

Precalculus, Section 7.6, #14
Double-angle and Half-angle Formulas

Use the information given about the angle θ , $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$, to find the exact value of the following trigonometric functions.¹

$$\csc(\theta) = -\sqrt{5} \quad \cos(\theta) < 0$$

We are given $\csc(\theta) = -\sqrt{5}$. So, in terms of more familiar trig functions, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\csc(\theta) &= -\sqrt{5} \\ \frac{1}{\sin(\theta)} &= -\sqrt{5} \\ 1 &= -\sqrt{5} \cdot \sin(\theta)\end{aligned}$$

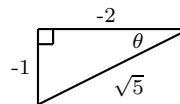
or

$$\sin(\theta) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$$

This tells us that θ must be in quadrant III or IV. We are also given $\cos(\theta) < 0$, so θ must be in quadrant II or III. Thus we know that θ is in quadrant III.

We use this to draw a triangle to help us find the other trig functions of θ .

From the diagram, we get



$$\begin{aligned}\cos(\theta) &= -\frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} = -\frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5} \\ \sin(\theta) &= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} = -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{5} \\ \tan(\theta) &= \frac{1}{2}\end{aligned}$$

(a) $\sin(2\theta)$

$$\begin{aligned}\sin(2\theta) &= 2 \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) \\ &= 2 \cdot -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{5} \cdot -\frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5} \\ &= \frac{4}{5}\end{aligned}$$

(b) $\cos(2\theta)$

$$\begin{aligned}\cos(2\theta) &= \cos^2(\theta) - \sin^2(\theta) \\ &= \left(-\frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}\right)^2 - \left(-\frac{\sqrt{5}}{5}\right)^2 \\ &= \frac{4 \cdot 5}{25} - \frac{5}{25} \\ &= \frac{15}{25} \\ &= \frac{3}{5}\end{aligned}$$

¹Sullivan, *Precalculus: Enhanced with Graphing Utilities*, p. 495, #14.

Precalculus
Double-angle and Half-angle Formulas

(c) $\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$

$$\begin{aligned}\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos(\theta)}{2}} \\ &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{1 - \left(-\frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}\right)}{2}} \\ &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{\frac{5}{5} + \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}}{2}} \\ &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{5 + 2\sqrt{5}}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{5 + 2\sqrt{5}}{10}}\end{aligned}$$

Since we know θ is in quadrant III, we can deduce that $\frac{\theta}{2}$ is in quadrant II. (Since $180^\circ < \theta < 270^\circ$, it must be that $\frac{180^\circ}{2} < \frac{\theta}{2} < \frac{270^\circ}{2}$ or $90^\circ < \frac{\theta}{2} < 135^\circ$. Finally, the sine function is positive in quadrant II, and thus

$$\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) = \sqrt{\frac{5 + 2\sqrt{5}}{10}}$$

(d) $\cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$

$$\begin{aligned}\cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{1 + \cos(\theta)}{2}} \\ &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{1 + \left(-\frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}\right)}{2}} \\ &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{\frac{5}{5} - \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}}{2}} \\ &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{5 - 2\sqrt{5}}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{5 - 2\sqrt{5}}{10}}\end{aligned}$$

From (c) we know $\frac{\theta}{2}$ is in quadrant II, and so $\cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$ must be negative. Thus,

$$\cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) = -\sqrt{\frac{5 - 2\sqrt{5}}{10}}$$

Precalculus
Double-angle and Half-angle Formulas

(e) $\tan(2\theta)$

$$\begin{aligned}\tan(2\theta) &= \frac{2 \tan(\theta)}{1 - \tan^2(\theta)} \\ &= \frac{2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}}{1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{4}} \\ &= \frac{4}{3}\end{aligned}$$

(f) $\tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$

$$\begin{aligned}\tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos(\theta)}{1 + \cos(\theta)}} \\ &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 - \left(-\frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}\right)}{1 + \left(-\frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}\right)}} \\ &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{\frac{5}{5} + \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}}{\frac{5}{5} - \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}}} \\ &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{\frac{5+2\sqrt{5}}{5}}{\frac{5-2\sqrt{5}}{5}}} \\ &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{5+2\sqrt{5}}{5} \cdot \frac{5}{5-2\sqrt{5}}} \\ &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{5+2\sqrt{5}}{5-2\sqrt{5}}}\end{aligned}$$

From (c) we know $\frac{\theta}{2}$ is in quadrant II, and so $\tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$ must be negative. Thus,

$$\tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) = -\sqrt{\frac{5+2\sqrt{5}}{5-2\sqrt{5}}}$$

Or

$$\begin{aligned}\tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) &= -\sqrt{\frac{5+2\sqrt{5}}{5-2\sqrt{5}}} \\ &= -\sqrt{\frac{5+2\sqrt{5}}{5-2\sqrt{5}} \cdot \frac{5+2\sqrt{5}}{5+2\sqrt{5}}} \\ &= -\sqrt{\frac{25+20\sqrt{5}+20}{25-20}} \\ &= -\sqrt{\frac{5(9+4\sqrt{5})}{5}} \\ &= -\sqrt{9+4\sqrt{5}}\end{aligned}$$