

5.2 Proving Identities

Target 6B: Prove Trigonometric Identities

With your group members, prove the following identities. Your group will prove one to the class.

Prove the identity.

$$1. \frac{1}{\tan \theta} + \tan \theta = \sec \theta \csc \theta$$

Pf:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\tan \theta} + \tan \theta &= \cot \theta + \tan \theta \\ &= \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} \cdot 1 + \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \cdot 1 \\ &= \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} \cdot \frac{\cos \theta}{\cos \theta} + \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \cdot \frac{\sin \theta}{\sin \theta} \\ &= \frac{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta}{\cos \theta \cdot \sin \theta} \\ &= \frac{1}{\cos \theta \cdot \sin \theta} \\ &= \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \cdot \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \\ &= \sec \theta \cdot \csc \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore, \frac{1}{\tan \theta} + \tan \theta = \sec \theta \cdot \csc \theta$$

Another approach:

Pf2:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\tan \theta} + \tan \theta &= \frac{1}{\tan \theta} + \frac{\tan \theta}{\tan \theta} \cdot \frac{\tan \theta}{\tan \theta} \\ &= \frac{1 + \tan^2 \theta}{\tan \theta} = \frac{\sec^2 \theta}{\tan \theta} = \frac{\frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta}}{\frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}} \\ &= \frac{\cos \theta}{\cos^2 \theta \cdot \sin \theta} \\ &= \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \cdot \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \\ &= \sec \theta \cdot \csc \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$3. \frac{\sec x + 1}{\tan x} = \frac{\sin x}{1 - \cos x}$$

Pf:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\sec x + 1}{\tan x} &= \frac{\frac{1}{\cos x} + 1}{\frac{\sin x}{\cos x}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1 + \cos x}{\cos x}}{\frac{\sin x}{\cos x}} \\ &= \frac{1 + \cos x}{\cos x} \cdot \frac{\cos x}{\sin x} \\ &= \frac{(1 + \cos x)}{\sin x} \cdot 1 \quad \text{"Need } \sin x \text{ in numerator"} \\ &= \frac{(1 + \cos x)(1 - \cos x)}{\sin x (1 - \cos x)} \\ &= \frac{1 - \cos^2 x}{\sin x (1 - \cos x)} \\ &= \frac{\sin^2 x}{\sin x (1 - \cos x)} = \frac{\sin x}{1 - \cos x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore, \frac{\sec x + 1}{\tan x} = \frac{\sin x}{1 - \cos x}$$

$$2. 2 \csc^2 \alpha = \frac{1}{1 - \cos \alpha} + \frac{1}{1 + \cos \alpha}$$

Go from right to left!

Pf:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{1 - \cos \alpha} + \frac{1}{1 + \cos \alpha} &= \frac{1}{(1 - \cos \alpha)} \cdot \frac{(1 + \cos \alpha)}{(1 + \cos \alpha)} + \frac{1}{(1 + \cos \alpha)} \cdot \frac{(1 - \cos \alpha)}{(1 - \cos \alpha)} \\ &= \frac{1 + \cos \alpha + 1 - \cos \alpha}{(1 - \cos \alpha)(1 + \cos \alpha)} \\ &= \frac{2}{1 + \cos \alpha - \cos \alpha - \cos^2 \alpha} \\ &= \frac{2}{1 - \cos^2 \alpha} \\ &= \frac{2}{\sin^2 \alpha} \\ &= 2 \left(\frac{1}{\sin^2 \alpha} \right) \\ &= 2 \csc^2 \alpha \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore, \frac{1}{1 - \cos \alpha} + \frac{1}{1 + \cos \alpha} = 2 \csc^2 \alpha$$

$$4. \frac{\cot y - 1}{\cot y + 1} = \frac{1 - \tan y}{1 + \tan y}$$

Pf:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\cot y - 1}{\cot y + 1} &= \frac{\frac{1}{\tan y} - 1}{\frac{1}{\tan y} + 1} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{1}{\tan y} - 1 \right)}{\left(\frac{1}{\tan y} + 1 \right)} \cdot 1 \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{1}{\tan y} - 1 \right)}{\left(\frac{1}{\tan y} + 1 \right)} \cdot \frac{\tan y}{\tan y} \quad \text{"distribute"} \\ &= \frac{1 - \tan y}{1 + \tan y} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore, \frac{\cot y - 1}{\cot y + 1} = \frac{1 - \tan y}{1 + \tan y}$$

$$5. (\cos x - \sin x)^2 = 1 - 2 \sin x \cos x$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Pf: } (\cos x - \sin x)^2 &= (\cos x - \sin x)(\cos x - \sin x) \\ &= \cos^2 x - \cos x \sin x - \cos x \sin x + \sin^2 x \\ &= \underbrace{\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x}_{1} - 2 \cos x \sin x \\ &= 1 - 2 \sin x \cos x \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore, (\cos x - \sin x)^2 = 1 - 2 \sin x \cos x.$$

$$6. \tan^2 \alpha - \sin^2 \alpha = \tan^2 \alpha \sin^2 \alpha$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Pf: } \tan^2 \alpha - \sin^2 \alpha &= \frac{\sin^2 \alpha}{\cos^2 \alpha} - \sin^2 \alpha \\ &= \frac{1}{\cos^2 \alpha} \cdot \sin^2 \alpha - \sin^2 \alpha \\ &= \sec^2 \alpha \cdot \sin^2 \alpha - \sin^2 \alpha \\ &= \sin^2 \alpha (\sec^2 \alpha - 1) \\ &= \sin^2 \alpha \cdot \tan^2 \alpha \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore, \tan^2 \alpha - \sin^2 \alpha = \sin^2 \alpha \cdot \tan^2 \alpha.$$

* The other way around is easy too

$$7. \frac{1 - \cos \beta}{\sin \beta} = \frac{\sin \beta}{1 + \cos \beta}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Pf: } \frac{1 - \cos \beta}{\sin \beta} &= \frac{1 - \cos \beta}{\sin \beta} \cdot 1 \\ &= \frac{(1 - \cos \beta) \cdot (1 + \cos \beta)}{\sin \beta (1 + \cos \beta)} \\ &= \frac{1 - \cos^2 \beta}{\sin \beta (1 + \cos \beta)} \\ &= \frac{\sin^2 \beta}{\sin \beta (1 + \cos \beta)} \\ &= \frac{\sin \beta}{1 + \cos \beta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore, \frac{1 - \cos \beta}{\sin \beta} = \frac{\sin \beta}{1 + \cos \beta}.$$

$$8. 2 \csc \theta = \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{\sin \theta} + \frac{\sin \theta}{1 + \cos \theta}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Pf: } \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{\sin \theta} + \frac{\sin \theta}{1 + \cos \theta} &= \frac{(1 + \cos \theta)(1 + \cos \theta)}{\sin \theta (1 + \cos \theta)} + \frac{\sin \theta \cdot \sin \theta}{(1 + \cos \theta) \sin \theta} \\ &= \frac{1 + 2 \cos \theta + \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta}{\sin \theta (1 + \cos \theta)} \\ &= \frac{1 + 2 \cos \theta + 1}{\sin \theta (1 + \cos \theta)} \\ &= \frac{2 + 2 \cos \theta}{\sin \theta (1 + \cos \theta)} \\ &= \frac{2(1 + \cos \theta)}{\sin \theta (1 + \cos \theta)} \\ &= 2 \left(\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \right) \\ &= 2 \csc \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore, \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{\sin \theta} + \frac{\sin \theta}{1 + \cos \theta} = 2 \csc \theta.$$