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TRIGONOMETRIC EQUATIONS

DEFINITION

The equations involving trigonometric function of unknown angles are known as Trigonometric equations.

A solution of a trigonometric equation is the value of the unknown angle that satisfies the equation.

PERIODIC FUNCTION

A function $f(x)$ is said to be periodic if there exists $T > 0$ such that $f(x + T) = f(x)$ for all x in the domain of definitions of $f(x)$. If T is the smallest positive real number such that $f(x + T) = f(x)$, then it is called the fundamental period (or) period of $f(x)$

Function	Period
$\sin(ax + b)$, $\cos(ax + b)$, $\sec(ax + b)$, $\operatorname{cosec}(ax + b)$	$2\pi/a$
$\tan(ax + b)$, $\cot(ax + b)$	π/a
$ \sin(ax + b) $, $ \cos(ax + b) $, $ \sec(ax + b) $, $ \operatorname{cosec}(ax + b) $	π/a
$ \tan(ax + b) $, $ \cot(ax + b) $	$\pi/2a$

The period of $\sin x$, $\operatorname{cosec} x$, $\cos x$, $\sec x$ is 2π and period of $\tan x$, $\cot x$, is π .

TRIGONOMETRICAL EQUATIONS WITH THEIR GENERAL SOLUTION

Trigonometrical equation	General solution
If $\sin \theta = 0$	then $\theta = n\pi : n \in I$
If $\cos \theta = 0$	then $\theta = (n\pi + \pi/2) = (2n+1)\pi/2 : n \in I$
If $\tan \theta = 0$	then $\theta = n\pi : n \in I$
If $\sin \theta = 1$	then $\theta = 2n\pi + \pi/2 = (4n+1)\pi/2 : n \in I$
If $\cos \theta = 1$	then $\theta = 2n\pi : n \in I$
If $\sin \theta = \sin \alpha$	then $\theta = n\pi + (-1)^n \alpha$ where $\alpha \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$: $n \in I$
If $\cos \theta = \cos \alpha$	then $\theta = 2n\pi \pm \alpha$ where $\alpha \in (0, \pi] : n \in I$
If $\tan \theta = \tan \alpha$	then $\theta = n\pi + \alpha$ where $\alpha \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2] : n \in I$
If $\sin^2 \theta = \sin^2 \alpha$	then $\theta = n\pi \pm \alpha : n \in I$
If $\cos^2 \theta = \cos^2 \alpha$	then $\theta = n\pi \pm \alpha : n \in I$
If $\tan^2 \theta = \tan^2 \alpha$	then $\theta = n\pi \pm \alpha : n \in I$
If $\left. \begin{array}{l} \sin \theta = \sin \alpha \\ \cos \theta = \cos \alpha \end{array} \right ^*$	then $\theta = 2n\pi + \alpha : n \in I$
If $\left. \begin{array}{l} \sin \theta = \sin \alpha \\ \tan \theta = \tan \alpha \end{array} \right ^*$	then $\theta = 2n\pi + \alpha : n \in I$
If $\left. \begin{array}{l} \tan \theta = \tan \alpha \\ \cos \theta = \cos \alpha \end{array} \right ^*$	then $\theta = 2n\pi + \alpha : n \in I$

- * Every where in this chapter "n" is taken as an integer.
- * If α be the least positive value of θ which satisfy two given trigonometrical equations, then the general value of θ will be $2n\pi + \alpha$

GENERAL SOLUTION OF TRIGONOMETRICAL EQUATION $a \cos \theta + b \sin \theta = C$

To solve the equation $a \cos \theta + b \sin \theta = c$, substitute $a = r \cos \phi$, $b = r \sin \phi$ such that

$$r = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}, \phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{b}{a}$$

Substituting these values in the equation we have $r \cos \phi \cos \theta + r \sin \phi \sin \theta = c$

$$\cos(\theta - \phi) = \frac{c}{r} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \cos(\theta - \phi) = \frac{c}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}$$

If $|c| > \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$, then the equation ;

$a \cos \theta + b \sin \theta = c$ has no solution

If $|c| \leq \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$, then take ;

$$\frac{|c|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}} = \cos \alpha, \text{ so that}$$

$$\cos(\theta - \phi) = \cos \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow (\theta - \phi) = 2n\pi \pm \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = 2n\pi \pm \alpha + \phi$$

SOLUTIONS IN THE CASE OF TWO EQUATIONS ARE GIVEN

Two equations are given and we have to find the values of variable θ which may satisfy both the given equations, like

$$\cos \theta = \cos \alpha \quad \text{and} \quad \sin \theta = \sin \alpha$$

$$\text{so the common solution is} \quad \theta = 2n\pi + \alpha, n \in \mathbb{I}$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \sin \theta = \sin \alpha \text{ and } \tan \theta = \tan \alpha$$

$$\text{so the common solution is,} \quad \theta = 2n\pi + \alpha, n \in \mathbb{I}$$

Rule : Find the common values of θ between 0 and 2π and then add $2\pi n$ to this common value