

Trigonometry Lesson 10: The Double and Half Angle Formulas

textbook section 8.3

Introduction: though the double angle formulas are really just special cases of the addition formulas as we saw in Lesson 9 (and may seem unnecessary for this reason), they are helpful because they can help us figure out how to take the sine, cosine, and tangent of *half* of a given angle (for example, 22.5 degrees). How might this be useful? Are there any angles that such a formula could help us find trigonometric values for?

1: Using any identities that we have proven to this point, prove that another valid formula for $\cos 2\theta$ is $2 \cos^2 \theta - 1$. Use this formula to find $\cos \frac{\pi}{8}$.

2: Use a method similar to how you found $\cos \frac{\pi}{8}$ to find a general formula for $\cos \frac{\theta}{2}$.

3: From the above formula for $\cos \frac{\theta}{2}$, find a formula for $\sin \frac{\theta}{2}$. (Hint: think of an identity that we regularly use to “switch” between sine and cosine.)

4: Evaluate the following (using the half-angle formulas):

$$\cos 112.5^\circ$$

$$\sin \frac{\pi}{8}$$

$$\tan \frac{\pi}{8}$$

$$\csc \frac{5\pi}{8}$$

$$\sec \frac{11\pi}{12}$$

5: Given that $\sin \theta = -\frac{4}{5}$ and $\frac{3\pi}{2} \leq \theta < 2\pi$, find $\sin \frac{\theta}{2}$, $\cos \frac{\theta}{2}$, $\tan \frac{\theta}{2}$.

6: Since we have accumulated so many additional formulas in the past few lessons, draw a “concept map” that explains the train of thought we used to find them and prove that they are true. (Hint: it all started with $\cos(\alpha - \beta)$.)