

Activity 5.5 - Answer Key

Problem 1

Using the unit circle, find all the solutions of $\tan(x) = -1$ in the interval $[0, 2\pi)$

$$\tan(x) = -1$$

$$\tan\left(\frac{3\pi}{4}\right) = -1$$

$$\tan\left(\frac{7\pi}{4}\right) = -1$$

Thus, our solutions are $x = \frac{3\pi}{4}$ and $x = \frac{7\pi}{4}$

Problem 2

Find the two general solution equations for $\sin(x) = -\frac{1}{2}$

$$\sin(x) = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\alpha = \sin^{-1}\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = -\frac{\pi}{6}$$

$$x = \frac{-\pi}{6} + 2n\pi \text{ and } x = \left(\pi - \frac{-\pi}{6}\right) + 2n\pi$$

Simplifying the right equation, $\pi = \frac{6\pi}{6} \implies \left(\pi - \frac{-\pi}{6}\right) = \left(\frac{6\pi}{6} + \frac{\pi}{6}\right) = \frac{7\pi}{6}$

$$\implies x = \frac{-\pi}{6} + 2n\pi \text{ and } x = \frac{7\pi}{6} + 2n\pi$$

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Problem 3

Find all the solutions in the interval $[0, 2\pi)$ of: $\sin(2x) = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

$$\sin(2x) = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$\alpha = \sin^{-1}\left(-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) = \frac{-\pi}{3}$$

$$2x = \frac{-\pi}{3} + 2n\pi \text{ and } 2x = \left(\pi - \frac{-\pi}{3}\right) + 2n\pi$$

$$2x = \frac{-\pi}{3} + 2n\pi \text{ and } 2x = \frac{3\pi}{3} + \frac{\pi}{3} + 2n\pi$$

$$2x = \frac{-\pi}{3} + 2n\pi \text{ and } 2x = \frac{4\pi}{3} + 2n\pi$$

We divide everything by 2

$$x = \frac{-\pi}{6} + n\pi \text{ and } x = \frac{4\pi}{6} + n\pi$$

Now we will find the solutions in the targeted interval

$$n = 0 : \text{First Equation } \frac{-\pi}{6} \times \quad \text{Second Equation } \frac{4\pi}{6} = \frac{2\pi}{3} \checkmark$$

$$n = 1 : \text{First Equation } \frac{-\pi}{6} + \frac{6\pi}{6} = \frac{5\pi}{6} \checkmark \quad \text{Second Equation } \frac{4\pi}{6} + \frac{6\pi}{6} = \frac{10\pi}{6} = \frac{5\pi}{3} \checkmark$$

$$n = 2 : \text{First Equation } \frac{-\pi}{6} + \frac{12\pi}{6} = \frac{11\pi}{6} \checkmark \quad \text{Second Equation } \frac{4\pi}{6} + \frac{12\pi}{6} = \frac{16\pi}{6} \times$$

$$x = \frac{2\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi}{6}, \frac{5\pi}{3}, \frac{11\pi}{6} \text{ are the solutions}$$

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Problem 4

Find the general solutions AND all the solutions on the interval $[0, 2\pi)$:

$$(\cos(x) + 1)(\tan(x) + 1) = 0$$

$$(\cos(x) + 1)(\tan(x) + 1) = 0$$

$$\cos(x) = -1 \text{ and } \tan(x) = -1$$

$$\cos(x) = -1 \implies \alpha = \cos^{-1}(-1) = \pi$$

$$x = \pi + 2n\pi \text{ and } x = (2\pi - \pi) + 2n\pi = \pi + 2n\pi$$

Note, the two equations are equal when simplified.

$$\tan(x) = -1 \implies \alpha = \tan^{-1}(-1) = \frac{-\pi}{4}$$

$$x = \frac{-\pi}{4} + n\pi$$

$$n = 0 : \text{First Equation } \pi \checkmark \quad \text{Second Equation } \frac{-\pi}{4} \times$$

$$n = 1 : \text{First Equation } \pi + 2\pi = 3\pi \times \quad \text{Second Equation } \frac{-\pi}{4} + \frac{4\pi}{4} = \frac{3\pi}{4} \checkmark$$

Note, for $n > 0$, only solutions to $\tan(x) + 1 = 0$ are in our interval.

$$n = 2 : \text{Second Equation } \frac{-\pi}{4} + \frac{8\pi}{4} = \frac{7\pi}{4} \checkmark$$

$$n = 3 : \text{Second Equation } \frac{-\pi}{4} + \frac{12\pi}{4} = \frac{11\pi}{4} \times$$

$$x = \pi, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4} \text{ are the solutions}$$

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Problem 5

Find all the solutions in the interval $[0, 2\pi)$ of

$$(2 \cos(x) + 1)(\sqrt{3} \tan(x) - 1) = 0$$

$$(2 \cos(x) + 1)(\sqrt{3} \tan(x) - 1) = 0$$

$$\cos(x) = \frac{-1}{2} \implies \alpha = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{-1}{2}\right) = \frac{2\pi}{3}$$

$$\tan(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \implies \alpha = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \frac{\pi}{6}$$

$$(2 \cos(x) + 1) = 0 \implies x = \frac{2\pi}{3} + 2n\pi \text{ and } x = \left(2\pi - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) + 2n\pi = \frac{4\pi}{3} + 2n\pi$$

$$(\sqrt{3} \tan(x) - 1) = 0 \implies x = \frac{\pi}{6} + n\pi$$

$$n = 0 : \text{First Equation } \frac{2\pi}{3} \checkmark \quad \text{Second Equation } \frac{4\pi}{3} \checkmark \quad \text{Third Equation } \frac{\pi}{6} \checkmark$$

$$n = 1 : \text{First Equation } \frac{2\pi}{3} + 2\pi \times \quad \text{Second Equation } \frac{4\pi}{3} + 2\pi \times$$

$$\text{Third Equation } \frac{\pi}{6} + \frac{6\pi}{6} = \frac{7\pi}{6} \checkmark$$

Both the first two equations will not work for $n > 0$ so we will only check the third equation,

$$n = 2 : \text{Third Equation } \frac{\pi}{6} + 2\pi \times$$

$$x = \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{2\pi}{3}, \frac{7\pi}{6}, \frac{4\pi}{3} \text{ are the solutions}$$

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Problem 6

Find all the solutions in the interval $[0, 6\pi)$ of: $\sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$

$$\sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$\alpha = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\frac{x}{2} = \frac{\pi}{4} + 2n\pi \text{ and } \frac{x}{2} = \left(\pi - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) + 2n\pi = \frac{3\pi}{4} + 2n\pi$$

Multiplying everything by 2

$$x = \frac{\pi}{2} + 4n\pi \text{ and } x = \frac{3\pi}{2} + 4n\pi$$

$$n = 0 : \text{First Equation } \frac{\pi}{2} \checkmark \quad \text{Second Equation } \frac{3\pi}{2} \checkmark$$

$$n = 1 : \text{First Equation } \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{8\pi}{2} = \frac{9\pi}{2} \checkmark \quad \text{Second Equation } \frac{3\pi}{2} + \frac{8\pi}{2} = \frac{11\pi}{2} \checkmark$$

$$n = 2 : \text{First Equation } \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{16\pi}{2} = \frac{17\pi}{2} \times \quad \text{Second Equation } \frac{3\pi}{2} + \frac{16\pi}{2} = \frac{19\pi}{2} \times$$

$$x = \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}, \frac{9\pi}{2}, \frac{11\pi}{2} \text{ are the solutions}$$