

## TRANSCENDENTAL FUNCTIONS

- Functions which are not algebraic are called **transcendental** functions. These include, but are not limited to, trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic function.

## EXPONENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- An **exponential** function is a function of the form  $f(x) = a^x$  where  $a$  is a positive constant.  
if  $x$  is a rational  $p/q$ ,  $f(p/q) = a^{p/q} = a^{p \cdot 1/q} = (a^p)^{1/q} = \sqrt[q]{a^p}$
- **Laws of exponents:** If  $a$  and  $b$  are positive numbers and  $x$  and  $y$  are any real numbers, then
 
$$a^{x+y} = a^x a^y$$

$$a^{x-y} = a^x / a^y$$

$$(a^x)^y = a^{xy}$$

$$(ab)^x = a^x b^x$$
- The number  $e$  is the irrational number such that the tangent to the graph of  $f(x) = e^x$  at  $(0, 1)$  has a slope of 1.

## LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

- if  $a > 0$  and  $a \neq 1$ , the exponential function  $f(x) = a^x$  is either increasing or decreasing, and so is 1-1 by the horizontal line test. It has therefore an inverse function  $f^{-1}$ , called the **logarithmic function with base  $a$** , denoted by  $\log_a$ . i.e.
 
$$\log_a x = y \Leftrightarrow a^y = x$$
- i.e. for every  $x$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\log_a(a^x) = x$  and  $a^{\log_a x} = x$
- in particular, for  $x=0, 1$ :  $0 = \log_a(a^0) = \log_a 1$ ;  $1 = \log_a(a^1) = \log_a a$
- **Laws of logarithms:** if  $x$  and  $y$  are positive numbers, then
  1.  $\log_a(xy) = \log_a x + \log_a y$
  2.  $\log_a(x/y) = \log_a x - \log_a y$
  3.  $\log_a(x^r) = r \log_a x$  (where  $r$  is any real number)
  4.  $\log_a x = (\log_b x) / (\log_b a)$  whenever  $a \neq 1$
- **Natural Log:**  $e$  is a special base:  $\log_e x = \ln x$

## TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTIONS

### Definitions

- A **trigonometric** function is a function where the domain or range includes angles.
- The **standard position** of an angle is the one where the vertex is at the origin of the coordinate system, and the initial side on the positive x-axis.
- A **positive** angle is obtained by rotating the initial side counterclockwise until it coincides with the terminal side.
- **Negative** angles are obtained similarly with clockwise rotations.

### Measuring angles:

- $2\pi \text{ rad} = 360^\circ$
- so  $1 \text{ rad} = (180/\pi)^\circ \approx 57.3^\circ$  and  $1^\circ = (\pi/180) \text{ rad} \approx 0.017 \text{ rad}$

### Calculating length of arcs:

To find length  $a$  of arc of angle  $\theta$  rad, solve for  $a$ :  
i.e.  $a = r\theta$

### Sin and cos

- **Definitions of cos and sin**  
Given a circle  $C$  of center  $(0,0)$  and radius 1 and an angle  $\theta$   
Let  $P$  be the point where the terminal side of the angle  $\theta$  in standard position intersects with  $C$ .  
 $\cos \theta = x$  coordinate of  $P$ .  
 $\sin \theta = y$  coordinate of  $P$ .

Since  $C$  is the graph of all points  $(x,y)$  with the property  $x^2+y^2=1$   
then  $\cos^2\theta + \sin^2\theta = 1$

- **Properties**  
 $\cos(-\theta) = \cos \theta$                       i.e. cos is even  
 $\sin(-\theta) = -\sin \theta$                       i.e. sin is odd  
 $\cos(\theta+2\pi) = \cos \theta$   
 $\sin(\theta+2\pi) = \sin \theta$

- **General Definition:**  
Given an angle  $\theta$  and a point  $P(x,y)$  on the terminal side of the angle.  
Let  $r$  be the distance between  $P$  and the vertex of the angle.  
Then  $\cos \theta = x/r$  and  $\sin \theta = y/r$
- **Alternate definition for acute angles**  
For an acute angle  $\theta$   
 $\cos \theta = \text{adj}/\text{hyp}$  and  $\sin \theta = \text{opp}/\text{hyp}$

### Tan

- Given an angle  $\theta$ , define  $\tan \theta = (\sin \theta) / (\cos \theta)$

### Inverse Functions:

- $\arcsin x = \sin^{-1} x$  for  $x$  in domain  $[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$
- $\arccos x = \cos^{-1}(x)$  in domain  $[0, \pi]$
- $\arctan x = \tan^{-1} x$  for  $x$  in domain  $[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$

### Other Functions:

Given an angle  $\theta$ , define:

- $\sec \theta = 1 / (\cos \theta)$
- $\csc \theta = 1 / (\sin \theta)$
- $\cot \theta = 1 / (\tan \theta) = (\cos \theta) / (\sin \theta)$