

## Solving Quadratic Trigonometric Equations

Prior Knowledge:

There are several methods to solve a quadratic equation:

1. Factoring
2. Quadratic Formula
3. Graphing

A quadratic equation may have two solutions, one solution or no solution.

### Activity 1

Solve

Consider the equation  $x^2 + 2x - 8 = 0$  using multiple techniques.

Factoring

$$x^2 + 2x - 8 = 0$$

$$(x+4)(x-2) = 0$$

$$x = -4 \text{ or } x = 2$$

Use Zero Principle!

\*  $A \cdot B = 0$   
 Solns  $\rightarrow$   $A = 0$   
 $B = 0$

Quadratic Formula

$$x^2 + 2x - 8 = 0$$

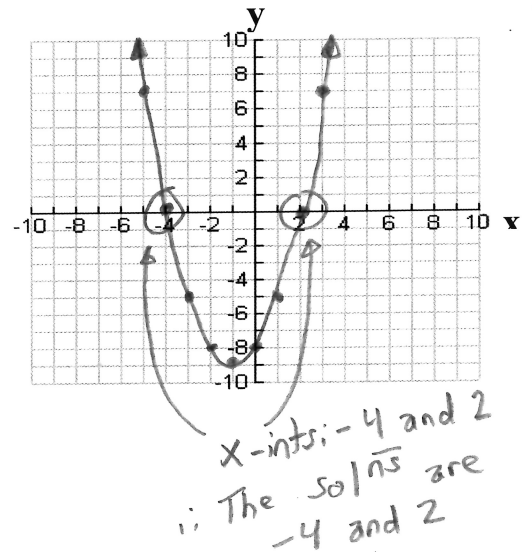
$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$x = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{(2)^2 - 4(1)(-8)}}{2(1)}$$

$$x = \frac{-2 \pm 6}{2}$$

$$x = 2 \text{ or } x = -4$$

Graphing



$$0 = x^2 + 2x - 8$$

$$y = x^2 + 2x - 8$$

$$y = (x^2 + 2x + 1) - 8 - 1$$

$$y = (x+1)^2 - 9$$
 vertex  $\rightarrow (-1, -9)$   
 step pattern: 1, 3, 5, 7

### Example 1

Solve the equation  $2 \cos^2 \theta - 1 = 0$ ;  $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ .

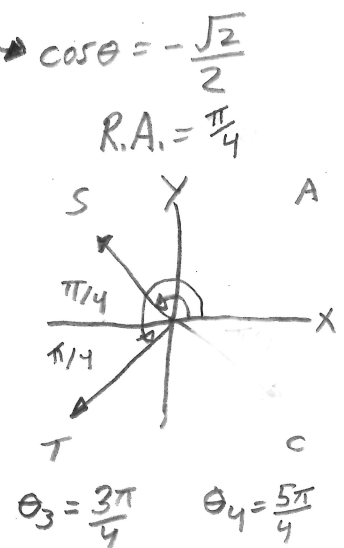
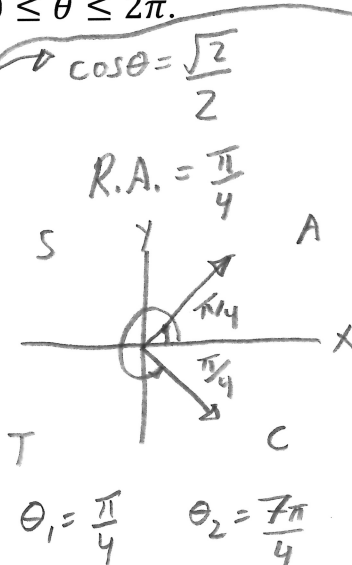
$$2 \cos^2 \theta - 1 = 0$$

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

$$\sqrt{\cos^2 \theta} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}$$

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

$$\cos \theta = \pm \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$



### Example 2

Solve the following trigonometric equations;  $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ .

a)  $3 \cos^2 \theta - 11 \cos \theta = -6$

$3 \cos^2 \theta - 11 \cos \theta + 6 = 0$

Let  $n = \cos \theta$

$3n^2 - 11n + 6 = 0$

$3n^2 - 9n - 2n + 6 = 0$

$3n(n-3) - 2(n-3) = 0$

$(3n-2)(n-3) = 0$

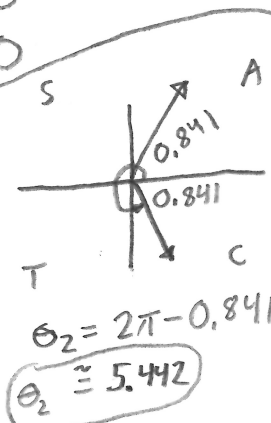
$n = \frac{2}{3}$

$\cos \theta = \frac{2}{3}$

$\theta = \cos^{-1}(\frac{2}{3})$

$\theta_1 \approx 0.841$

$P(18) \begin{cases} -9, -2 \\ 5(-11) \end{cases}$



b)  $-2 \cos^2 \theta - 3 \sin \theta + 3 = 0$

$-2(1 - \sin^2 \theta) - 3 \sin \theta + 3 = 0$

$-2 + 2 \sin^2 \theta - 3 \sin \theta + 3 = 0$

$2 \sin^2 \theta - 3 \sin \theta + 1 = 0$

Let  $n = \sin \theta$

$2n^2 - 3n + 1 = 0$

$2n^2 - 2n - n + 1 = 0$

$2n(n-1) - 1(n-1) = 0$

$(2n-1)(n-1) = 0$

$n = \frac{1}{2}$

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

R.A. =  $\frac{\pi}{6}$

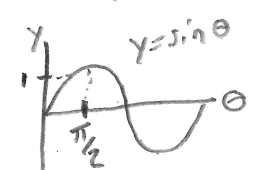


$\theta_1 = \frac{\pi}{6}$

$\theta_2 = \frac{5\pi}{6}$

$n = 1$

$\sin \theta = 1$



$\theta_3 = \frac{\pi}{2}$

$n = 3$   
 $\cos \theta = 3$   
No Sol<sup>n</sup>

### Example 3

Solve the following trigonometric equations;  $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ .

Hint: Factoring may help.

Use Zero Principle!

a)  $\sin \theta (\cos \theta - 1) = 0$

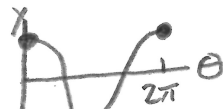
$\sin \theta = 0$



$\theta_1 = 0, \theta_2 = \pi, \theta_3 = 2\pi$

$\cos \theta - 1 = 0$

$\cos \theta = 1$



0 and  $2\pi$  are already listed as solutions

b)  $\sec \theta \csc \theta - 2 \csc \theta = 0$

$\csc \theta (\sec \theta - 2) = 0$

$\csc \theta = 0$

$\frac{1}{\sin \theta} = 0$

can't be zero...

$\therefore$  No Sol<sup>n</sup>

$\sec \theta - 2 = 0$

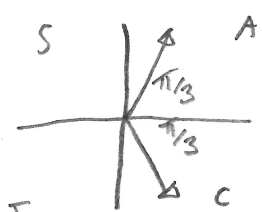
$\sec \theta = 2$

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

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

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

R.A. =  $\frac{\pi}{3}$



$\theta_1 = \frac{\pi}{3}, \theta_2 = \frac{5\pi}{3}$

### Example 4

How would you start a solution to the following equations below?

a)  $5 \cos 2\theta - \cos \theta + 3 = 0$

$5(2 \cos^2 \theta - 1) - \cos \theta + 3 = 0$

$10 \cos^2 \theta - 5 - \cos \theta + 3 = 0$

$10 \cos^2 \theta - \cos \theta - 2 = 0$

Let  $n = \cos \theta$

b)  $-2 \cos 2\theta = 2 \sin \theta$

$-2(1 - 2 \sin^2 \theta) = 2 \sin \theta$

$-2 + 4 \sin^2 \theta = 2 \sin \theta$

$\frac{4 \sin^2 \theta - 2 \sin \theta - 2}{2} = \frac{0}{2}$

$2 \sin^2 \theta - \sin \theta - 1 = 0$

Let  $n = \sin \theta$

c)  $\sin 2\theta = \cos \theta$

$2 \sin \theta \cos \theta = \cos \theta$

$2 \sin \theta \cos \theta - \cos \theta = 0$

$\cos \theta (2 \sin \theta - 1) = 0$

$\cos \theta = 0$      $2 \sin \theta - 1$