

Lecture 16

MATH 0200

Unit circle

Positive
angles

Negative
angles

Radians

Special
points on
the unit
circle

Length of a
circular arc
and area of
a sector

Lecture 16

The unit circle

MATH 0200

Dr. Boris Tselikhovskiy

Outline

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- 1 Unit circle
- 2 Positive angles
- 3 Negative angles
- 4 Radians
- 5 Special points on the unit circle
- 6 Length of a circular arc and area of a sector

Unit circle

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Definition

The **unit circle** is the circle with radius 1 centered at the origin.

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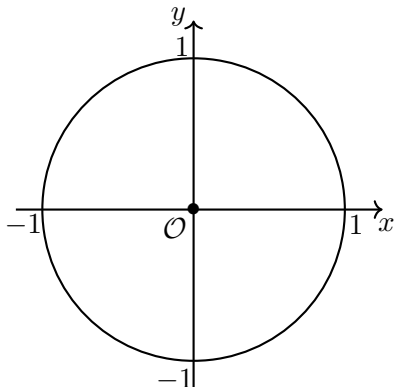
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Example

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Find the points on the unit circle whose y -coordinate is equal to 0.5. Let $(x, 0.5)$ be a point on the unit circle. Then $x^2 + 0.5^2 = 1 \Leftrightarrow x^2 = 1 - 0.25 = 0.75$ and $x = \pm\sqrt{\frac{3}{4}} = \pm\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$.

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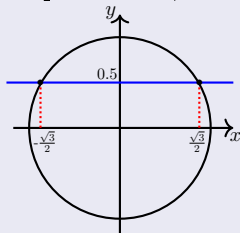
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Positive angles

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Definition

For a number $\alpha > 0$, the **radius of the unit circle corresponding to α degrees** is the radius that has angle α degrees with the positive horizontal axis, when measured **counterclockwise** from the positive horizontal axis:

Positive angles

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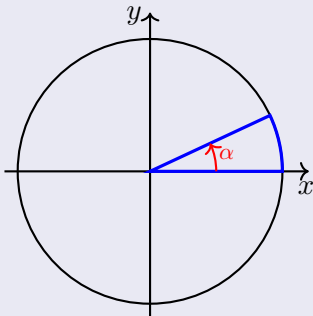
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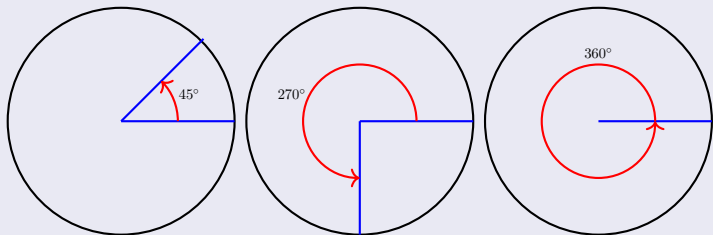


Example

Sketch the radius of the unit circle corresponding to each of the following angles: 45° , 270° and 360° .

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Negative angles

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For a number $\alpha < 0$, the **radius of the unit circle corresponding to α degrees** is the radius that has angle $|\alpha|$ degrees with the positive horizontal axis, when measured **clockwise** from the positive horizontal axis:

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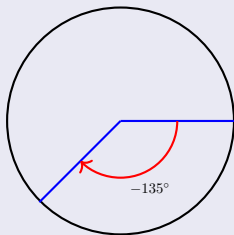
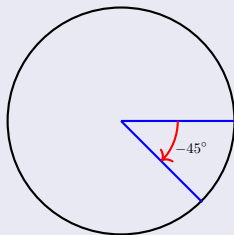
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Length of a circular arc and area of a sector

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Conversion formulas

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Remark

The radius corresponding to an angle α corresponds to angles $\alpha + 360k$ for any integer k as well.

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Radians are a unit of measurement for angles such that 2π radians correspond to 360° .

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Using the equality $2\pi \text{ rad} = 360^\circ$, we get conversion formulas:

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- $1^\circ = \frac{\pi}{180} \text{ rad}$.

Example

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We use the second formula to get

$$120^\circ = \frac{\pi}{180} \cdot 120 = \frac{120\pi}{180} = \frac{2\pi}{3} \text{ rad.}$$

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$$\frac{5\pi}{6} \text{ rad} = \frac{180}{\pi} \cdot \frac{5\pi}{6} = \frac{180 \cdot 5\pi}{6\pi} = 30 \cdot 5 = 150^\circ.$$

- 3 Convert $\frac{2\pi}{15}$ radians to degrees.

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$$\frac{2\pi}{15} \text{ rad} = \frac{180}{\pi} \cdot \frac{2\pi}{15} = \frac{180 \cdot 2\pi}{15\pi} = 12 \cdot 2 = 24^\circ.$$

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Question

What is the radian measure of the angle $\alpha = \frac{18}{\pi}$ degrees?

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angle	endpoint of radius
$0 = 0^\circ$	$(1, 0)$
$\frac{\pi}{6} = 30^\circ$	$\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$
$\frac{\pi}{4} = 45^\circ$	$\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$
$\frac{\pi}{3} = 60^\circ$	$\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$
$\frac{\pi}{2} = 90^\circ$	$(0, 1)$
$\pi = 180^\circ$	$(-1, 0)$

Length of a circular arc and area of a sector

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Let $0 \leq \alpha \leq 2\pi$, then the length a circular arc on the circle of radius r corresponding to α radians is equal to αr and the area of sector with angle α radians is equal to $\frac{\alpha r^2}{2}$.

Length of a circular arc and area of a sector

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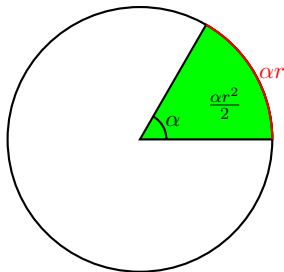
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Suppose the distance from the center of a wall clock to the endpoint of the hour hand is 4 inches and the length of the minute hand is 7 inches.

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- 1 How far does the endpoint of the hour hand of the clock travel in five hours?

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$$\ell = \frac{5}{12} \cdot 2\pi \cdot 4 = \frac{10\pi}{3} \text{ inches.}$$

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$$\ell = 3 \cdot 2\pi \cdot 7 + \frac{15}{60} \cdot 2\pi \cdot 7 = 45.5\pi \text{ inches.}$$

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For a 14-inch pizza , find the area of a slice  with angle $\frac{4}{7}$ radians.

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For a 14-inch pizza , find the area of a slice  with angle $\frac{4}{7}$ radians. Notice that 14 inches is the diameter of the pizza, so the radius is 7 inches.

$$\mathcal{S}(\text{slice}) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{4}{7} \cdot 7^2 = 14 \text{ in}^2.$$

Question

Suppose an ant walks clockwise on the unit circle from the point $(0, 1)$ to the endpoint of the radius corresponding to $(2 + \frac{\pi}{2})$ radians. How far has the ant walked?

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