

7.5

Solving Trig Eqns.

①

⊗ Review Identities

• Basic Def: $\csc x = \frac{1}{\sin x}$, $\sec x = \frac{1}{\cos x}$, $\cot x = \frac{1}{\tan x}$

$$\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}, \quad \cot x = \frac{\cos x}{\sin x}$$

• Pythagorean Identities:

$$\begin{aligned} \cos^2 x + \sin^2 x &= 1 \\ \cot^2 x + 1 &= \csc^2 x \\ 1 + \tan^2 x &= \sec^2 x \end{aligned}$$

• Sum-to-product Identities:

$$\begin{aligned} \cos(x \pm y) &= \cos(x)\cos(y) \mp \sin(x)\sin(y) \\ \sin(x \pm y) &= \sin(x)\cos(y) \pm \cos(x)\sin(y) \end{aligned}$$

• half-angle:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos(x)}{2}} \Leftrightarrow \sin^2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos(2x)) \\ \cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 + \cos(x)}{2}} \Leftrightarrow \cos^2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos(2x)) \end{aligned}$$

• Double-angle:

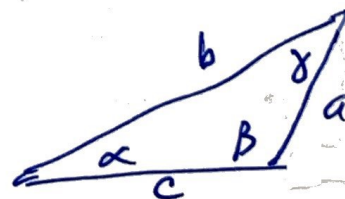
$$\begin{aligned} \sin(2x) &= 2\cos(x)\sin(x) \\ \cos(2x) &= 1 - 2\sin^2(x) = 2\cos^2(x) - 1 \end{aligned}$$

• Cofunction Identities: (phase-shift):

$$\begin{aligned} \sin\left(x \pm \frac{\pi}{2}\right) &= \pm \cos(x) \\ \cos\left(x \pm \frac{\pi}{2}\right) &= \mp \sin(x) \end{aligned}$$

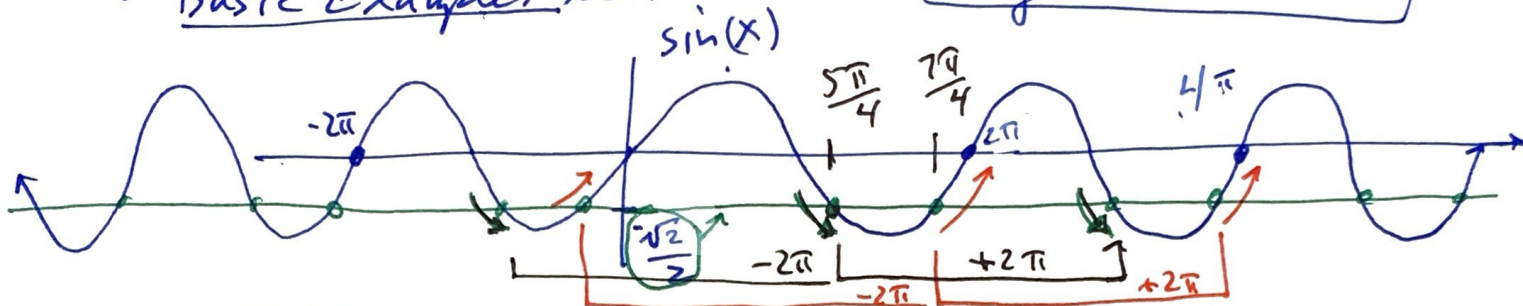
• $\sin x = \sin \alpha = \frac{a}{c}$

$$c^2 = b^2 + a^2 - 2bc \cos B$$



① We seek to 'solve for x ' but not for exponential nor logs nor polynomials but rather for trig functions. ②

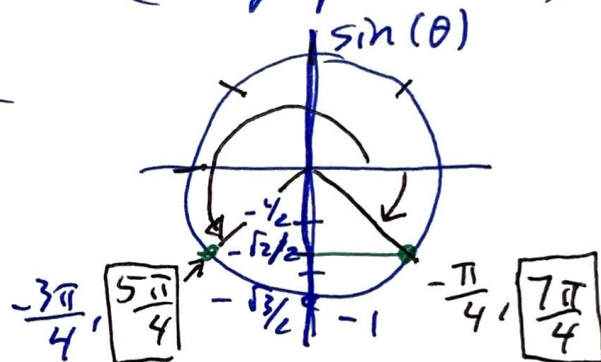
• Basic Examples look like $\text{trig}(x) = \text{constant}$



EX solve for θ : $2 \sin \theta = -\sqrt{2}$

$\Rightarrow \sin \theta = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ (see graph above)

use the trig circle



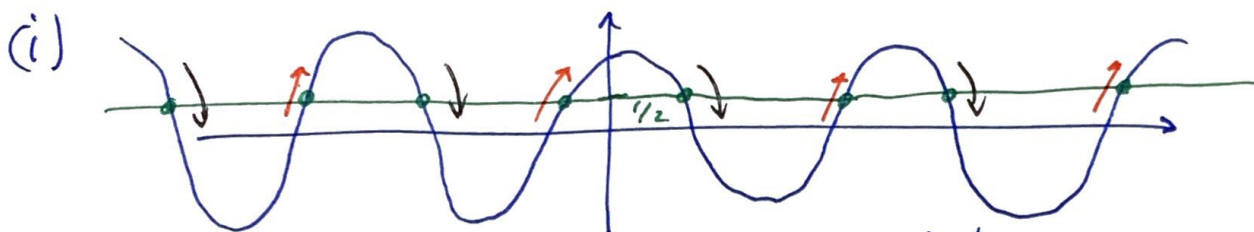
• family one: $\frac{5\pi}{4} \pm 2\pi n$ $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ Family of integers $\dots -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3 \dots$

• family two: $\frac{7\pi}{4} \pm 2\pi n$ $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

①: between $x = [-2\pi, 4\pi]$ solutions are:

$$\left\{ -\frac{3\pi}{4}, -\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}, \frac{13\pi}{4}, \frac{15\pi}{4} \right\}$$

1. write the families of solutions for
 $\cos(\theta) = 1/2$



$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{3} \pm 2\pi k$$

$$\theta = \frac{5\pi}{3} \pm 2\pi k$$

period

any integer

principle angle



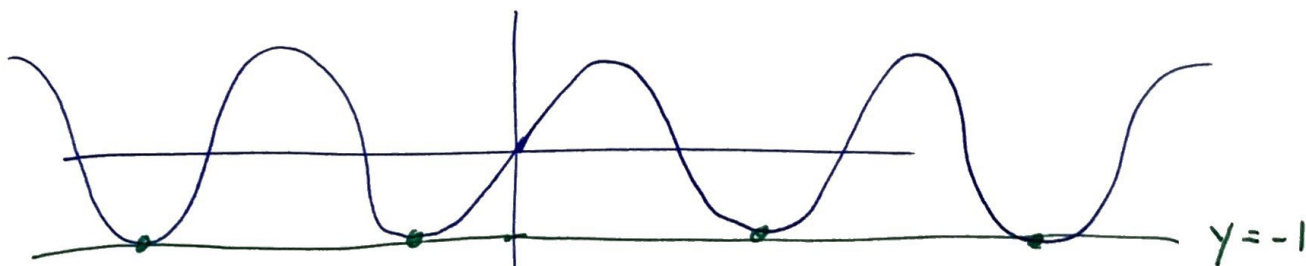
2. Write the solutions for #1 in between

$$[-2\pi, 3\pi] \xrightarrow{\text{i.e.}} \left[-\frac{6\pi}{3}, \frac{9\pi}{3}\right]$$

$$\bullet \frac{\pi}{3} \pm \frac{6\pi}{3}k = \frac{\pi+6\pi}{3}, \frac{\pi+12\pi}{3}, \frac{\pi+18\pi}{3}, \dots, \frac{\pi-6\pi}{3}, \frac{\pi-12\pi}{3}, \dots$$

$$\bullet \frac{5\pi}{3} \pm \frac{6\pi}{3}k = \frac{5\pi+6\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi+12\pi}{3}, \dots \text{ or } \frac{5\pi-6\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi-12\pi}{3}, \dots$$

3. write solutions for $\sin(\theta) = -1$



• one family only: $\frac{3\pi}{2} \pm 2\pi k$

Solve for x

EX

$$4 \sin^2(x) - 2 = 0$$

• isolate $\sin(x)$

$$\sin^2(x) = 2/4 \Rightarrow \sin^2(x) = 1/2$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin(x) = \pm \sqrt{1/2}$$

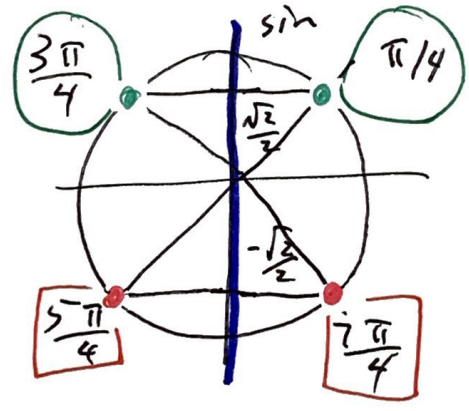
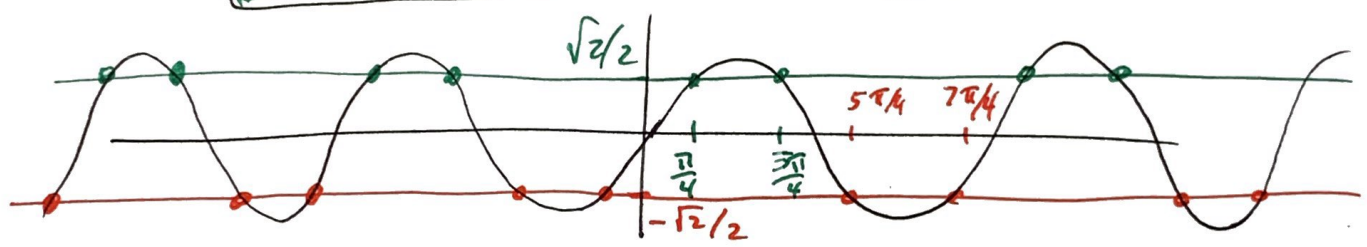
$$\sin(x) = \pm \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

• solve

$$\sin(x) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

and

$$\sin(x) = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$



- family:
- 1 : $\frac{\pi}{4} \pm 2\pi |k$
 - 2 : $\frac{3\pi}{4} \pm 2\pi |k$
 - 3 : $\frac{5\pi}{4} \pm 2\pi |k$
 - 4 : $\frac{7\pi}{4} \pm 2\pi |k$

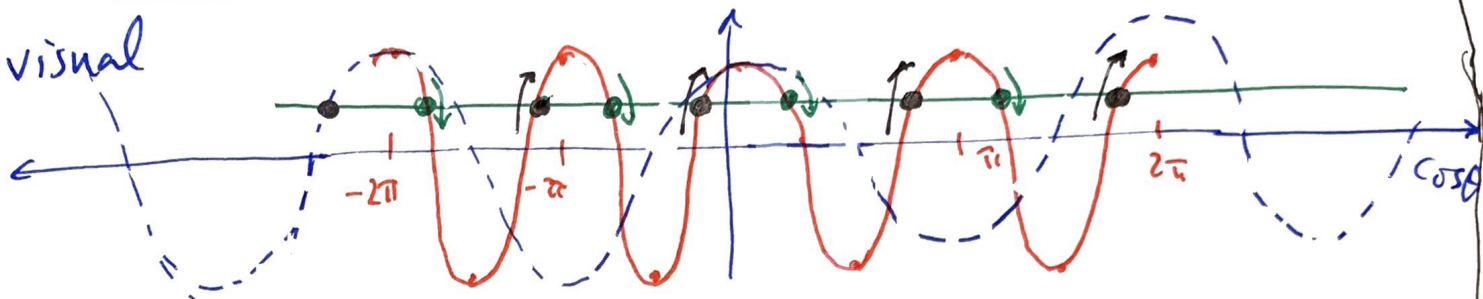
• Between $[0, 2\pi)$

$$\left\{ \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4} \right\}$$

EX * Change the period of the trig function (5)

$$\cos(2\theta) = \frac{1}{2}$$

visual



$$P = \frac{2\pi}{B} = \frac{2\pi}{2} = \pi$$

analytical

$$2\theta = \frac{\pi}{3} \pm 2\pi k$$

downward family

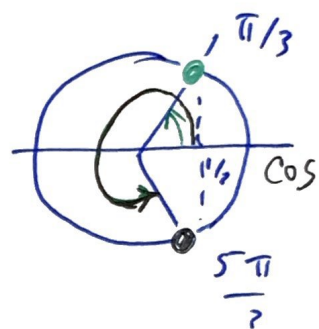
$$2\theta = \frac{5\pi}{3} \pm 2\pi k$$

upward family

÷ 2

$$\theta_1 = \frac{\pi}{6} \pm \pi k$$

$$\theta_2 = \frac{5\pi}{6} \pm \pi k$$



EX solve for x: $\csc^2(x) - 4 = 0$

(i) isolate the trig function

$$\csc(x) = \pm \sqrt{4}$$

$$\csc(x) = \pm 2$$

(ii) write using familiar trig if possible:

$$\frac{1}{\sin(x)} = \pm 2$$

reciprocate

$$\sin(x) = \pm \frac{1}{2}$$

(+)

$$\sin(x) = \frac{1}{2}$$

ooo

(-)

$$\sin(x) = -\frac{1}{2}$$

ooo

solve as done previously

EX $\sec(x) \sin(x) - 2 \sin(x) = 0$

try factoring

$\Rightarrow [\sin(x)][\sec(x) - 2] = 0$

So $\sin(x) = 0$ or $\sec(x) = 2$ \rightarrow reciprocate
 $\cos(x) = 1/2$

$x = \pm n\pi$

$x = \pi/3 \pm 2\pi k$
 $x = 5\pi/3 \pm 2\pi k$

EX $2 \cos^2(t) + \cos(t) = 1$

quadratic in $\cos(t)$

$2u^2 + u - 1 = 0$

letting $u = \cos(t)$

$(2u - 1)(u + 1) = 0$

factor

$2u - 1 = 0$

or

$u + 1 = 0$

$2 \cos(t) = 1$

$\cos(t) = -1$

$\cos(t) = 1/2$

$\cos(t) = -1$

$t_1 = \pi/3 \pm 2\pi k$

$t_2 = 5\pi/3 \pm 2\pi k$

$t_3 = \pi \pm 2\pi k$

EX Solve for x: $\sin(3x)\cos(6x) - \cos(3x)\sin(6x) = -0.9$

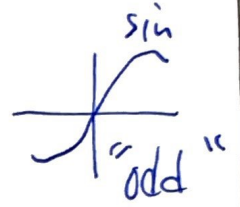
this looks like a sum-to-product rule (review formulas)

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

use this one

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

$\sin(3x - 6x) = -0.9$



$\sin(-3x) = -0.9$

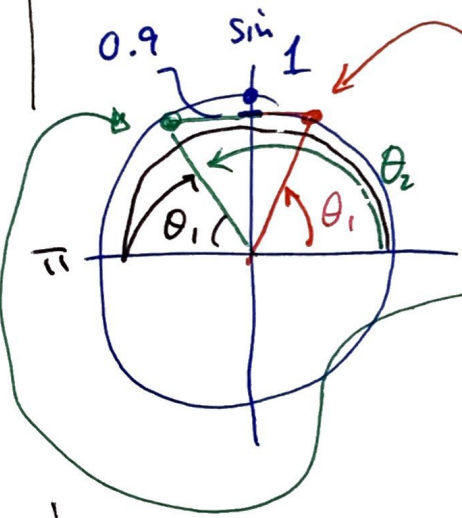
$-\sin(3x) = -0.9$

$\sin(3x) = 0.9$ solve

No "pretty numbers"

$\theta_1 = \frac{\sin^{-1}(0.9)}{3}$

$\sin^{-1}(0.9) = 1.1198$



$3\theta_2 = \pi - \theta_1$

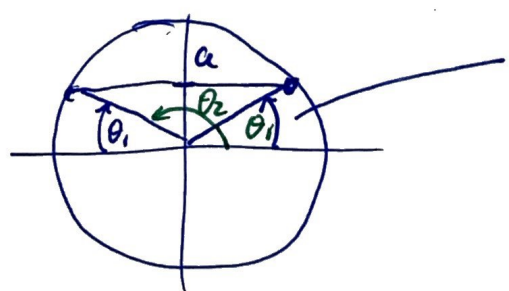
$\theta_2 = \frac{\pi}{3} - \frac{\sin^{-1}(0.9)}{3}$

$[0 \text{ to } \pi]$

In general

$\sin(x) = a$

$\theta_1 = \sin^{-1}(a)$



$\theta_2 = \pi - \theta_1$

$\theta_2 = \pi - \sin^{-1}(a)$

similar for $\cos(x) = a$

Ex $\cos(6x) - \cos(3x) = 0$

Numerically go to desmos

$\cos(6x) = \cos(3x)$

From Desmos we see that there are the $\pm \frac{2\pi}{3}$ families

we can analytically justify the $\pm \frac{2\pi}{3}$ family

$6x \pm 2\pi k = 3x \pm 2\pi l$

$3x = \pm 2\pi l \mp 2\pi k$

$x = \pm \left(\frac{2\pi}{3} l \mp \frac{2\pi}{3} k \right)$

$x = \pm \frac{2\pi}{3} \left(\frac{l \mp k}{n} \right)$

$x = \pm \frac{2\pi}{3} n$ done?

But we also see from Desmos that there is a $\frac{2\pi}{9}$ family and a $\frac{4\pi}{9}$ family

So where do we get these other families from?

Note that $\cos(2\theta) = 2\cos^2(\theta) - 1$

then $\cos(6x) - \cos(3x) = 0$

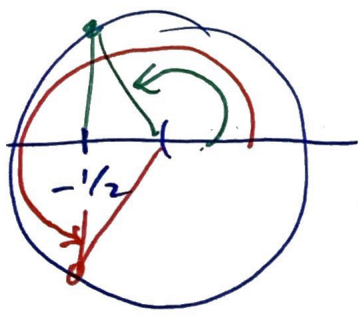
becomes $2\cos^2(3x) - 1 - \cos(3x) = 0$

or factors $2\cos^2(3x) - \cos(3x) - 1 = 0$

quadratic like function

$(2\cos(3x) + 1)(\cos(3x) - 1) = 0$

$\cos(3x) = -\frac{1}{2}$



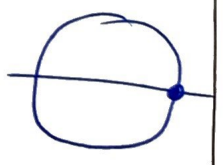
$3x = \frac{2\pi}{3} + 2\pi n$

$x = \frac{2\pi}{9} + \frac{2\pi}{3} n$

$3x = \frac{4\pi}{3} + 2\pi n$

$x = \frac{4\pi}{9} + \frac{2\pi}{3} n$

$\cos(3x) = 1$



$3x = \pm 2\pi n$

$x = \pm \frac{2\pi}{3} n$

The original family

Moral of the story... avoid cancelling across, or moving terms across, the equal sign.

EX Solve both numerically & analytically (6)

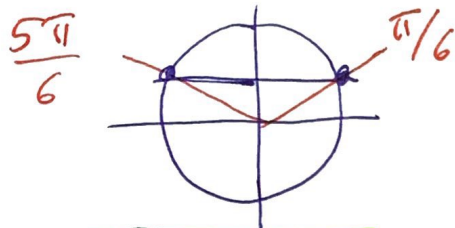
$$6 \sin^2 x - 5 \sin x + 1 = 0$$

Numerical Approach

$$6 \sin^2(x) = 5 \sin(x) - 1$$

factor $(2 \sin(x) - 1)(3 \sin(x) - 1) = 0$

$$\sin(x) = \frac{1}{2}$$

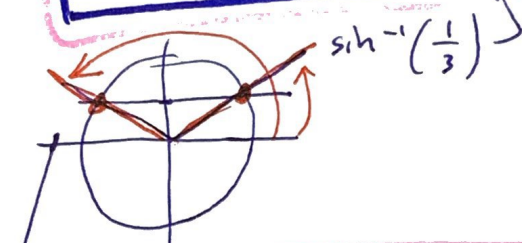


$$x = \frac{\pi}{6} \pm 2\pi n$$

$$x = \frac{5\pi}{6} \pm 2\pi n$$

$$\sin(x) = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$x = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \pm 2\pi n$$

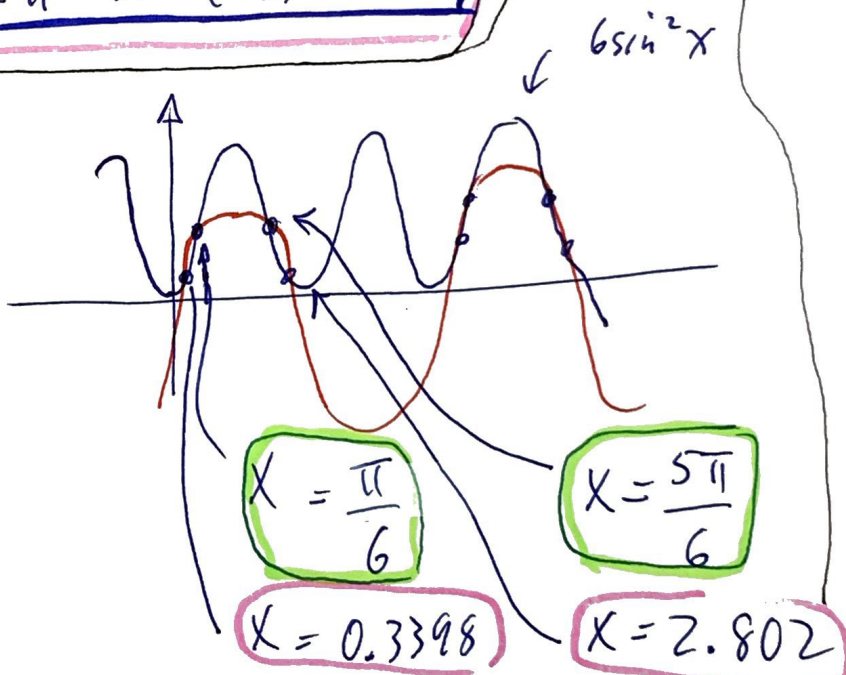


$$x = \pi - \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \pm 2\pi n$$

On Desmos:

LHS: $y = 6 \sin^2(x)$

RHS: $y = 5 \sin(x) - 1$



Compare to analytical:

Note that $\sin^{-1}(0.3333) = 0.3398$

and $\pi - \sin^{-1}(0.3333) = 2.8017$