

2021 Mu Alpha Theta National Convention – Alpha Trigonometry Solutions

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. D
6. D
7. C
8. C
9. D
10. E
11. B
12. C
13. A
14. C
15. A
16. B
17. C
18. D
19. B
20. B
21. D
22. D
23. C
24. A
25. D
26. A
27. C
28. A
29. B
30. E

Answers: DABAD DCCDE BCACA BCDBB DDCAD ACABE

- 1) A linear combination of  $y = \sin ax$  and  $y = \cos ax$  has period  $\frac{2\pi}{a}$ , which here is  $\frac{\pi}{3}$ . The amplitude of  $y = m \sin ax + n \cos ax$  is  $\sqrt{m^2 + n^2}$ , which here is 13.
- 2)  $\theta$  is in the first quadrant, while  $\phi$  is in the second quadrant. Therefore,  $\sin \theta = \frac{5}{13}$ ,  $\sin \phi = \frac{4}{5}$ , and  $\cos \phi = -\frac{3}{5}$ .  $\cos(\phi - \theta) = \cos \phi \cos \theta + \sin \phi \sin \theta = -\frac{12}{13} \cdot \frac{3}{5} + \frac{5}{13} \cdot \frac{4}{5} = -\frac{36}{65} + \frac{20}{65} = -\frac{16}{65}$ , so  $\sec(\phi - \theta) = -\frac{65}{16}$ .
- 3) The value of  $\sin \theta$  oscillates between 1 and  $-1$  with a period of  $2\pi$ , but cosine is an even function, where  $\cos(-\theta) = \cos \theta$ . Therefore,  $\cos(\sin \theta) = \cos(|\sin \theta|)$ .  $|\sin \theta|$  oscillates between 0 and 1 with a period of  $\pi$ , so the period of  $\cos(\sin \theta)$  is  $\pi$ .
- 4) Converting to sine and cosine, the equation becomes  $\frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} = \frac{2^{\sin \theta}}{2^{\cos \theta}}$ , or  $\frac{\sin \theta}{2^{\sin \theta}} = \frac{\cos \theta}{2^{\cos \theta}}$ .  $\frac{\theta}{2^\theta}$  is bijective over the interval, so  $\sin \theta = \cos \theta$ , so the 2 solutions are  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$  and  $\theta = \frac{5\pi}{4}$ .
- 5) The smallest angle in the triangle is opposite the shortest side. By the law of cosines,  $\cos \theta = \frac{5^2 + 7^2 - 4^2}{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} = \frac{29}{35}$ , so  $\sin \theta = \frac{8\sqrt{6}}{35}$ .  $A + B + C = 49$ .
- 6)  $\frac{(b+c)-(a+b)}{22-21} = \frac{(c+a)-(b+c)}{23-22} = \frac{(c+a)-(a+b)}{23-21}$ , so  $c - a = a - b = \frac{c-b}{2}$ . Since  $\frac{a+b}{21} = a - b$ ,  $10a = 11b$ . Since  $\frac{b+c}{22} = \frac{c-b}{2}$ ,  $5c = 6b$ . Since  $\frac{c+a}{23} = c - a$ ,  $11c = 12a$ . The sides of the triangle are therefore  $a = 11t$ ,  $b = 10t$ , and  $c = 12t$  for some constant  $t$ , so  $B$  is the smallest angle. By the Law of Cosines,  $\cos B = \frac{144t^2 + 121t^2 - 100t^2}{2 \cdot 12t \cdot 11t} = \frac{165t^2}{264t^2} = \frac{5}{8}$ .
- 7) Taking the tangent of both sides,  $\frac{a-x}{1+ax} = \frac{1}{7}$ . Cross-multiplying,  $7(a-x) = 1+ax$ , or  $ax - 7a + 7x = -1$ . Using Simon's Favorite Factoring Trick,  $(a+7)(x-7) = -50$ . Both  $a$  and  $x$  are positive integers, so  $x-7$  must be negative; solving  $x-7 = \{-1, -2, -5\}$  gives the solution set  $x = \{6, 5, 2\}$ , which corresponds to  $a = \{43, 18, 3\}$ . The sum of the elements of this set is 64.
- 8) Recognize that the first three points all lie on the plane  $x + y + z - 6 = 0$ . Translate the triangle that the first three points form so that the first point is the origin and the triangle has endpoints at  $(0,0,0)$ ,  $(3,0,-3)$ , and  $(2,3,-5)$ . The lengths of the vectors between the origin and the second two points are  $3\sqrt{2}$  and  $\sqrt{38}$  respectively, and the cosine of the angle between them is  $\frac{(3,0,-3) \cdot (2,3,-5)}{3\sqrt{2}\sqrt{38}} = \frac{7}{2\sqrt{19}}$ . The sine of the angle between them is  $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{19}}$ , and the area of the triangle (which is the base of the tetrahedron) is  $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2 \cdot 2\sqrt{19}} \cdot 3\sqrt{2}\sqrt{38} = \frac{9\sqrt{3}}{2}$ . The distance from this triangle on the plane to the point  $(-1,6,9)$  is  $\frac{-1+6+9-6}{\sqrt{1+1+1}} = \frac{8}{\sqrt{3}}$ , the height of the pyramid. The volume is  $\frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{9\sqrt{3}}{2} \cdot \frac{8}{\sqrt{3}} = 12$ .
- 9)  $1 - 4 \sin^2 x = (4 - 4 \sin^2 x) - 3 = 4 \cos^2 x - 3$ , so the LHS is equal to  $4 \cos^3 x - 3 \cos x$ , or  $4 \cos 3x$ . By symmetry of cosine, the equation has solutions at  $x = \frac{\pi}{3} \pm \alpha$ , a  $x = \pi \pm \alpha$   $x = \frac{5\pi}{3} \pm \alpha$  for some  $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{3}$ , and the sum of these solutions is  $6\pi$ .
- 10) Item III fails when  $\cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = -\cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2)$ , so  $\cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ ; solving these equations gives  $\theta_1 = \frac{3\pi}{4}$  and  $\theta_2 = \frac{\pi}{2}$ . Item I represents  $\frac{\sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)}{\cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2)} = \tan(\theta_1 + \theta_2)$ , which after

setting  $\theta_1 + \theta_2 = \frac{5\pi}{4}$  results in a value of 1 for all values of  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  that satisfy the conditions.

For item II, note that  $\tan \theta_1 + \tan \theta_2 + \tan \theta_1 \tan \theta_2 = (1 + \tan \theta_1)(1 + \tan \theta_2) - 1 = (1 + \tan \theta_1) \left(1 + \tan \left(\frac{5\pi}{4} - \theta_1\right)\right) - 1$ . The second multiplicand simplifies to  $1 + \frac{1 - \tan \theta_1}{1 + \tan \theta_1} = \frac{2}{1 + \tan \theta_1}$ , so the overall expression is  $2 - 1 = 1$ .

- 11) The expressions have a product of  $60^{\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta} = 60$ . The positive integers with the smallest possible sum that multiply to 60 are 6 and 10, which add to 16.
- 12) The middle term is the average of the two outer terms;  $\cot(\alpha - \beta) + \cot(\alpha + \beta) = 6 \cot \alpha$ . Using the addition formula for tangent and letting  $A = \tan \alpha$  and  $B = \tan \beta$ ,  $\frac{1+A}{A-B} + \frac{1-A}{A+B} = \frac{6}{A}$ . Combining like terms,  $\frac{2A(1+B^2)}{A^2-B^2} = \frac{6}{A}$ , or  $2A^2(1+B^2) = 6(A^2-B^2)$ . This simplifies to  $B^2 = \frac{2A^2}{A^2+3}$ . Converting the right side to sines yields  $\frac{\sin^2 \beta}{\cos^2 \beta} = \frac{2}{\sin^2 \alpha + 3 \cos^2 \alpha} = \frac{2 \sin^2 \alpha}{1 + 2 \cos^2 \alpha}$ . Cross multiplying gives  $\sin^2 \beta (1 + 2 \cos^2 \alpha) = 2 \sin^2 \alpha \cos^2 \beta$ , or  $\sin^2 \beta (3 - 2 \sin^2 \alpha) = 2 \sin^2 \alpha - 2 \sin^2 \alpha \sin^2 \beta$ . This simplifies to  $3 \sin^2 \beta = 2 \sin^2 \alpha$ , or  $\frac{\sin^2 \alpha}{\sin^2 \beta} = \frac{3}{2}$ .
- 13) Rearranging,  $2 \cos \aleph + \cos^3 \aleph = \sin^2 \aleph$ . Squaring,  $4 \cos^2 \aleph + 4 \cos^4 \aleph + \cos^6 \aleph = \sin^4 \aleph$ . Substituting  $\cos^2 \aleph = 1 - \sin^2 \aleph$  yields  $-\sin^6 \aleph + 7 \sin^4 \aleph - 15 \sin^2 \aleph + 9 = \sin^4 \aleph$ , and separating yields  $\sin^6 \aleph = 6 \sin^4 \aleph - 15 \sin^2 \aleph + 9$ .  $a + b + c = 0$ .
- 14) The slopes of these lines can be represented by the vectors  $\langle 1, 2 \rangle$  and  $\langle 1, -7 \rangle$ . The dot product gives  $\langle 1, 2 \rangle \cdot \langle 1, -7 \rangle = |\langle 1, 2 \rangle| |\langle 1, -7 \rangle| \cos \theta_{bet}$ .  $1 - 14 = \sqrt{5} \sqrt{50} \cos \theta_{bet}$ , so  $\cos \theta_{bet} = -\frac{13}{5\sqrt{10}}$ . This represents an obtuse angle; the cosine of the acute angle is  $\frac{13}{5\sqrt{10}}$  and  $\sin \theta_{ac} = \frac{9\sqrt{10}}{50}$ .
- 15) Expanding out  $\tan(\arctan z_1 + \arctan z_2 + \arctan z_3 + \arctan z_4)$  as  $\tan((\arctan z_1 + \arctan z_2) + (\arctan z_3 + \arctan z_4))$  with the tangent addition formula results in the fraction  $\frac{\frac{z_1+z_2}{1-z_1z_2} + \frac{z_3+z_4}{1-z_3z_4}}{1 - \frac{z_1+z_2}{1-z_1z_2} \cdot \frac{z_3+z_4}{1-z_3z_4}}$ . FOILING and simplifying results in  $\frac{z_1+z_2+z_3+z_4 - z_1z_2z_3 - z_1z_2z_4 - z_1z_3z_4 - z_2z_3z_4}{1 - z_1z_2 - z_1z_3 - z_1z_4 - z_2z_3 - z_2z_4 - z_3z_4 + z_1z_2z_3z_4}$ , which by Vieta's is equal to  $\frac{e_1 - e_3}{1 - e_2 + e_4}$ . Using the polynomial, this is  $\frac{-2+6}{1-2021+2022} = 2$ .
- 16) The primitive period of  $\sin \frac{x}{a} \cos \frac{x}{b}$  is  $2\pi \text{ LCM}(a, b)$ . The primitive period of each term is  $40\pi$  and  $112\pi$  respectively. The primitive period of the sum of two untranslated sinusoidal functions with periods  $a$  and  $b$  is  $\text{LCM}(a, b)$ . Here, this is  $\text{LCM}(40\pi, 112\pi) = 560\pi$ .
- 17) Note that  $\tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4} - \theta\right) = \frac{1 - \tan \theta}{1 + \tan \theta} = -1 + \frac{2}{1 + \tan \theta}$ , so  $\tan \theta = \frac{1 - \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4} - \theta\right)}{1 + \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4} - \theta\right)}$  and  $\tan \theta + \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4} - \theta\right) + \tan \theta \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4} - \theta\right) + 1 = (1 + \tan \theta) \left(1 + \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4} - \theta\right)\right) = 2$ . The product is equal to  $\prod_{n=0}^{45} (1 + \tan n^\circ) (1 + \tan(90^\circ - \theta)) = 2^{23}$ , so  $A + B = 25$ .
- 18) A rose curve with an argument of  $\theta$  being multiplied by an even integer  $n$  has  $2n$  petals.  $2 \cdot 2022 = 4044$ .

- 19) The reference angles of  $\frac{1337\pi}{3}$  and  $\frac{1337\pi}{6}$  are  $\frac{5\pi}{3}$  and  $\frac{5\pi}{6}$  respectively. In Cartesian, these points are  $(\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2})$  and  $(-4\sqrt{3}, 4)$ . Using the Distance Formula on these points gives a distance of  $\sqrt{73 + 24\sqrt{3}}$ .  $A + H + S = 100$ .
- 20) Converting to standard form,  $r = \frac{3/4}{1+2\cos\theta}$ . Plugging in  $\theta = 0$  yields the point  $(\frac{1}{4}, 0)$ , and plugging in  $\theta = \pi$  yields the point  $(\frac{3}{4}, 0)$ . The center of the conic is therefore at  $(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ . One focus is at the origin, and the other focus is an equal distance away from the center at  $(1, 0)$ . The other latus rectum passes through this point as part of the line  $x = 1$ .
- 21) The magnitude of  $\sqrt{3} - 3i$  is  $\sqrt{12}$ , so  $\sqrt{3} - 3i = \sqrt{12}(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{i\sqrt{3}}{2}) = \sqrt{12} \operatorname{cis}(-\frac{\pi}{3})$ . By De Moivre's, this taken to the power of 413 is  $12^{413/2} \operatorname{cis}(-\frac{413\pi}{3}) = 12^{206} \sqrt{12} \operatorname{cis}(\frac{\pi}{3}) = 12^{206}(\sqrt{3} + 3i)$ .
- 22) Using the complex definition of sine,  $\sin z = \frac{e^{iz} - e^{-iz}}{2i}$ , we are solving  $\frac{e^{iz} - e^{-iz}}{2i} = i$ , or  $e^{iz} - e^{-iz} + 2 = 0$ . Multiplying by  $e^{iz}$  gives a quadratic in  $e^{iz}$ ,  $e^{2iz} - 2e^{iz} - 1 = 0$ . Substituting  $u = e^{iz}$  and solving for  $u$ , if  $u^2 - 2u - 1 = 0$  then  $u = 1 \pm \sqrt{2}$ . Testing  $u = 1 + \sqrt{2}$  gives  $z = i \ln(\sqrt{2} - 1)$ , but this is negative and not in the principal value range of the complex arcsine. Testing  $u = 1 - \sqrt{2}$  gives  $z = -i \ln(1 - \sqrt{2}) = i \ln(1 + \sqrt{2})$ , which is in the principal value range.
- 23)  $\sin \theta + \cos \theta = \sqrt{2} \sin(\theta + \frac{\pi}{4})$ . A polar function in this form is a parabola only if the constant term equals the coefficient of the sine or cosine term (or its negative), so  $a = \sqrt{2}$ .
- 24)  $a_n + ib_n = a_{n+1}a_{n-1} + i^2b_{n+1}b_{n-1} + ia_{n+1}b_{n-1} + ia_{n-1}b_{n+1} = (a_{n+1} + i b_{n+1})(a_{n-1} + i b_{n-1})$ . Let  $S_n = a_n + ib_n$ . Then  $S_n = S_{n+1}S_{n-1}$ . Similarly,  $S_{n+1} = S_nS_{n+2} = S_{n+1}S_{n-1}S_{n+2}$ , so  $S_{n-1}S_{n+2} = 1$  and  $S_{n-1} = \frac{1}{S_{n+2}}$ . Index-shifting,  $S_n = \frac{1}{S_{n+3}} = S_{n+6}$ , so the sequence is periodic.  $S_{2022} = S_0$ , so  $a_{2022} = 2$ ,  $b_{2022} = 7$ , and  $a_{2022}^2 + b_{2022}^2 = 4 + 49 = 53$ .
- 25)  $(2 + i)(3 + i) = 6 + i^2 + 2i + 3i = 5 + 5i = 5\sqrt{2} \operatorname{cis} \frac{\pi}{4}$ . This equals  $(5\sqrt{2} \operatorname{cis} \frac{\pi}{4})^4 (3 + i)^2 = (2500 \operatorname{cis} \pi)(9 + 6i + i^2) = -20000 - 15000i$ . The sum of the digits of  $A + B = 35000$  is 8.
- 26)  $r \sin(\theta - \arctan 2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$ , so by the sine addition formula,  $r(\sin \theta \cos(\arctan 2) - \cos \theta \sin(\arctan 2)) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$ .  $\sin(\arctan 2) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}$  and  $\cos(\arctan 2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$ , so this simplifies to  $r \cos \theta - 2r \sin \theta = 1$ . Converting from polar,  $f(x) - 2x = 1$ , or  $f(x) = 2x + 1$ .  $f(2) = 5$ .
- 27)  $\ln(-\sqrt{3} - i) = \ln(2) + \ln(-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} - \frac{i}{2}) = \ln(2) + \ln e^{-5i\pi/6} = \ln(2) - \frac{5i\pi}{6}$ .  $A + B + C = 13$ . Note that the imaginary part of the principal value of  $\ln(z)$  always lies in the range  $(-\pi, \pi]$ .
- 28) This is an ellipse with foci at  $(0, -i)$  and  $(0, i)$  with major axis length 4. The semimajor axis has length 2, and the focal radius is 1. Solving  $1^2 = 2^2 - x^2$  gives a semiminor axis of length  $\sqrt{3}$ . Thus, the area of the ellipse is  $2\pi\sqrt{3}$ .
- 29) The determinant is  $\operatorname{cis} \frac{\pi}{4} \cdot \operatorname{cis} \frac{5\pi}{4} \cdot \operatorname{cis} \frac{\pi}{2} = \operatorname{cis} 2\pi = 1$ . This is an easy triangular matrix to invert.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \begin{bmatrix} \text{cis } \pi/4 & \text{cis } 3\pi/2 & \text{cis } \pi/2 \\ 0 & \text{cis } 5\pi/4 & \text{cis } \pi/4 \\ 0 & 0 & \text{cis } \pi/2 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner R_1 \div = \text{cis } \pi/4 \\
 & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \text{cis } 5\pi/4 & \text{cis } \pi/4 \\ 0 & \text{cis } 5\pi/4 & \text{cis } \pi/4 \\ 0 & 0 & \text{cis } \pi/2 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner \begin{bmatrix} \text{cis } -\pi/4 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner R_1 - = R_2 \\
 & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \text{cis } 5\pi/4 & \text{cis } \pi/4 \\ 0 & 0 & \text{cis } \pi/2 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner \begin{bmatrix} \text{cis } -\pi/4 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \text{cis } 3\pi/4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner R_2 \times = \text{cis } 3\pi/4 \\
 & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \text{cis } \pi \\ 0 & 0 & \text{cis } \pi/2 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner \begin{bmatrix} \text{cis } -\pi/4 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner \text{Convert left matrix to rectangular} \\
 & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & i \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner \begin{bmatrix} \text{cis } -\pi/4 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \text{cis } 3\pi/4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner R_2 - = iR_3 \\
 & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & i \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner \begin{bmatrix} \text{cis } -\pi/4 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \text{cis } 3\pi/4 & -i \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner R_3 \div = i \\
 & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner \begin{bmatrix} \text{cis } -\pi/4 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \text{cis } 3\pi/4 & -i \\ 0 & 0 & -i \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner \text{Convert right matrix to rectangular} \\
 & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \llcorner \llcorner \llcorner \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} - i/\sqrt{2} & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1/\sqrt{2} + i/\sqrt{2} & -i \\ 0 & 0 & -i \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

The sum of the entries in the inverse matrix is  $-1 - 2i$ .  $A + B = 3$ .

- 30) The areas of triangle  $OPR$ , sector  $POQ$ , and triangle  $OPS$  are  $\frac{\sin \theta}{2}$ ,  $\frac{\theta}{2}$ , and  $\frac{\tan \theta}{2}$  respectively. For all values in the range  $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$  except at 0, these are ordered, so  $\frac{\sin \theta}{2} < \frac{\theta}{2} < \frac{\tan \theta}{2}$ . Multiplying by 2 and dividing by  $\sin \theta$  (note that  $\theta$  is always positive for area), this becomes  $1 < \frac{\theta}{\sin \theta} < \sec \theta$ . Inverting,  $1 > \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} > \cos \theta$ . As  $\theta$  becomes close to 0,  $\cos \theta$  approaches 1, and  $\frac{\sin \theta}{\theta}$  becomes sandwiched between a value approaching 1 and 1. Thus,  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} = 1$ .  $\left| \frac{\sqrt{1-\cos 2\theta}}{4\theta} \right| = \frac{\sqrt{2} \sin \theta}{4\theta}$ , so  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \left| \frac{\sqrt{1-\cos 2\theta}}{4\theta} \right| = \lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{2} \sin \theta}{4\theta} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} \lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}$ .