

Trigonometry needed for I.S.I. and C.M.I. entrance

Srijan Chatterjee

Theory of trigonometry needed is as you have completed in board syllabus. So, let's focus on interesting and important problems.

Problems:

1) Two train lines intersect each other at a junction at an acute angle θ . A train is passing along one of the two lines. When the front of the train is at the junction, the train subtends an angle α at a station on the other line. It subtends an angle $\beta (< \alpha)$ at the same station, when its rear is at the junction, show that $\tan \theta = \frac{2 \sin \alpha \sin \beta}{\sin(\alpha - \beta)}$

2) Consider a regular heptagon (polygon of 7 equal sides and equal angles) ABCDEFG.

A) Prove $\frac{1}{\sin \frac{\pi}{7}} = \frac{1}{\sin \frac{2\pi}{7}} + \frac{1}{\sin \frac{3\pi}{7}}$

B) Using A) or otherwise, show that $\frac{1}{AG} = \frac{1}{AF} + \frac{1}{AE}$.

3) Show that the triangle whose angles satisfy the equality

$$\frac{\sin^2 A + \sin^2 B + \sin^2 C}{\cos^2 A + \cos^2 B + \cos^2 C} = 2 \text{ is right-angled.}$$

4) Let $a \geq 0$ be a constant such that $\sin \sqrt{x+a} = \sin \sqrt{x}$ for all $x \geq 0$. What can you say about a ? Justify your answer.

5) Let X, Y, Z be the angles of a triangle.

i) Prove that $\tan \frac{X}{2} \tan \frac{Y}{2} + \tan \frac{Y}{2} \tan \frac{Z}{2} + \tan \frac{Z}{2} \tan \frac{X}{2} = 1$.

ii) Using i) or otherwise prove that $\tan \frac{X}{2} \tan \frac{Y}{2} \tan \frac{Z}{2} \leq \frac{1}{3\sqrt{3}}$.

6) For $x \geq 0$, define $f(x) = \frac{1}{x+2\cos x}$. Determine the set $\{y \in \mathbb{R} : y = f(x), x \geq 0\}$

7) Let a, b, c be the sides of a triangle and A, B, C be the angles opposite to these sides respectively. If

$$\sin(A - B) = \frac{a}{a+b} \sin A \cos B - \frac{b}{a+b} \cos A \sin B$$

Then prove that the triangle is isosceles.

8) Let the sequence $\{a_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ be defined by $a_n = \tan(n\theta)$ where $\tan \theta = 2$. Show that for all n , a_n is a rational number which can be written with an odd denominator.

9) Find all pairs (x, y) with x, y real, satisfying the equations:

$$\sin \frac{x+y}{2} = 0, |x| + |y| = 1.$$

10) For all natural numbers n , let

$$A_n = \sqrt{2 - \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2 + \cdots + \sqrt{2}}}} \text{ [} n \text{ many radicals]}$$

a) Show that for $n \geq 2$, $A_n = 2 \sin \frac{\pi}{2^{n+1}}$

b) Evaluate the limit $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^n A_n$

11) Find all solutions of $\sin^5 x + \cos^3 x = 1$.

12) Show that $-2 \leq \cos \theta (\sin \theta + \sqrt{\sin^2 \theta + 3}) \leq 2$ for all values of θ .

13) Find the average of the number $n \sin n^\circ$ for $n=2,4,6,\dots,180$.

14) Find the value of

$$\prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 + 2 \cos 2\pi \cdot \frac{3^k}{3^n + 1} \right)$$

15) Prove that

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} + \cos \frac{\pi}{20} \right) \left(\frac{1}{2} + \cos \frac{3\pi}{20} \right) \left(\frac{1}{2} + \cos \frac{9\pi}{20} \right) \left(\frac{1}{2} + \cos \frac{27\pi}{20} \right) = \frac{1}{16}$$

16) Evaluate : $10 \sum_{1 \leq k < s \leq 1007} \cos \frac{2\pi k}{2015} \cos \frac{2\pi s}{2015}$

17) Prove that, $\frac{2}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{2+\sqrt{2}}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{2+\sqrt{2+\sqrt{2}}}} \dots \dots \dots$ up to infinite

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

18) Evaluate:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 4^n \sin^4 \frac{\pi}{2^n}$$

19) Given $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{2016}$ are real numbers such that $x_i \in [-1, 1] \forall i$. If $\sum_{i=0}^{2016} x_i^3 = 0$, then find the greatest value of $\sum_{i=0}^{2016} x_i$

20) If $P_n = \prod_{1 \leq k \leq n, \gcd(k,n)=1} \sin \frac{k\pi}{n}$, find P_{100} .

21) Let $\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3$ be three distinct solution to the equation $\tan \theta = \frac{17}{100}$ such that

$\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3 \in (0, 3\pi)$. Find value of $\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq 3} \tan(\frac{\theta_i}{3}) \tan(\frac{\theta_j}{3})$

22) The equation $ax^4 - bx^3 - cx^2 + dx + 1 = 0$ has a root of $\cos \frac{2\pi}{15}$ for positive integer a, b, c, d . Find $a + b + c + d$.

23) Show that there is no polynomial $p(x)$ for which $\cos \theta = P(\sin \theta)$ for all angles θ in some non-empty interval.

24) Recall the function $\arctan(x)$, also denoted as $\tan^{-1} x$

Complete the sentence:

$\tan^{-1} 20202019 + \tan^{-1} 20202021 \stackrel{2(-)}{>} \tan^{-1} 20202019$
because in the relevant region, the graph of $y = \arctan(x)$.

Fill in the first blank with one of the following: is less than / is equal to / is greater than. Fill in the second blank with a single correct reason consisting of one of the following phrases: is bounded / is continuous / has positive first derivative / has negative first derivative / has positive second derivative / has negative second derivative / has an inflection point.

25) Three positive real numbers x, y and z satisfy $x^2 + y^2 = 3^2, y^2 + yz + z^2 = 4^2, x^2 + \sqrt{3}xz + z^2 = 5^2$. Find the value of $2xy + xz + \sqrt{3}yz$.

26) Recall that $\sin^{-1} t$ is a function with domain $[-1, 1]$ and range $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$. Consider the function $f(x) = \sin^{-1} \sin(x)$. Find where f is well defined, continuous and differentiable.

27) Find the number of real solutions of $x = 99 \sin \pi x$.

28) If $x = \cos 1^\circ \cos 2^\circ \cos 3^\circ \dots \dots \cos 89^\circ$ and $y = \cos 2^\circ \cos 6^\circ \cos 10^\circ \dots \dots \cos 86^\circ$ Then what is the integer nearest to $\frac{2}{7} \log_2 \left(\frac{y}{x} \right)$?

29) $a_1, a_2, \dots \dots a_n$ are real numbers either +1 or -1. Prove that

$$2 \sin \left[\left(a_1 + \frac{a_1 a_2}{2} + \frac{a_1 a_2 a_3}{2^2} + \dots \frac{a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots a_n}{2^{n-1}} \right) \frac{\pi}{4} \right] =$$

$$a_1 \sqrt{2 + a_2 \sqrt{2 + a_3 \sqrt{\dots \dots + a_n \sqrt{2}}}}.$$