



Lecture 9.

Simplify Trigonometric Expressions

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Simplify Trigonometric Expressions

It is important to remember the following laws;

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}, \quad \sec \theta = \frac{1}{\cos \theta}, \quad \csc \theta = \frac{1}{\sin \theta}, \quad \cot \theta = \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta}.$$

and

$$\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1.$$

$$1 + \tan^2 \theta = \sec^2 \theta.$$

$$1 + \cot^2 \theta = \csc^2 \theta.$$

Examples: Simplify the following expressions;

1. $\sec \theta \sin \theta \cos \theta.$

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned} \sec \theta \sin \theta \cos \theta &= \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \cdot \sin \theta \cdot \cos \theta \\ &= \sin \theta. \end{aligned}$$

2. $\tan^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta.$

Solution.

Based on $\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1$, so

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

3. $\sin^2 \theta + \csc \theta + \sec \theta$.

Solution.

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

4. $\cot \theta [\tan \theta + \cot \theta]$.

Solution.

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

5. $\sec^2 \theta [1 - \sin^2 \theta]$.

Solution.

Based on $\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1$, so

$$\begin{aligned}\sec^2 \theta [1 - \sin^2 \theta] &= \sec^2 \theta [\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta] \\ &= \sec^2 \theta \cos^2 \theta \\ &= \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta} \cos^2 \theta \\ &= 1.\end{aligned}$$

6. $\cos \theta + \sin \theta \tan \theta$.

Solution.

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

7. $\frac{\sec \theta}{\sin \theta [\cot \theta + \tan \theta]}$.

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\sec \theta}{\sin \theta [\cot \theta + \tan \theta]} &= \frac{\sec \theta}{\sin \theta \left(\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} + \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \right)} \\&= \frac{\sec \theta}{\sin \theta \left(\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} + \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \right)} \\&= \frac{\sec \theta}{\cos \theta + \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\cos \theta}} \\&= \frac{\sec \theta}{\frac{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta}{\cos \theta}} \\&= \frac{\sec \theta}{1} \\&= \frac{\sec \theta}{\cos \theta} \\&= \frac{\sec \theta}{\sec \theta} = 1.\end{aligned}$$