Lecture 2: Worksheet

In this lecture, get acquainted with the most important functions.

Trigonometric functions

The cosine and sine functions can be defined geometrically by the coordinates $(\cos(x), \sin(x))$ of a point on the unit circle. The tangent function is defined as $\tan(x) = \sin(x)/\cos(x)$.

$\cos(x) =$ adjacent side/hypothenuse
$\sin(x) =$ opposite side/hypothenuse
$\tan(x) =$ opposite side/adjdacent side

Pythagoras theorem gives us the important identity

$$\cos^2(x) + \sin^2(x) = 1$$

Define also $\cot(x) = 1/\tan(x)$. Less important but sometimes used are $\sec(x) = 1/\cos(x), \csc(x) = 1/\sin(x)$.

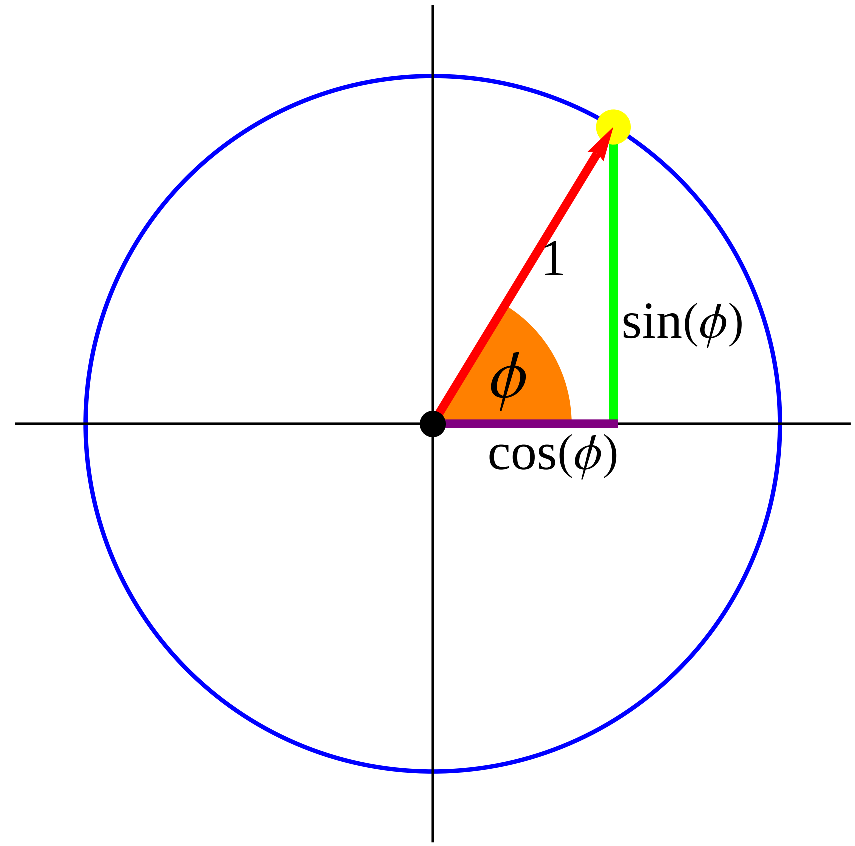
1 Find $\cos(\pi/3)$, $\sin(\pi/3)$.

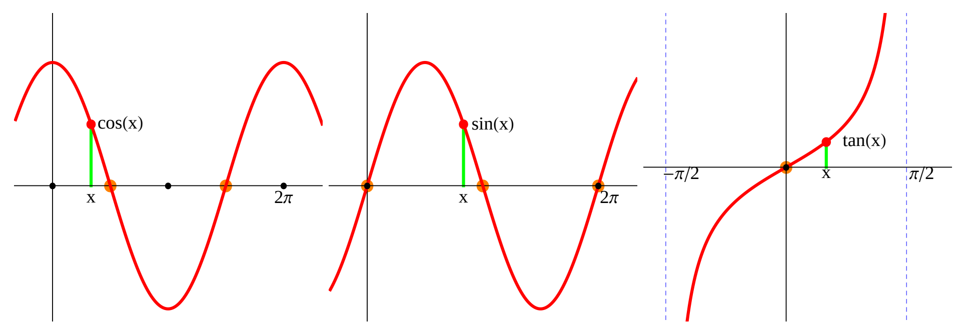
2 Where does cos and sin have roots, places, where the function is zero?

3 Find $\tan(3\pi/2)$ and $\cot(3\pi/2)$.

4 Find $\cos(3\pi/2)$ and $\sin(3\pi/2)$.

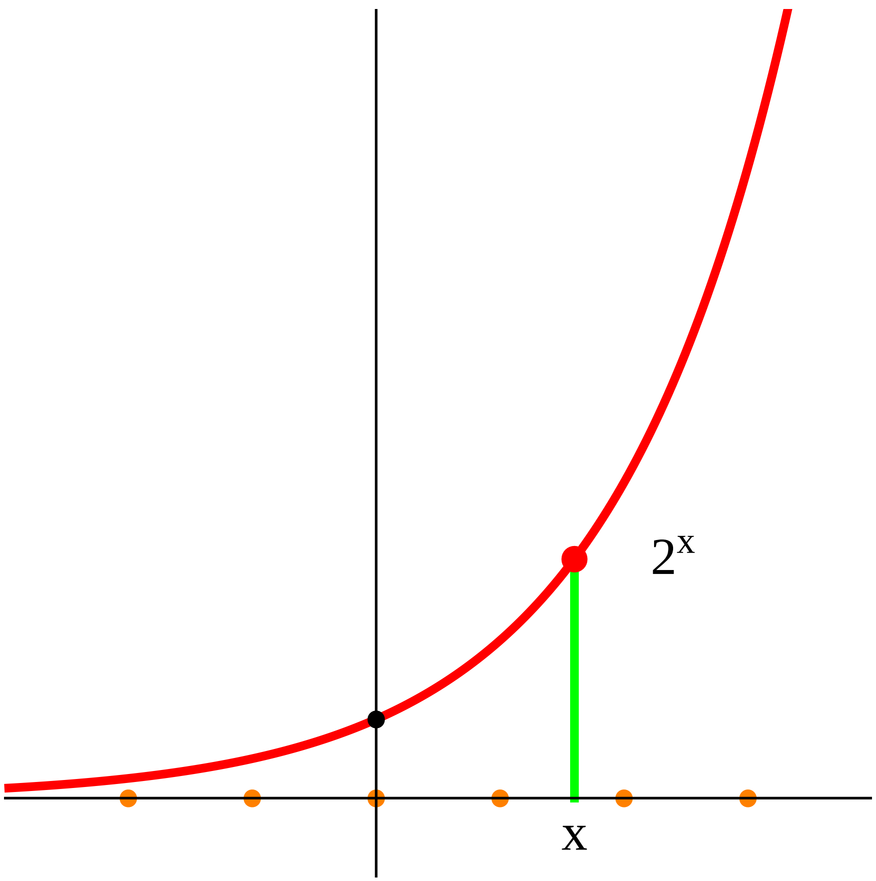
5 Find $\tan(\pi/4)$ and $\cot(\pi/4)$.





The exponential function

The function $f(x) = 2^x$ is first defined for positive integers like $2^{10} = 1024$, then for all integers with $f(0) = 1, f(-n) = 1/f(n)$. Using roots, it can be defined for rational numbers like $2^{3/2} = 8^{1/2} = \sqrt{8} = 2.828...$. Since the function 2^x is monotonone on the set of rationals, we can fill the gaps and define $f(x)$ for any real x. By taking square roots again and again for example, we see $2^{1/2}, 2^{1/4}, 2^{1/8}, ...$ we approach $2^0 = 1$.



There is nothing special about 2 and we can take any positive base a and define the exponential a^x. It satisfies $a^0 = 1$ and the remarkable rule:

$$a^{x+y} = a^x \cdot a^y$$

It is spectacular because it provides a link between addition and multiplication.

We will especially consider the exponential $\boxed{\exp_h(x) = (1+h)^{x/h}}$, where h is a positive parameter. This is a super cool exponential because it satisfies $\exp_h(x+h) = (1+h)\exp_h(x)$ so that

$$[\exp_h(x+h) - \exp_h(x)]/h = \exp_h(x) .$$

We will see this relation again. In modern language, we can say that "the quantum derivative of the quantum exponential is the function itself for any Planck constant h".

For $h = 1$, we have the function 2^x we have started with. In the limit $h \to 0$, we get the important exponential function $\exp(x)$ which we also call e^x. For $x = 1$, we get the **Euler number** $e = e^1 = 2.71828...$.

1. What is 2^{-5}?
2. Find $2^{1/2}$.
3. Find $27^{1/3}$.
4. Why is $A = 2^{3/4}$ smaller than $B = 2^{4/5}$? Take the 20th power of both numbers.
5. Assume $h = 2$ find $\exp_h(4)$.