

Chapter 4 Section 3

Right Triangle Trigonometry

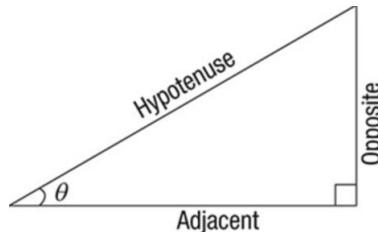
Right Triangle Definitions of Trigonometric Functions

Let θ be an acute angle of a right triangle. The six trigonometric functions of the angle θ are defined as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}\sin \theta &= \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}} & \cos \theta &= \frac{\text{adj}}{\text{hyp}} & \tan \theta &= \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}} \\ \csc \theta &= \frac{\text{hyp}}{\text{opp}} & \sec \theta &= \frac{\text{hyp}}{\text{adj}} & \cot \theta &= \frac{\text{adj}}{\text{opp}}\end{aligned}$$

The abbreviations opp, adj, and hyp represent the lengths of the three sides of a right triangle.

opp = the length of the side *opposite* θ
 adj = the length of the side *adjacent to* θ
 hyp = the length of the *hypotenuse*



Sines, Cosines, and Tangents of Special Angles

$$\sin 30^\circ = \sin \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\cos 30^\circ = \cos \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$\tan 30^\circ = \tan \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$$

$$\sin 45^\circ = \sin \frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$\cos 45^\circ = \cos \frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$\tan 45^\circ = \tan \frac{\pi}{4} = 1$$

$$\sin 60^\circ = \sin \frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$\cos 60^\circ = \cos \frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\tan 60^\circ = \tan \frac{\pi}{3} = \sqrt{3}$$

Cofunctions of complementary angles are equal. If θ is an acute angle, the following relationships are true. For example, $\sin 30^\circ = \frac{1}{2} = \cos 60^\circ$.

$$\sin(90^\circ - \theta) = \cos \theta$$

$$\cos(90^\circ - \theta) = \sin \theta$$

$$\tan(90^\circ - \theta) = \cot \theta$$

$$\cot(90^\circ - \theta) = \tan \theta$$

$$\sec(90^\circ - \theta) = \csc \theta$$

$$\csc(90^\circ - \theta) = \sec \theta$$

Fundamental Trigonometric Identities

Reciprocal Identities

$$\sin \theta = \frac{1}{\csc \theta} \quad \cos \theta = \frac{1}{\sec \theta} \quad \tan \theta = \frac{1}{\cot \theta}$$

$$\csc \theta = \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \quad \sec \theta = \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \quad \cot \theta = \frac{1}{\tan \theta}$$

Quotient Identities

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \quad \cot \theta = \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta}$$

Pythagorean Identities

$$\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1 \quad 1 + \tan^2 \theta = \sec^2 \theta \quad 1 + \cot^2 \theta = \csc^2 \theta$$