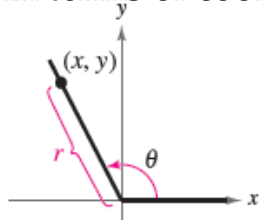


In our previous work with trigonometric functions, we were restricted to acute angles in right triangles. Now, we will extend these concepts to find trigonometric functions for any angle. This allows us to apply trigonometry to a much wider range of problems and to develop a more complete understanding of these important functions. We will see how trigonometric functions can be defined for angles in standard position, how reference angles help us find values of trigonometric functions, and how we can evaluate trigonometric functions for any real number input.

4.4.1 Trigonometric Functions for Angles in Standard Position

When we place an angle θ in standard position, we can define the trigonometric functions in terms of coordinates on the terminal side.



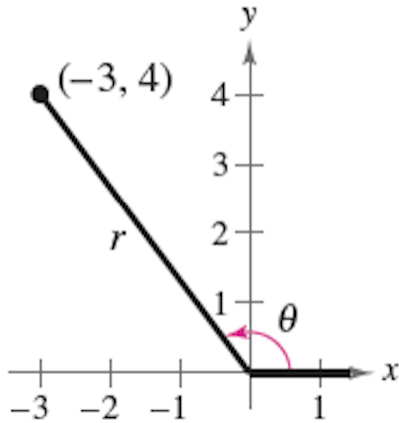
Definition Trigonometric Functions for Any Angle

Let θ be an angle in standard position, and let (x, y) be any point (except the origin) on the terminal side of θ . If $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ is the distance from the origin to the point (x, y) , then:

$$\begin{aligned}\sin \theta &= \frac{y}{r} \\ \cos \theta &= \frac{x}{r} \\ \tan \theta &= \frac{y}{x} = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \quad (x \neq 0) \\ \csc \theta &= \frac{r}{y} = \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \quad (y \neq 0) \\ \sec \theta &= \frac{r}{x} = \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \quad (x \neq 0) \\ \cot \theta &= \frac{x}{y} = \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} \quad (y \neq 0)\end{aligned}$$

Example 1

Example 1. Let $(-3, 4)$ be a point on the terminal side of θ . Find the sine, cosine, and tangent of θ .



Solution:

Example 2

Example 2. Given $\sin \theta = -\frac{2}{3}$ and $\tan \theta > 0$, find $\cos \theta$ and $\cot \theta$.

Solution:

4.4.2 Reference Angles

For any angle in standard position, we can define a reference angle that helps us find trigonometric values.

Definition Reference Angle

The reference angle θ' for an angle θ is the acute angle formed by the terminal side of θ and the x-axis.

Note

For an angle θ in standard position:

- If θ is in the first quadrant (0° to 90°), then $\theta' = \theta$
- If θ is in the second quadrant (90° to 180°), then $\theta' = 180^\circ - \theta$
- If θ is in the third quadrant (180° to 270°), then $\theta' = \theta - 180^\circ$
- If θ is in the fourth quadrant (270° to 360°), then $\theta' = 360^\circ - \theta$

Example 3

Example 3. Find the reference angle θ' for each value of θ .

- a. $\theta = 300^\circ$
- b. $\theta = 2.3$
- c. $\theta = -135^\circ$

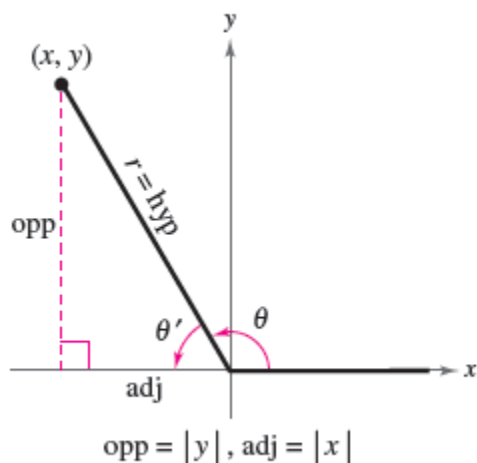
Solution:

4.4.3 Trigonometric Functions of Real Numbers

We can extend the domain of trigonometric functions from angles to any real number by interpreting the real number as the radian measure of an angle.

Definition Trigonometric Functions of Real Numbers

If θ is a real number, then $\sin \theta$, $\cos \theta$, $\tan \theta$, etc., are defined as the trigonometric values of the angle whose radian measure is θ .



Example 4

Example 4. Evaluate each trigonometric function.

a. $\cos \frac{4\pi}{3}$ b. $\tan(-210^\circ)$ c. $\csc \frac{11\pi}{4}$

Example 5

Example 5. Let θ be an angle in Quadrant II such that $\sin \theta = \frac{1}{3}$. Find $\cos \theta$ by using trigonometric identities.

Solution: