

Review of Trigonometric Identities

The topic of this segment is the use of trigonometric substitutions in integration. We start by reviewing some basic facts about trigonometry.

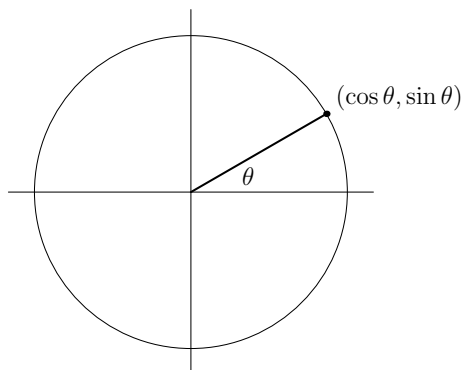


Figure 1: The unit circle.

Trigonometry is based on the circle of radius 1 centered at $(0, 0)$. A point on that circle at angle θ (see Figure [??fig:l27g1](#)) has coordinates $(\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$. Because the radius of the circle is 1, the Pythagorean theorem tells us right away that $\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1$. (Remember that $\sin^2 \theta$ means $(\sin \theta)^2$.) You may also remember some double angle formulas.

$$\begin{aligned}\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta &= 1 \\ \cos(2\theta) &= \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta \\ \sin(2\theta) &= 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta\end{aligned}$$

From the double angle formula for $\cos(2\theta)$ we can derive the half angle formula:

$$\begin{aligned}\cos(2\theta) &= \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta \\ &= \cos^2 \theta - (1 - \cos^2 \theta) \\ \cos(2\theta) &= 2 \cos^2 \theta - 1 \\ \Rightarrow \cos^2 \theta &= \frac{1 + \cos(2\theta)}{2}\end{aligned}$$

This formula will allow us to rewrite powers like $\cos^2 \theta$ in lower degree terms. A similar calculation shows that:

$$\sin^2 \theta = \frac{1 - \cos(2\theta)}{2}.$$

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