Trigonometric Functions

6.4 Definition 2 of Trigonometric Functions: Cartesian Plane

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Definition: Standard Position

An angle is said to be in **standard position** if its initial side is along the positive *x*-axis and its vertex is at the origin.



Quadrants



270°

Definition: Coterminal Angles

Two angles in *standard position* with the *same terminal side* are called **coterminal angles**.



To find measures of the smallest nonnegative coterminal angles

- ▶ if the given angle is positive, subtract 360° repeatedly until the result is a positive angle less than or equal to 360°.
- If the given angle is negative, add 360° repeatedly until the result is a positive angle less than or equal to 360°.

Example

Determine the angle of the smallest possible positive measure that is coterminal with 945° and $-187^\circ.$

Since 945° is positive, subtract 360° . $945^{\circ} - 360^{\circ} = 585^{\circ}$ Subtract 360° again. $585^{\circ} - 360^{\circ} = 225^{\circ}$

The angle with measure 225° is the angle with the smallest positive measure that is coterminal with the angle with measure 945° .

Since -187° is negative, add 360° . $-187^{\circ} + 360^{\circ} = 173^{\circ}$

Common Angles in Standard Position



Consider an acute angle θ in standard position and choose any point (x, y) on the terminal side of the angle as long as it is not the vertex (the origin).



Definition 2: Trigonometric Functions

Let (x, y) be a point other than the origin on the terminal side of an angle θ in standard position. Let r be the distance from the point (x, y) to the origin. Then the six trigonometric functions are defined as

$$\sin \theta = \frac{y}{r}$$
 $\cos \theta = \frac{x}{r}$ $\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x}$ $(x \neq 0)$

$$\csc \theta = \frac{r}{y} \quad (y \neq 0) \quad \sec \theta = \frac{r}{x} \quad (x \neq 0) \quad \cot \theta = \frac{x}{y} \quad (y \neq 0)$$

where $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$, or $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$. The distance r is positive: r > 0.

Example

The terminal side of an angle θ in standard position passes through the point (2,5). Calculate the values of the six trigonometric functions for angle θ .

Example

The terminal side of an angle θ in standard position passes through the point (-4, -7). Calculate the values of the six trigonometric functions for angle θ .