

## Section 7.3: Verifying Identities

Verify the identity  $\sec 2\theta = \frac{\sec^2 \theta}{2 - \sec^2 \theta}$

From the right

$$\frac{\sec^2 \theta}{2 - \sec^2 \theta} = \frac{\frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta}}{2 - \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta}}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta}}{\frac{2 \cos^2 \theta}{\cos^2 \theta} - \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta}}$$

reciprocal ID

algebra

$$= \frac{\frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta}}{\frac{2\cos^2 \theta - 1}{\cos^2 \theta}}$$

algebra

$$= \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta} \cdot \left( \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{2\cos^2 \theta - 1} \right)$$

algebra

$$= \frac{1}{2\cos^2 \theta - 1}$$

algebra

$$= \frac{1}{\cos 2\theta}$$

Double angle ID

$$= \sec 2\theta$$

as expected.

## Section 7.5: Trigonometric Equations

In this section, we wish to consider **conditional** equations involving trigonometric functions. Our goal will be to find a **solution set**.

Some examples of trigonometric equations include

$$2 \cos(x) - 1 = 0, \quad \sin \theta \cos \theta + \sin \theta = 0, \quad 2 \tan^2 x - \tan x - 1 = 0,$$

$$\csc 2\theta = \sec 2\theta, \quad \tan^2(3x) = 3, \quad \text{and so forth.}$$

We'll use trigonometric identities, our knowledge of some trig values, and inverse trigonometric functions as needed.

## A Couple of Simple Examples

Find all possible solutions of the equation  $2 \cos(x) - 1 = 0$ .

We'll look for solutions on the interval  $[0, 2\pi)$   
then extend that.

$$2 \cos x - 1 = 0$$

$$2 \cos x = 1$$

$$\cos x = \frac{1}{2}$$

one solution is  $\frac{\pi}{3}$  (from memory)

For any  $x$  having  $\frac{\pi}{3}$  as its reference angle

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

$\cos x > 0$  in quad IV

Another solution is  $\frac{5\pi}{3}$ .

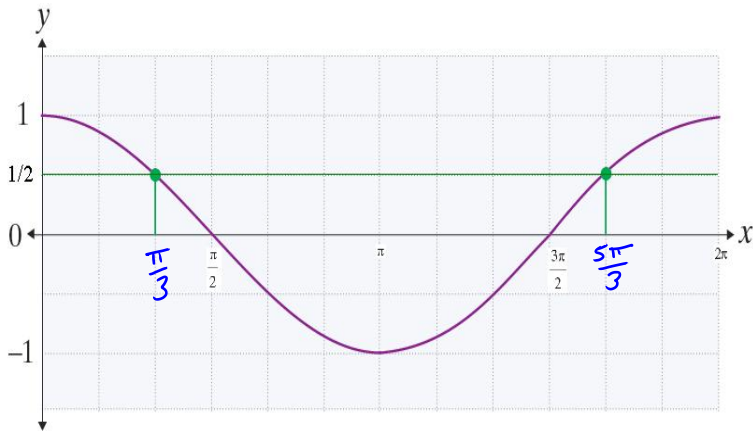
Due to periodicity we can add any integer multiple of  $2\pi$  to get other solutions.

The solution set can be expressed as

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{3} + 2\pi n \quad \text{or}$$

$$\theta = \frac{5\pi}{3} + 2\pi n \quad \text{for integers } n$$

# Graphical Representation



**Figure:** The solutions of  $2 \cos(x) - 1 = 0$  correspond to intersections of the curves  $y = \cos x$  and  $y = \frac{1}{2}$ . Intersections continue to the left and right every  $2\pi$  units.

## Another Simple Example

Find all possible solutions of the equation  $\sin(x) = \cos(x)$ .

If  $\cos x = 0$ , then  $\sin x = 1$  or  $\sin x = -1$ . So

$\cos x \neq 0$  for any solutions.

Divide by  $\cos x$

$$\frac{\sin x}{\cos x} = 1 \Rightarrow \tan x = 1$$

One solution is  $\frac{\pi}{4}$

The period of tangent is  $\pi$

So all solutions are given by

$$x = \frac{\pi}{4} + \pi n \quad \text{for integers } n$$

Since tangent is positive in quad III

$$\tan x = 1 \quad \text{if } x = \frac{5\pi}{4}$$

We could also state the solution set as

$$x = \frac{\pi}{4} + 2\pi n \quad \text{or}$$

$$x = \frac{5\pi}{4} + 2\pi n \quad \text{for integers } n$$



# Graphical Representation



**Figure:** The solutions of  $\sin(x) = \cos(x)$  correspond to intersections of the curves  $y = \cos x$  and  $y = \sin(x)$ . Intersections continue to the left and right every  $2\pi$  units.

## A General Observation

When solving more complicated trigonometric equations, we will try to rewrite the problem in the form of **one or more** equations that look like

$$\text{One Trig Function} = \text{One Number}$$

We typically determine solution(s) in one period, and then extend those solutions if required.