$	$\tan x$
0	0	0	1	0
30	$\frac{\pi}{6}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$
45	$\frac{\pi}{4}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$	1
60	$\frac{\pi}{3}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\sqrt{3}$
90	$\frac{\pi}{2}$	1	0	–

Tip
You'll probably find it easier to remember the triangles.

3 Solving Trigonometric Equations RC

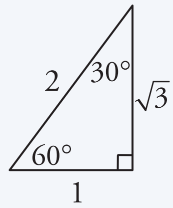
You should already be familiar with solving some trigonometric equations.

EXAMPLES

1. Solve $\sin x° = \frac{1}{2}$ for $0 < x < 360$.

Remember

The exact value triangle:



2. Solve $\cos x° = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$ for $0 < x < 360$.

3. Solve $\sin x° = 3$ for $0 < x < 360$.

4. Solve $\tan x° = -5$ for $0 < x < 360$.

Note

All trigonometric equations we will meet can be reduced to problems like those above. The only differences are:

- the solutions could be required in radians – in this case, the question will not have a degree symbol, e.g. "Solve $3\tan x = 1$" rather than "$3\tan x° = 1$";
- exact value solutions could be required in the non-calculator paper – you will be expected to know the exact values for 0, 30, 45, 60 and 90 degrees.

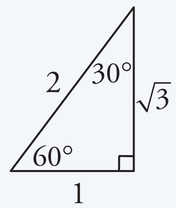
Questions can be worked through in degrees or radians, but make sure the final answer is given in the units asked for in the question.

EXAMPLES

5. Solve $2\sin 2x° - 1 = 0$ where $0 \le x \le 360$.

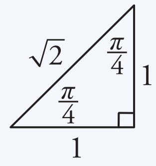
Remember

The exact value triangle:



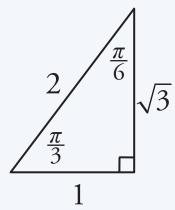
6. Solve $\sqrt{2}\cos 2x = 1$ where $0 \leq x \leq \pi$.

Remember
The exact value triangle:



7. Solve $4\cos^2 x = 3$ where $0 < x < 2\pi$.

Remember
The exact value triangle:



8. Solve $3\tan(3x° - 20°) = 5$ where $0 \leq x \leq 360$.

9. Solve $\cos\left(2x + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = 0{\cdot}812$ for $0 < x < 2\pi$.

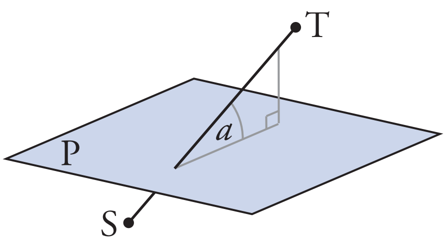
Remember
Make sure your calculator uses radians

4 Trigonometry in Three Dimensions EF

It is possible to solve trigonometric problems in three dimensions using techniques we already know from two dimensions. The use of sketches is often helpful.

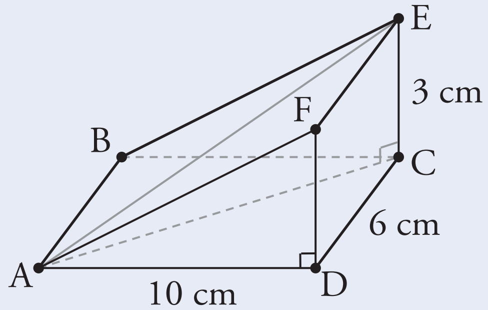
The angle between a line and a plane

The angle a between the plane P and the line ST is calculated by adding a line perpendicular to the plane and then using basic trigonometry.



EXAMPLE

1. The triangular prism ABCDEF is shown below.



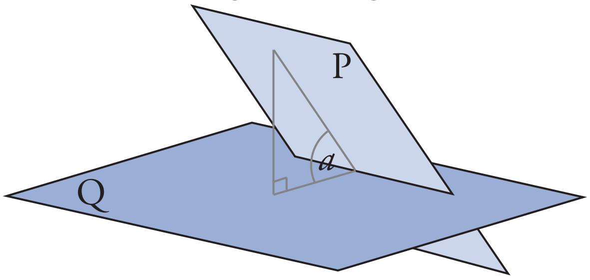
Calculate the acute angle between:

(a) The line AF and the plane ABCD.

(b) AE and ABCD.

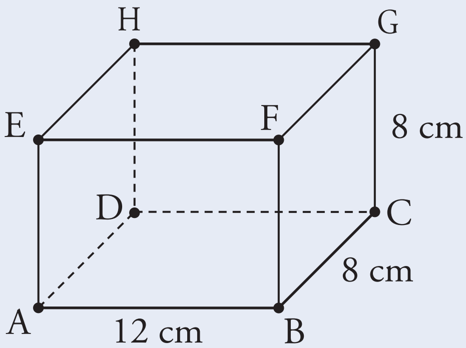
The angle between two planes

The angle a between planes P and Q is calculated by adding a line perpendicular to Q and then using basic trigonometry.



EXAMPLE

2. ABCDEFGH is a cuboid with dimensions $12 \times 8 \times 8$ cm as shown below.



(a) Calculate the size of the angle between the planes AFGD and ABCD.

(b) Calculate the size of the acute angle between the diagonal planes AFGD and BCHE.

5 Compound Angles EF

When we add or subtract angles, the result is a **compound angle**.

For example, $45° + 30°$ is a compound angle. Using a calculator, we find:

- $\sin(45° + 30°) = \sin(75°) = 0{\cdot}966$
- $\sin(45°) + \sin(30°) = 1{\cdot}207$ (both to 3 d.p.).

This shows that $\sin(A + B)$ is *not* equal to $\sin A + \sin B$. Instead, we can use the following identities:

$$\sin(A + B) = \sin A \cos B + \cos A \sin B$$
$$\sin(A - B) = \sin A \cos B - \cos A \sin B$$
$$\cos(A + B) = \cos A \cos B - \sin A \sin B$$
$$\cos(A - B) = \cos A \cos B + \sin A \sin B.$$

These are given in the exam in a condensed form:

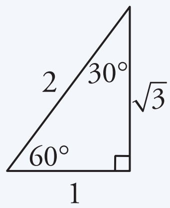
$$\sin(A \pm B) = \sin A \cos B \pm \cos A \sin B$$
$$\cos(A \pm B) = \cos A \cos B \mp \sin A \sin B.$$

EXAMPLES

1. Expand and simplify $\cos(x° + 60°)$.

Remember

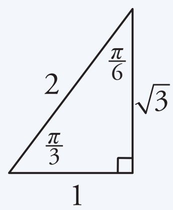
The exact value triangle:



2. Show that $\sin(a + b) = \sin a \cos b + \cos a \sin b$ for $a = \frac{\pi}{6}$ and $b = \frac{\pi}{3}$.

Remember

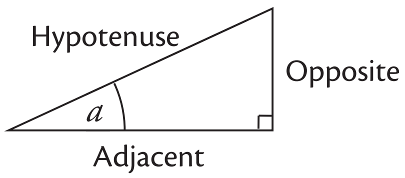
The exact value triangle:



3. Find the exact value of $\sin 75°$.

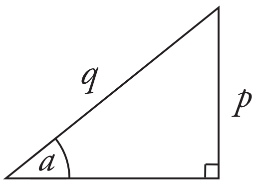
Finding Trigonometric Ratios

You should already be familiar with the following formulae (SOH CAH TOA).



$$\sin a = \frac{\text{Opposite}}{\text{Hypotenuse}} \qquad \cos a = \frac{\text{Adjacent}}{\text{Hypotenuse}} \qquad \tan a = \frac{\text{Opposite}}{\text{Adjacent}}.$$

If we have $\sin a = \frac{p}{q}$ where $0 < a < \frac{\pi}{2}$, then we can form a right-angled triangle to represent this ratio.



Since $\sin a = \frac{\text{Opposite}}{\text{Hypotenuse}} = \frac{p}{q}$ then:

- the side opposite a has length p;
- the hypotenuse has length q.

The length of the unknown side can be found using Pythagoras's Theorem.

Once the length of each side is known, we can find $\cos a$ and $\tan a$ using SOH CAH TOA.

The method is similar if we know $\cos a$ and want to find $\sin a$ or $\tan a$.

EXAMPLES

4. Acute angles p and q are such that $\sin p = \frac{4}{5}$ and $\sin q = \frac{5}{13}$. Show that $\sin(p+q) = \frac{63}{65}$.

Using compound angle formulae to confirm identities

EXAMPLES

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

6. Show that $\dfrac{\sin(s+t)}{\cos s \cos t} = \tan s + \tan t$ for $\cos s \neq 0$ and $\cos t \neq 0$.

Remember

$\dfrac{\sin x}{\cos x} = \tan x$.

6 Double-Angle Formulae

EF

Using the compound angle identities with $A = B$, we obtain expressions for $\sin 2A$ and $\cos 2A$. These are called **double-angle formulae**.

$$\sin 2A = 2\sin A \cos A$$
$$\cos 2A = \cos^2 A - \sin^2 A$$
$$= 2\cos^2 A - 1$$
$$= 1 - 2\sin^2 A.$$

Note that these are given in the exam.

EXAMPLES

1. Given that $\tan\theta = \frac{4}{3}$, where $0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$, find the exact value of $\sin 2\theta$ and $\cos 2\theta$.

Note
Any of the $\cos 2A$ formulae could have been used here.

2. Given that $\cos 2x = \frac{5}{13}$, where $0 < x < \pi$, find the exact values of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$.

7 Further Trigonometric Equations RC

We will now consider trigonometric equations where double-angle formulae can be used to find solutions. These equations will involve:

- $\sin 2x$ and either $\sin x$ or $\cos x$;
- $\cos 2x$ and $\cos x$;
- $\cos 2x$ and $\sin x$.

Remember
The double-angle formulae are given in the exam.

Solving equations involving sin2*x* and either sin*x* or cos*x*

EXAMPLE

1. Solve $\sin 2x° = -\sin x°$ for $0 \leq x < 360$.

- Replace $\sin 2x$ using the double angle formula
- Take all terms to one side, making the equation equal to zero
- Factorise the expression and solve

Solving equations involving cos2*x* and cos*x*

EXAMPLE

2. Solve $\cos 2x = \cos x$ for $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$.

- Replace $\cos 2x$ by $2\cos^2 x - 1$
- Take all terms to one side, making a quadratic equation in $\cos x$
- Solve the quadratic equation (using factorisation or the quadratic formula)

Solving equations involving cos2*x* and sin*x*

EXAMPLE

3. Solve $\cos 2x = \sin x$ for $0 < x < 2\pi$.

- Replace $\cos 2x$ by $1 - 2\sin^2 x$
- Take all terms to one side, making a quadratic equation in $\sin x$
- Solve the quadratic equation (using factorisation or the quadratic formula)

8 Expressing *pcosx* + *qsinx* in the form *kcos*(*x* – *a*) EF

An expression of the form $p\cos x + q\sin x$ can be written in the form $k\cos(x-a)$ where:

$$k=\sqrt{p^2+q^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \tan a=\frac{k\sin a}{k\cos a}.$$

The following example shows how to achieve this.

EXAMPLES

1. Write $5\cos x° + 12\sin x°$ in the form $k\cos(x°-a°)$ where $0 \leq a < 360$.

Step 1
Expand $k\cos(x-a)$ using the compound angle formula.

Step 2
Rearrange to compare with $p\cos x + q\sin x$.

Step 3
Compare the coefficients of $\cos x$ and $\sin x$ with $p\cos x + q\sin x$.

Step 4
Mark the quadrants on a CAST diagram, according to the signs of $k\cos a$ and $k\sin a$.

Step 5
Find k and a using the formulae above (a lies in the quadrant marked twice in *Step 4*).

Step 6
State $p\cos x + q\sin x$ in the form $k\cos(x-a)$ using these values.

2. Write $5\cos x - 3\sin x$ in the form $k\cos(x-a)$ where $0 \leq a < 2\pi$.

Note
Make sure your calculator is in radian mode.

9 Expressing *pcosx* + *qsinx* in other forms EF

An expression in the form $p\cos x + q\sin x$ can also be written in any of the following forms using a similar method:

$$k\cos(x+a), \qquad k\sin(x-a), \qquad k\sin(x+a).$$

EXAMPLES

1. Write $4\cos x^\circ + 3\sin x^\circ$ in the form $k\sin(x^\circ + a^\circ)$ where $0 \leq a < 360$.

2. Write $\cos x - \sqrt{3}\sin x$ in the form $k\cos(x+a)$ where $0 \le a < 2\pi$.

10 Multiple Angles

EF

We can use the same method with expressions involving the same multiple angle, i.e. $p\cos(nx)+q\sin(nx)$, where n is a constant.

EXAMPLE

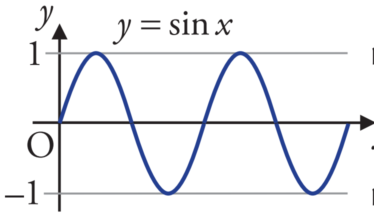
Write $5\cos 2x° + 12\sin 2x°$ in the form $k\sin(2x° + a°)$ where $0 \le a < 360$.

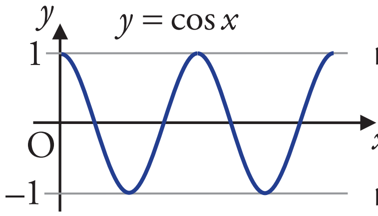
11 Maximum and Minimum Values

EF

To work out the maximum or minimum values of $p\cos x + q\sin x$, we can rewrite it as a single trigonometric function, e.g. $k\cos(x-a)$.

Recall that the maximum value of the sine and cosine functions is 1, and their minimum is -1.





EXAMPLE

Write $4\sin x + \cos x$ in the form $k\cos(x-a)$ where $0 \le a \le 2\pi$ and state:

(i) the maximum value and the value of $0 \le x < 2\pi$ at which it occurs

(ii) the minimum value and the value of $0 \le x < 2\pi$ at which it occurs.

12 Solving Equations RC

The method of writing two trigonometric terms as one can be used to help solve equations involving both a $\sin(nx)$ and a $\cos(nx)$ term.

EXAMPLES

1. Solve $5\cos x° + \sin x° = 2$ where $0 \le x < 360$.

2. Solve $2\cos 2x + 3\sin 2x = 1$ where $0 \leq x < 2\pi$.

13 Sketching Graphs of $y = p\cos x + q\sin x$ EF

Expressing $p\cos x + q\sin x$ in the form $k\cos(x - a)$ enables us to sketch the graph of $y = p\cos x + q\sin x$.

EXAMPLES

1. (a) Write $7\cos x° + 6\sin x°$ in the form $k\cos(x° - a°)$, $0 \leq a < 360$.

   (b) Hence sketch the graph of $y = 7\cos x° + 6\sin x°$ for $0 \leq x \leq 360$.

2. Sketch the graph of $y = \sin x° + \sqrt{3}\cos x°$ for $0 \le x \le 360$.

3. (a) Write $5\sin x° - \sqrt{11}\cos x°$ in the form $k\sin(x° - a°)$, $0 \leq a < 360$.

(b) Hence sketch the graph of $y = 5\sin x° - \sqrt{11}\cos x° + 2$, $0 \leq x \leq 360$.