Lecture 20

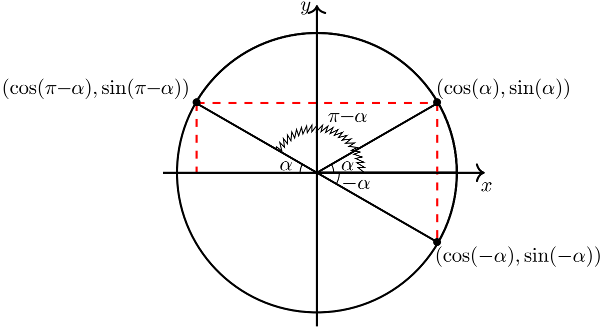
Trigonometric identities

MATH 0200

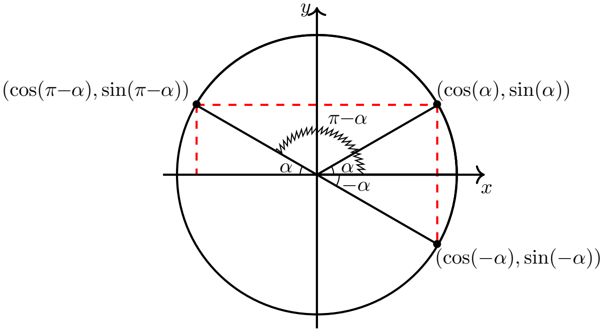
Dr. Boris Tsvelikhovskiy

Outline

Trigonometric identities for α, $-\alpha$ and $\pi - \alpha$



Trigonometric identities for α, $-\alpha$ and $\pi-\alpha$



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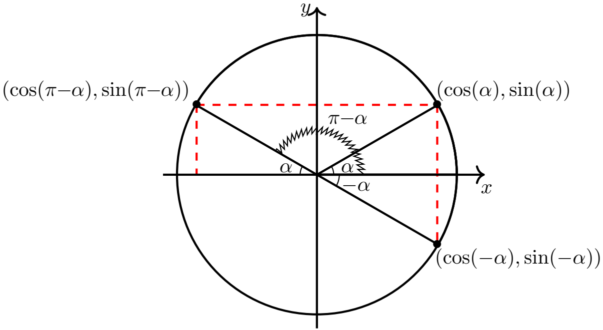
Trigonometric identities for $\alpha, -\alpha$ and $\pi - \alpha$



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- $\cos(-\alpha) = \cos(\alpha)$ and $\cos(\pi-\alpha) = -\cos(\alpha)$;

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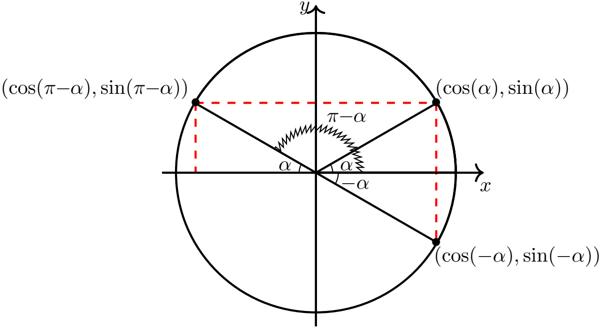

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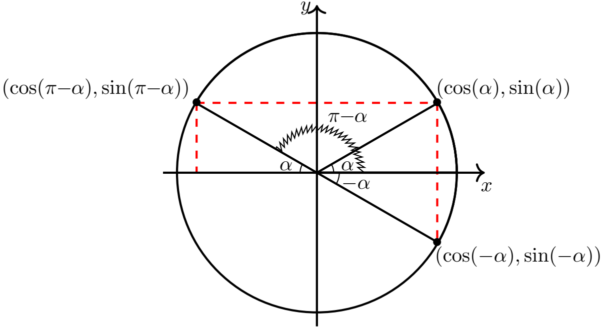

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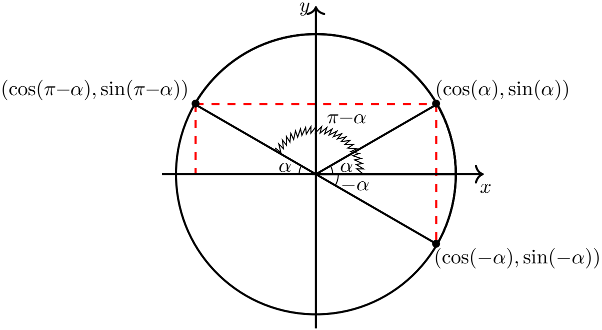

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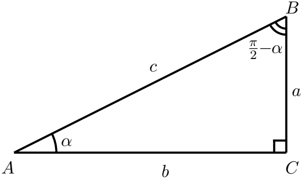

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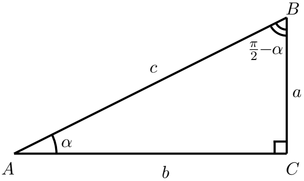

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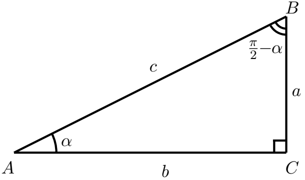

We obtain the following identities.

- $\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha\right) = \frac{a}{c} = \sin(\alpha)$ and $\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha\right) = \frac{b}{c} = \cos(\alpha)$;

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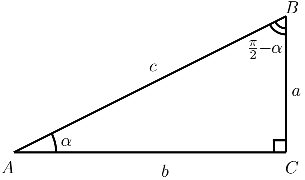

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- $\tan\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha\right) = \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}-\alpha\right)}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}-\alpha\right)} = \frac{\cos(\alpha)}{\sin(\alpha)} = \cot(\alpha)$.

Question

Given that $\cos(u) = -0.6$ and $0 < \frac{\pi}{2} - u < \frac{\pi}{2}$, find $\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - u\right)$.

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Answer: first we use the identity $\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - u\right) = \cos(u) = -0.6$ and then find $\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - u\right) = \pm\sqrt{1 - \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - u\right)} = \pm\sqrt{1 - (-0.6)^2} = \pm\sqrt{1 - 0.36} = \pm\sqrt{0.64} = \pm 0.8$. As $0 < \frac{\pi}{2} - u < \frac{\pi}{2}$, we choose the positive value $\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - u\right) = 0.8$.

Trigonometric identities involving 2π-periodicity

Remark

Notice that the radius corresponding to an angle α is the same as the radius corresponding to angle $\alpha + 2\pi n$ for any integer n.

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- $\tan(x) = \tan(x + 2\pi) \ldots$

Example

Find the smallest number α larger than 7π such that $\tan(\alpha) = -1$.

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We know that $\tan\left(\frac{3\pi}{4} + n\pi\right) = -1$ and, therefore, need to find the smallest integer n with $\frac{3\pi}{4} + n\pi > 7\pi$. As $\frac{3\pi}{4} + n\pi > 7\pi \Leftrightarrow \frac{3}{4} + n > 7 \Leftrightarrow n > 6.25$, the smallest integer value of n satisfying the inequality is 7. The answer is $\alpha = \frac{3\pi}{4} + 7\pi = \frac{31\pi}{4}$.