

* Solving Trig Equations Using Grade 11 Identities *

Warmup: a) Solve $4\sqrt{2}\tan x - 11 = \sqrt{2}\tan x - 9, \pi \leq x \leq 2\pi$. b) Solve $2\cos(x + \frac{5\pi}{6}) + 4 = 3, 0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$.

Soln $3\sqrt{2}\tan x = 2$

$$\tan x = \frac{2}{3\sqrt{2}}$$

$$x_1 = 0.4405^{\circ}$$



OR

$$x_2 = \pi + \text{RAA} = 3.58^{\circ}$$



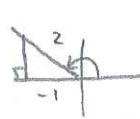
$\approx 3.14^{\circ}$ But 0.4405 inadmissible since it is too small.
 $\Rightarrow \pi \leq x \leq 2\pi$. So $x = 3.58^{\circ}$.
 $\leftarrow 6.28^{\circ}$

Soln Let $A = x + \frac{5\pi}{6}$.

$$\text{So } 2\cos A + 4 = 3$$

$$\cos A = -\frac{1}{2}$$

must be a special angle!



$$\text{RAA} = \frac{\pi}{3}$$

$$\text{So } A = \frac{2\pi}{3} \text{ OR } A = \frac{4\pi}{3}$$

$$\therefore x + \frac{5\pi}{6} = \frac{2\pi}{3} \quad \therefore x + \frac{5\pi}{6} = \frac{4\pi}{3} \text{, back sub}$$

$$x = -\frac{\pi}{6} \quad x = \frac{3\pi}{6} = \frac{\pi}{2} \checkmark$$

$$x = \frac{11\pi}{6} \text{, coterminal angle to } -\frac{\pi}{6}$$

Remark₁: We usually substitute established identities to try to express the equation in terms of a single trig function. Additionally, use algebraic skills and your ingenuity. For example, if we can build a product of factors aka $(x)(x) = 0$, then we can solve by Zero Product Property.

Remark₂: Don't divide away some of the roots. Recall: If $x^2 + x = 0$, then $x(x+1) = 0$, factor x to front... don't divide it away to zero. and thus $x = 0$ OR $x = -1$.

Ex₁ Solve $2\sin x = -\cos x, 0^{\circ} \leq x \leq 360^{\circ}$.

Soln $\frac{2\sin x}{\cos x} = \frac{-\cos x}{\cos x}$, divided by $\cos x$ and we comment $\cos x \neq 0$.

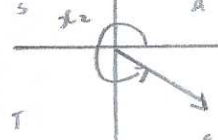
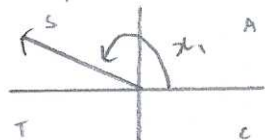
$$2\tan x = -1, \text{ tangent identity sub.}$$

$$\tan x = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\therefore x = -26.5651^{\circ} \text{, calculator}$$

$$\therefore \text{RAA} = 26.5651^{\circ}$$

$$\therefore x_1 = 153.43^{\circ} \text{ OR } x_2 = 333.43^{\circ}$$



Ex₂ Find all θ between $y = 2\sin^2 x$ and $y = 3 - 3\cos x$, $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$.

Soln At point of intersection, $y = y$

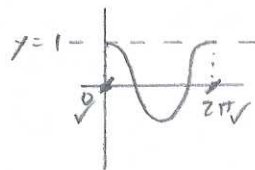
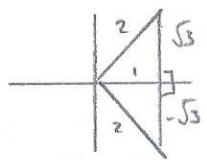
$$\therefore 2\sin^2 x = 3 - 3\cos x$$

$$2(1 - \cos^2 x) = 3 - 3\cos x, \text{ twisted pythag sub}$$

$$2 - 2\cos^2 x = 3 - 3\cos x$$

$$0 = 2\cos^2 x - 3\cos x + 1$$

$$0 = (2\cos x - 1)(\cos x - 1), \text{ built product of factors } \checkmark$$



$$\therefore \cos x = \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad \cos x = 1$$

$$\therefore x = \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi}{3} \quad x = 0, 2\pi$$

So Answer Set is $\{0, \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi}{3}, 2\pi\}$

Remark₃: In general, not always, when more than one trig function ($\sin, \cos, \tan, \csc, \sec, \cot$) is involved, make a substitution/manipulation to try to reduce the equation to a single trig function.

Ex₃ Solve $2\cos \theta - \cot \theta = 0$, $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$

Soln $2\cos \theta - \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} = 0$, sub $\cot \theta$ out.

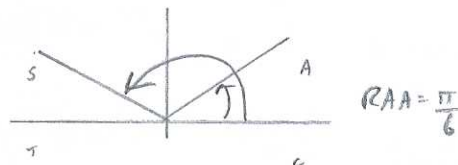
$$\frac{2\cos \theta \sin \theta}{\sin \theta} - \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} = \frac{0}{\sin \theta}, \text{ built common denom}$$

$$2\cos \theta \sin \theta - \cos \theta = 0, \text{ clear denom}$$

$$\cos \theta (2\sin \theta - 1) = 0, \text{ common factor } \cos \theta \text{ to front, built product of factors } \checkmark$$

$$\therefore \cos \theta = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \sin \theta = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\therefore \theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad \theta = \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{5\pi}{6}$$



Note: This solution nicely illustrates a successful process of not expressing equation in terms of a single trig function. As long as you can build $(x) = 0$, you can solve it.

W.S. #2,3,4

Gizmo "Simplifying Trig Expressions"

Trig Equations with Grade 11 Identities

- In each of the following, use a substitution for $\tan \theta$ or $\cot \theta$ in order to simplify. Solve the resulting equation for $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$.
 - $2 \cos \theta - \cot \theta = 0$
 - $2 \sin \theta \tan \theta = 5 - \frac{1}{\cos \theta}$
- Solve each of the following for $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$.
 - $\cos^2 x + \sin x + 1 = 0$
 - $4 \sin^2 x + \sin x + 3 = 6 \cos^2 x$
- Find the points of intersection of the functions $f(x) = \sin^2 x - 3 \cos^2 x$ and $g(x) = 8 \cos x - 4$, $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$.
- Solve the equation for $-\pi \leq x \leq 2\pi$. $6 \cos x + 5 \tan x = 0$
- Solve the following equation for $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$. $2 \sin^2 x = 1 - \cos x$.

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 3. $\left(\frac{\pi}{3}, 0\right), \left(\frac{5\pi}{3}, 0\right)$ 4. $-2.41^r, -0.73^r, 3.87^r, 5.55^r$ 5. $0, \frac{2\pi}{3}, \frac{4\pi}{3}, 2\pi$

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