Shape & Space

Sin, Cos & Tan Compared

topic notes

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Changing sign of ratios with increasing angle

In turn, look at each ratio as the value of x and y changes with increasing angle.

 $\sin \theta = \frac{y}{1}$ $\cos \theta = \frac{x}{1}$ $\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x}$



The results can be summarised in this diagram:



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The Sine Curve



note:

- the sine graph starts at zero
- it repeats itself every **360** degrees
- y is never more than 1 or less than -1
- a sin graph 'leads' a cos graph by 90 degrees

The Cosine Curve



note:

- the cosine graph starts at one
- it repeats itself every **360** degrees
- y is never more than 1 or less than -1
- a cos graph 'lags' a sin graph by 90 degrees

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The Tangent Curve



note:

- the tangent graph starts at zero
- it repeats itself every **180** degrees
- y can vary between numbers approaching infinity and minus infinity