

# Math 1060 ~ Trigonometry

## 3 The Unit Circle

### Learning Objectives

In this section you will:

- Sketch oriented arcs on the Unit Circle.
- Determine the cosine and sine values of an angle from a point on the Unit Circle.
- Learn and apply the Pythagorean Identity.
- Apply the Reference Angle Theorem.
- Learn the cosine and sine values for the common angles whether in degrees or radians.
- Learn the signs of the cosine and sine functions in each quadrant.

$$\sin^2 u + \cos^2 u = 1$$

$$\sin 2u = 2 \sin u \cos u$$

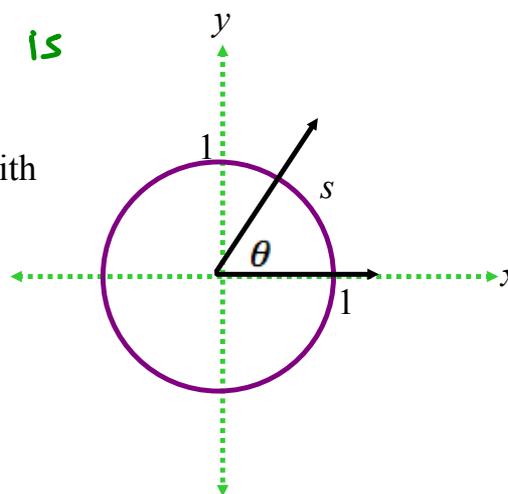
$$\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos C$$

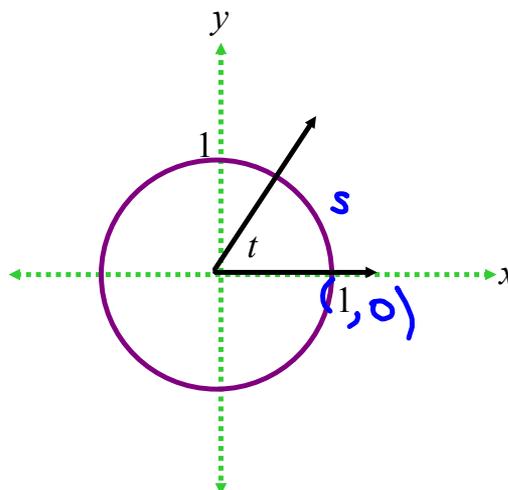
The Unit Circle (i.e. radius is 1 unit)

Consider the Unit Circle,  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ , with angle  $\theta$  in standard position and the corresponding arc measuring  $s$  units in length.

$s = r\theta$  but since  $r = 1$   
then  $s = \theta$

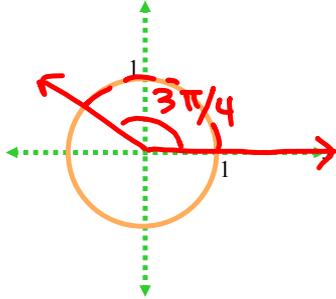


To identify real numbers with oriented angles, we "wrap" the real number line around the Unit Circle and associate to each real number  $t$  an oriented arc on the unit circle with initial point  $(1,0)$ .

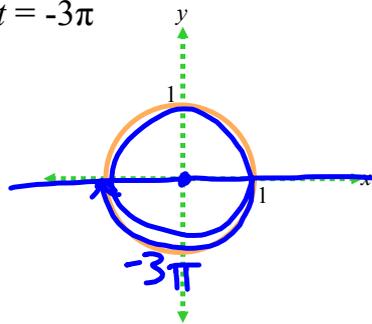


Ex 1: Sketch the oriented arc on the Unit Circle corresponding to each of these real numbers.

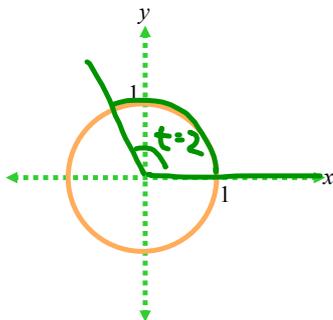
a)  $t = \frac{3\pi}{4}$



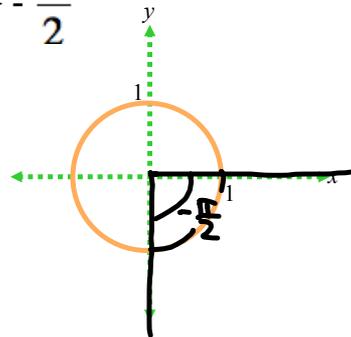
b)  $t = -3\pi$



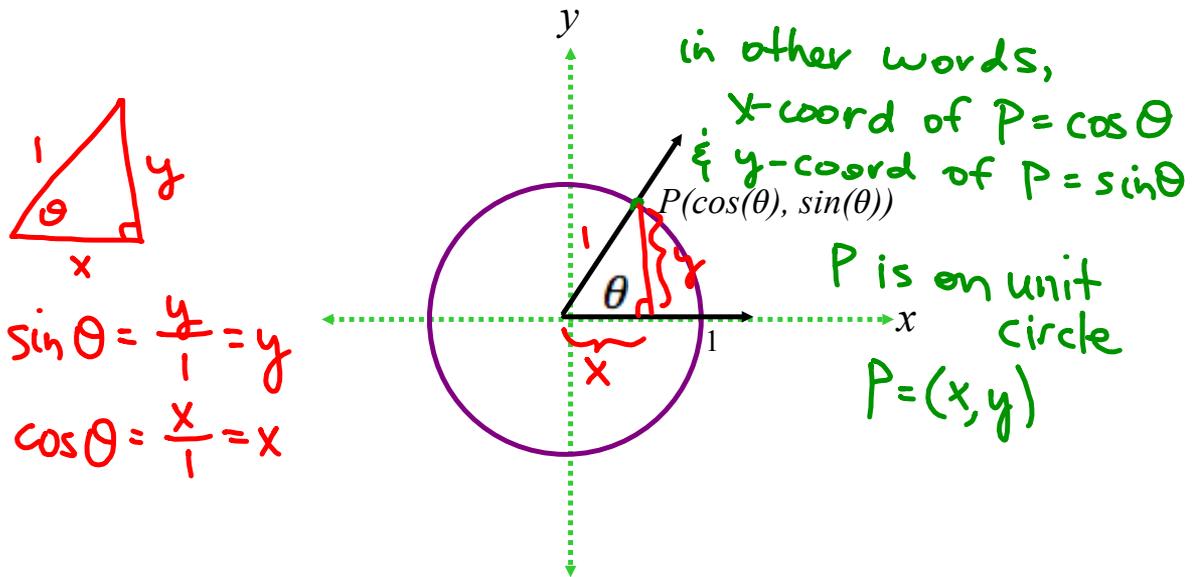
c)  $t = 2$



d)  $t = -\frac{\pi}{2}$



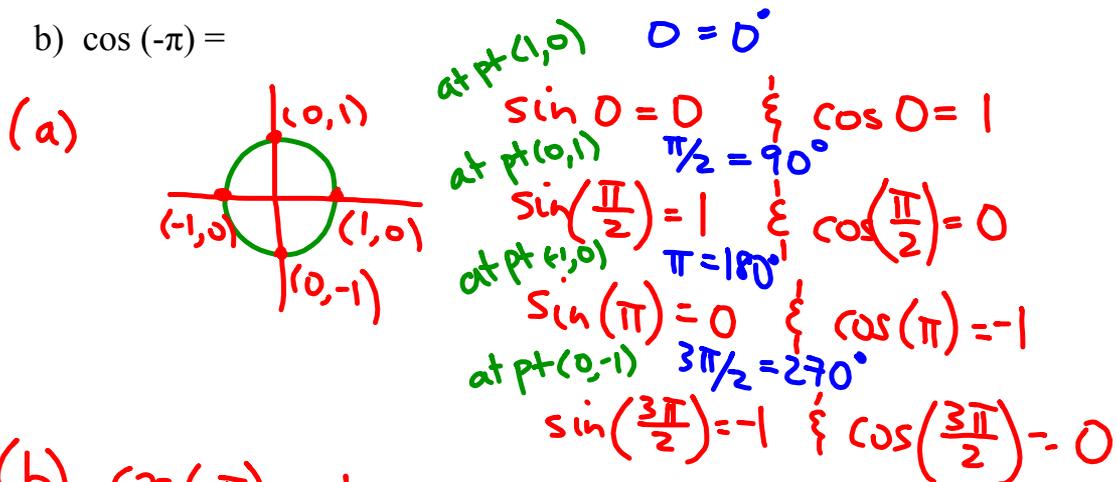
Determining the cosine and sine functions as points on the Unit Circle.



Ex 2:

a) Label the quadrant angles above in radians and degrees and determine the cosine and sine of each.

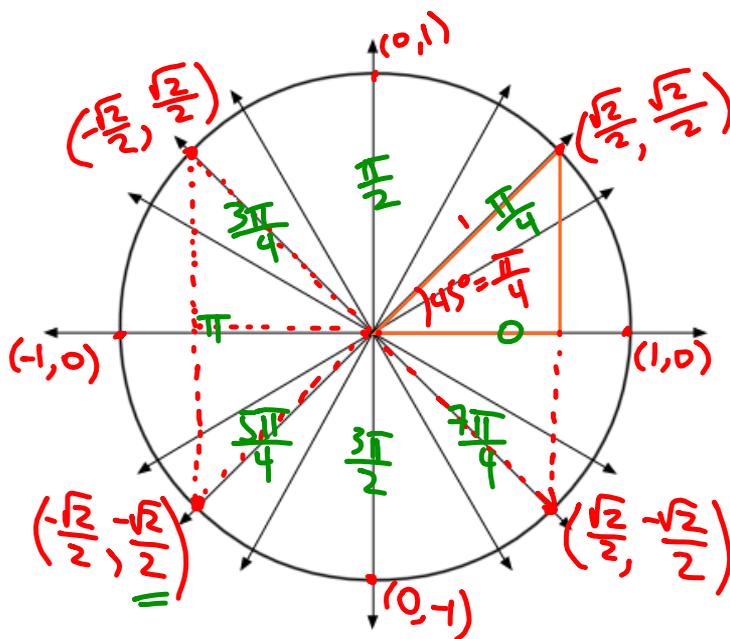
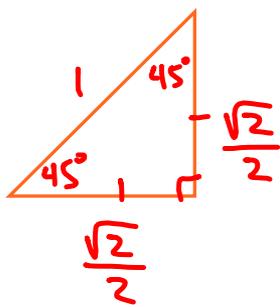
b)  $\cos(-\pi) =$



(b)  $\cos(-\pi) = -1$

corresponds to pt  $(-1,0)$

Question: If the hypotenuse of an isosceles right triangle is 1 unit, how long are each of the legs?



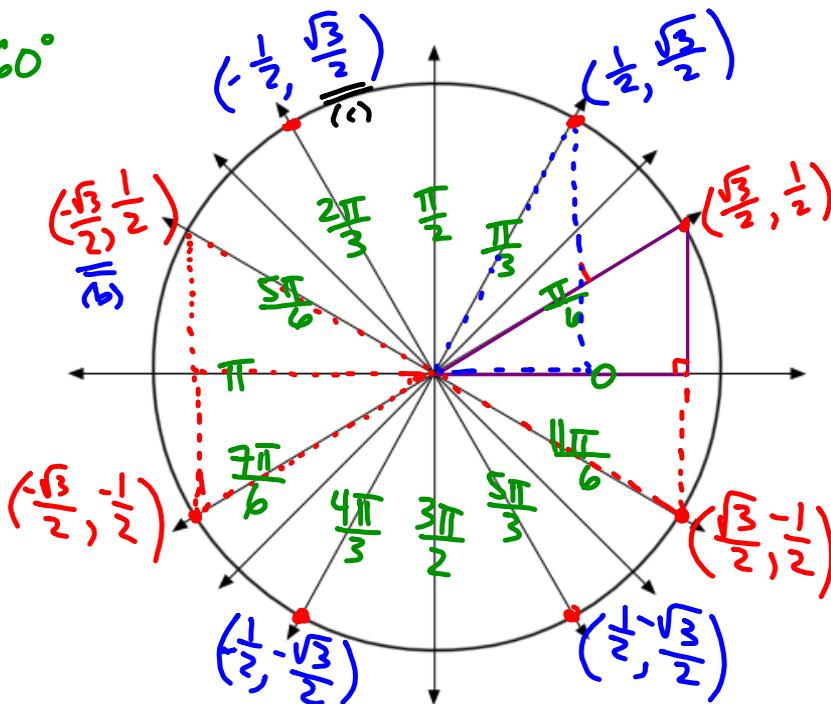
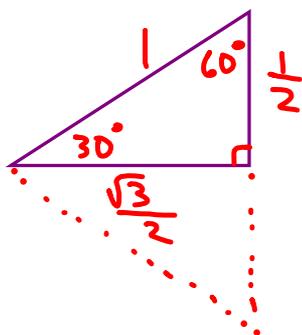
Ex 3:

a) On the figure above, label all the points on the Unit Circle corresponding with angles which are multiples of  $\frac{\pi}{4}$ .

b)  $\sin \frac{5\pi}{4} = \frac{-\sqrt{2}}{2}$

Question: If the hypotenuse of a right 30°-60°-90° triangle is 1 unit, how long are each of the legs?

$$\frac{\pi}{6} = 30^\circ, \quad \frac{\pi}{3} = 60^\circ$$



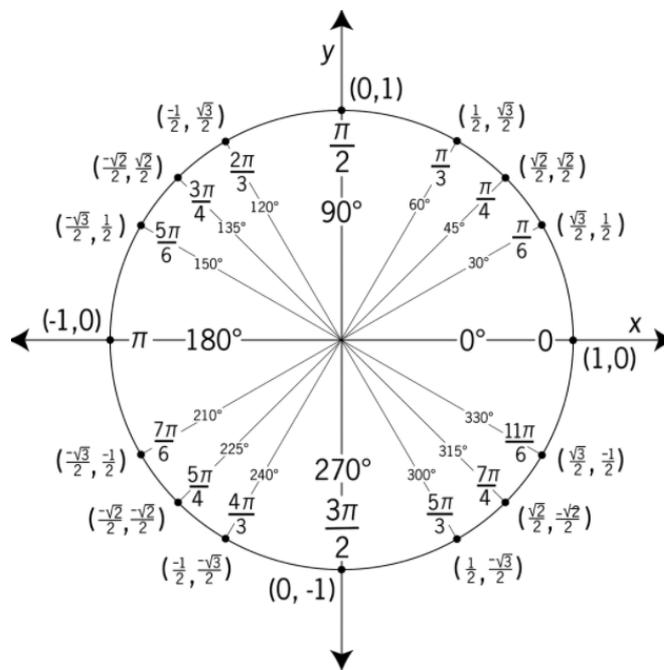
Ex 4:

a) On the figure above, label all the points on the Unit Circle corresponding with angles which are multiples of  $\frac{\pi}{6}$ .

b)  $\cos \frac{5\pi}{6} = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

c)  $\sin \frac{2\pi}{3} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

A complete Unit Circle looks like this.



Given the symmetry of the Unit Circle and The Reference Angle Theorem, you can determine cosine and sine values of these common angles readily.

### Reference Angle

A reference angle for an angle,  $\theta$ , is that angle made up of the terminal side of  $\theta$  and the  $x$ -axis.

- It is always positive.
- It is always acute.

*(i.e. the reference angle can be put inside a rt triangle)*

Reference Angle Theorem: Suppose  $\alpha$  is the reference angle for  $\theta$ . Then  $\cos \theta = \pm \cos \alpha$  and  $\sin \theta = \pm \sin \alpha$ , where the sign is determined by the quadrant in which the terminal side of  $\theta$  lies.

Ex 5: For each of the following angles, determine the reference angle and the sine and cosine of each.

Sine and Cosine Values of Common Angles

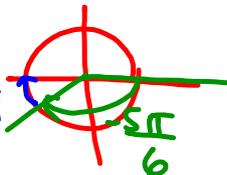
| $\theta$ degrees | $\theta$ radians | $\cos(\theta)$       | $\sin(\theta)$       |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| $0^\circ$        | 0                | 1                    | 0                    |
| $30^\circ$       | $\frac{\pi}{6}$  | $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$        |
| $45^\circ$       | $\frac{\pi}{4}$  | $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ | $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ |
| $60^\circ$       | $\frac{\pi}{3}$  | $\frac{1}{2}$        | $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ |
| $90^\circ$       | $\frac{\pi}{2}$  | 0                    | 1                    |

a)  $\frac{2\pi}{3}$



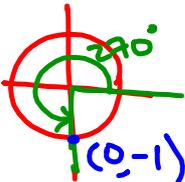
ref. angle  
 $\alpha = \pi - \frac{2\pi}{3} = \frac{\pi}{3}$   
 $\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}\right) = -\frac{1}{2}, \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

b)  $-\frac{5\pi}{6}$



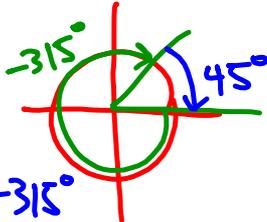
$\alpha = \frac{\pi}{6} = -\frac{5\pi}{6} + \pi$   
 $\cos\left(-\frac{5\pi}{6}\right) = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \sin\left(-\frac{5\pi}{6}\right) = -\frac{1}{2}$

c)  $270^\circ$



no ref. angle  
 $\cos(270^\circ) = 0, \sin(270^\circ) = -1$

d)  $-315^\circ$

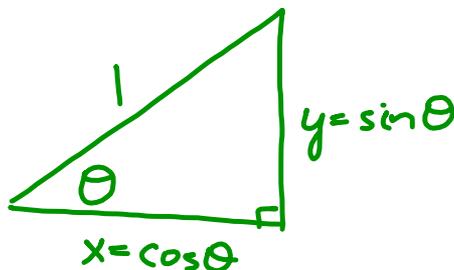


$\alpha = 45^\circ = 360^\circ - 315^\circ$   
 $\cos(-315^\circ) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \sin(-315^\circ) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$

## The Pythagorean Identity

For any angle,  $\theta$ ,  $\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta = 1$ .

identity: true for any value of  $\theta$ .



Ex 6: Using the given information about  $\theta$ , find the indicated value.

a) If  $\theta$  is a second quadrant angle, such that  $\sin \theta = \frac{3}{4}$ , find  $\cos \theta$ .

$$\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1$$

$$\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2 + \cos^2 \theta = 1$$

$$\frac{9}{16} + \cos^2 \theta = 1$$

$$\cos^2 \theta = \frac{7}{16} \Rightarrow \cos \theta = \pm \frac{\sqrt{7}}{4}$$

$$\boxed{\cos \theta = \frac{-\sqrt{7}}{4}}$$

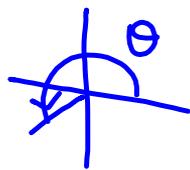
note:

$$\sin^2 \theta = (\sin \theta)^2$$

in Q2



b) If  $\theta$  is between  $\pi$  and  $\frac{3\pi}{2}$  and  $\cos \theta = -\frac{1}{2}$ , find  $\sin \theta$ .



$\cos \theta$  and  $\sin \theta$  are both negative.

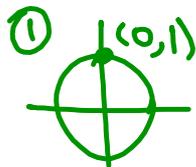
$$\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \sin^2 \theta = 1$$

$$\frac{1}{4} + \sin^2 \theta = 1$$

$$\sin^2 \theta = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\sin \theta = \frac{-\sqrt{3}}{2}}$$

c) If  $\sin \theta = 1$ , find  $\cos \theta$ .



$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta = 0$$

② use Pyth. Id.

$$1^2 + \cos^2 \theta = 1$$

$$\cos^2 \theta = 0$$

$$\boxed{\cos \theta = 0}$$