

Solving Trig Equations

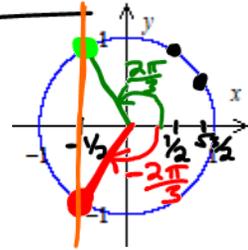
$\sqrt[3]{x^3} = \sqrt[3]{10}$ vs $x^3 = 8$
 $x = \sqrt[3]{10}$ vs $x = 2$
 "unfriendly" vs "friendly"

EXAMPLE: Find all of the solutions to the equation $8\cos(t) + 3 = -1$.

$8\cos(t) + 3 = -1$
 $8\cos(t) = -4$
 $\cos(t) = \frac{-4}{8} = -\frac{1}{2}$

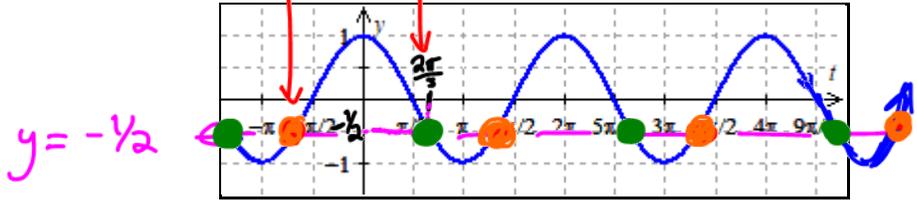
↓ isolate trig function

Identity:
 $\cos(\theta) = \cos(-\theta)$



$\cos^{-1}(\cos(t)) = \cos^{-1}(-\frac{1}{2})$
 $t = \frac{2\pi}{3} + 2k\pi$ OR $t = \frac{4\pi}{3} + 2k\pi$
 $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

"is an element of"
 set of integers (whole numbers)

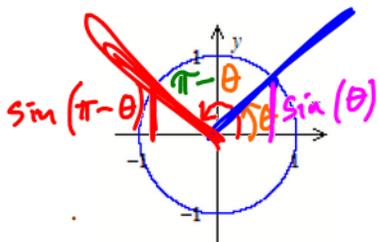
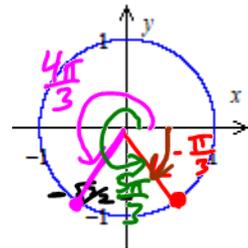


EXAMPLE: Find all of the solutions to the equation $4\sin(t) + 2\sqrt{3} = 0$.

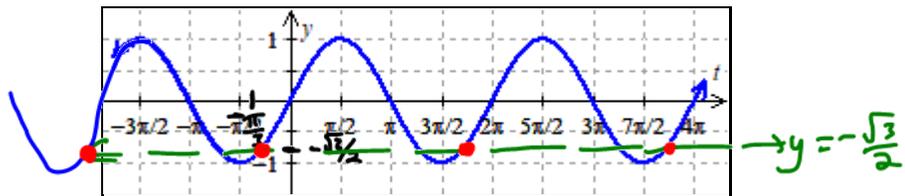
$4\sin(t) + 2\sqrt{3} = 0$
 $4\sin(t) = -2\sqrt{3}$
 $\sin(t) = \frac{-2\sqrt{3}}{4} = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$
 $\sin^{-1}(\sin(t)) = \sin^{-1}(-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2})$

$2\pi \cdot k = 2k\pi$

$t = -\frac{\pi}{3} + 2k\pi$ OR $t = \pi - (-\frac{\pi}{3}) + 2k\pi$
 $= \frac{4\pi}{3} + 2k\pi$
 for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$



$\sin(\theta) = \sin(\pi - \theta)$



A graph of $y = \sin(t)$.

$y = \cos(3t)$ has period: $P = 2\pi \cdot \frac{1}{3} = \frac{2\pi}{3}$

EXAMPLE: First find all of the solutions to the equation $2\sqrt{2} \cos(3t) = -2$. Then find the particular solutions on the interval $[0, \pi)$.

$$2\sqrt{2} \cos(3t) = -2$$

$$\cos(3t) = -\frac{2}{2\sqrt{2}} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$\cos(3t) = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$\cos^{-1}(\cos(3t)) = \cos^{-1}\left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)$$

$$3t = \frac{3\pi}{4} + 2k\pi \quad \text{OR} \quad 3t = -\frac{3\pi}{4} + 2k\pi, \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$t = \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2\pi}{3}k \quad \text{OR} \quad t = -\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2\pi}{3}k, \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Find solutions on $[0, 2\pi) = [0, \frac{24\pi}{12})$

$k=0$: $t = \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2 \cdot 0 \cdot \pi}{3} = \frac{\pi}{4}$ ✓

OR $t = -\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2 \cdot 0 \cdot \pi}{3} = -\frac{\pi}{4}$ ✗

$k=1$: $t = \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2 \cdot 1 \cdot \pi}{3} = \frac{3\pi}{12} + \frac{8\pi}{12} = \frac{11\pi}{12}$ ✓

$t = -\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2 \cdot 1 \cdot \pi}{3} = -\frac{3\pi}{12} + \frac{8\pi}{12} = \frac{5\pi}{12}$ ✓

$k=2$: $t = \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2 \cdot 2 \cdot \pi}{3} = \frac{3\pi}{12} + \frac{16\pi}{12} = \frac{19\pi}{12}$ ✓

$t = -\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2 \cdot 2 \cdot \pi}{3} = -\frac{3\pi}{12} + \frac{16\pi}{12} = \frac{13\pi}{12}$ ✓

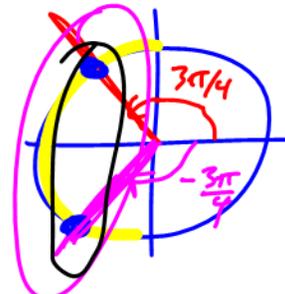
$k=3$: $t = \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2 \cdot 3 \cdot \pi}{3} = \frac{3\pi}{12} + \frac{24\pi}{12} = \frac{27\pi}{12} > \frac{24\pi}{12} = 2\pi$ ✗

$t = -\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2 \cdot 3 \cdot \pi}{3} = -\frac{3\pi}{12} + \frac{24\pi}{12} = \frac{21\pi}{12}$ ✓

$k=4$: NOT WORTH TRYING

$t = -\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot \pi}{3} = \frac{3\pi}{12} + \frac{32\pi}{12} = \frac{35\pi}{12} > 2\pi$ ✗

Solution set is: $\left\{ \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{11\pi}{12}, \frac{19\pi}{12}, \frac{5\pi}{12}, \frac{13\pi}{12}, \frac{21\pi}{12} \right\}$



$$k = -1: \quad t = \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{2(-1)\pi}{3}$$
$$= \frac{3\pi}{12} + \frac{-8\pi}{12}$$
$$= \frac{-5\pi}{12} < 0 \quad \times$$

$$t < 0 \quad \times$$