

Sum and Difference Formulas

Students will use the sum and difference formulas for sines, cosines, and tangents.

Precalculus

Sum and Difference Identities

$$\sin(u + v) = \sin u \cos v + \cos u \sin v$$

$$\sin(u - v) = \sin u \cos v - \cos u \sin v$$

$$\cos(u + v) = \cos u \cos v - \sin u \sin v$$

$$\cos(u - v) = \cos u \cos v + \sin u \sin v$$

$$\tan(u + v) = \frac{\tan u + \tan v}{1 - \tan u \tan v}$$

$$\tan(u - v) = \frac{\tan u - \tan v}{1 + \tan u \tan v}$$

When using the sum and difference formulas replace the variables u and v with angle measures found on the unit circle that will allow you to find the value of trig function of an angle not found on the unit circle.

Example 1: *Using the Sine/Cosine of a sum or difference to find the exact value.*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } \cos 15^\circ &= \cos(45 - 30) \\ &= \cos 45^\circ \cos 30^\circ + \sin 45^\circ \sin 30^\circ \\ &= \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} = \frac{\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{2}}{4} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b. } \sin 75^\circ &= \sin(45 + 30) \\ &= \sin 45^\circ \cos 30^\circ + \cos 45^\circ \sin 30^\circ \\ &= \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} = \frac{\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{2}}{4} \end{aligned}$$

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Example 2: Using the Sine/Cosine of a sum or difference to find the exact value.

$$\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{3}$$

$$\frac{3\pi}{12} + \frac{4\pi}{12}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } \sin \frac{7\pi}{12} &= \sin \left(\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{3} \right) \\ &= \sin \frac{\pi}{4} \cos \frac{\pi}{3} + \cos \frac{\pi}{4} \sin \frac{\pi}{3} \\ &= \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \right) + \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right) \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4} = \frac{\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{2}}{4} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b. } \tan \frac{\pi}{12} &= \tan \left(\frac{\pi}{3} - \frac{\pi}{4} \right) \\ &= \frac{\tan \frac{\pi}{3} - \tan \frac{\pi}{4}}{1 - (\tan \frac{\pi}{3})(\tan \frac{\pi}{4})} = \frac{\sqrt{3} - 1}{1 - \sqrt{3}} \end{aligned}$$

Example 3: Write each expression as the sine, cosine or tangent of an angle. Then find the exact value of the expression.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } \cos 80^\circ \cos 20^\circ + \sin 80^\circ \sin 20^\circ &= \cos(80 - 20) \\ &= \cos 60 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b. } \cos 25^\circ \cos 20^\circ - \sin 25^\circ \sin 20^\circ &= \cos(25 + 20) \\ &= \cos 45 \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$8. \tan 195^\circ = \tan(240 - 45) = \frac{\tan 240 - \tan 45}{1 + \tan 240 \tan 45} = \frac{\sqrt{3} - 1}{1 + \sqrt{3}}$$

$$9. \tan 165^\circ = \tan(120 + 45) = \frac{\tan 120 + \tan 45}{1 - \tan 120 \tan 45} = \frac{-\sqrt{3} + 1}{1 - (-\sqrt{3} \cdot 1)} = \frac{1 - \sqrt{3}}{1 + \sqrt{3}}$$

Write each expression as the sine, cosine or tangent of an angle. Then find the exact value of the expression.

$$10. \sin 25^\circ \cos 5^\circ + \cos 25^\circ \sin 5^\circ = \sin(25 + 5) = \sin 30^\circ = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$11. \cos 105^\circ \cos 45^\circ + \sin 105^\circ \sin 45^\circ = \cos(105 - 45) = \cos 60^\circ = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$12. \frac{\tan 10^\circ + \tan 35^\circ}{1 - \tan 10^\circ \tan 35^\circ} = \tan(10 + 35) = \tan 45^\circ = 1$$

$$13. \sin \frac{5\pi}{12} \cos \frac{\pi}{4} - \cos \frac{5\pi}{12} \sin \frac{\pi}{4} = \sin\left(\frac{5\pi}{12} - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \sin\left(\frac{5\pi}{12} - \frac{3\pi}{12}\right) = \sin \frac{2\pi}{12} = \sin \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$14. \frac{\tan \frac{\pi}{5} - \tan \frac{\pi}{30}}{1 + \tan \frac{\pi}{5} \tan \frac{\pi}{30}} = \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{5} - \frac{\pi}{30}\right) = \tan\left(\frac{6\pi}{30} - \frac{\pi}{30}\right) = \tan \frac{5\pi}{30} = \tan \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$$

Sum and Difference Formulas

Name: Key Date: _____

Find the exact value of each expression.

$$\begin{aligned}
 1. \quad \cos 105^\circ &= \cos(60+45) = \cos 60 \cos 45 - \sin 60 \sin 45 \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) - \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) \\
 &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4} = \boxed{\frac{\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{6}}{4}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 2. \quad \sin 15^\circ &= \sin(45-30) = \sin 45 \cos 30 - \cos 45 \sin 30 \\
 &= \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) - \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} = \boxed{\frac{\sqrt{6}-\sqrt{2}}{4}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 3. \quad \cos 75^\circ &= \cos(45+30) = \cos 45 \cos 30 - \sin 45 \sin 30 \\
 &= \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) - \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} = \boxed{\frac{\sqrt{6}-\sqrt{2}}{4}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 4. \quad \sin 255^\circ &= \sin(315-60) = \sin 315 \cos 60 - \cos 315 \sin 60 \\
 &= \left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}\right) - \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 5. \quad \cos 285^\circ &= \cos(240+45) = \cos 240 \cos 45 - \sin 240 \sin 45 \\
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) - \left(-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) \\
 &= -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4} = \boxed{\frac{\sqrt{6}-\sqrt{2}}{4}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 6. \quad \cos 195^\circ &= \cos(240-45) = \cos 240 \cos 45 + \sin 240 \sin 45 \\
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) + \left(-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 7. \quad \tan 105^\circ &= \frac{\tan 60 + \tan 45}{1 - (\tan 60)(\tan 45)} \\
 &= \frac{\sqrt{3} + 1}{1 - \sqrt{3}} = \boxed{\frac{\sqrt{3}+1}{1-\sqrt{3}}}
 \end{aligned}$$