

**CBSE Class-11 Mathematics**  
**NCERT Solutions**  
**Chapter - 3 Trigonometric Functions**  
**Exercise 3.4**

---

**Find the principal and general solutions of the following equations:**

1.  $\tan x = \sqrt{3}$

**Ans.** Given:  $\tan x = \sqrt{3}$  Here  $x$  lies in first or third quadrant.

$$\therefore \tan x = \tan 60^\circ \text{ or } \tan x = \tan (180^\circ + 60^\circ)$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan x = \tan 60^\circ \text{ or } \tan x = \tan 240^\circ$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan x = \tan \frac{\pi}{3} \text{ or } \tan x = \tan \frac{4\pi}{3}$$

Therefore, the principal solutions are  $\frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{4\pi}{3}$ .

Now,  $\tan x = \tan \frac{\pi}{3}$

$$\Rightarrow x = n\pi + \frac{\pi}{3} \text{ where } n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

---

2.  $\sec x = 2$

**Ans.** Given:  $\sec x = 2 \Rightarrow \cos x = \frac{1}{2}$  Here  $x$  lies in first or fourth quadrant.

$$\therefore \cos x = \cos 60^\circ \text{ or } \cos x = \cos (360^\circ - 60^\circ)$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos x = \cos 60^\circ \text{ or } \cos x = \cos 300^\circ$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos x = \cos \frac{\pi}{3} \text{ or } \cos x = \cos \frac{5\pi}{3}$$

Therefore, the principal solutions are  $\frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi}{3}$ .

$$\text{Now, } \cos x = \cos \frac{\pi}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 2n\pi \pm \frac{\pi}{3} \text{ where } n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$3. \cot x = -\sqrt{3}$$

**Ans.** Given:  $\cot x = -\sqrt{3} \Rightarrow \tan x = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{3}}$  Here  $x$  lies in second or fourth quadrant.

$$\therefore \tan x = -\tan 30^\circ = \tan (180^\circ - 30^\circ) \text{ or } \tan x = \tan (360^\circ - 60^\circ)$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan x = \tan 150^\circ \text{ or } \tan x = \tan 330^\circ$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan x = \tan \frac{5\pi}{6} \text{ or } \tan x = \tan \frac{11\pi}{6}$$

Therefore, the principal solutions are  $\frac{5\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}$ .

$$\text{Now, } \tan x = \tan \frac{5\pi}{6}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = n\pi + \frac{5\pi}{6} \text{ where } n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$4. \operatorname{cosec} x = -2$$

**Ans.** Given:  $\operatorname{cosec} x = -2 \Rightarrow \sin x = \frac{-1}{2}$  Here  $x$  lies in third or fourth quadrant.

$$\therefore \sin x = -\sin 30^\circ = \sin(180^\circ + 30^\circ) \text{ or } \sin x = \sin(360^\circ - 30^\circ)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin x = \sin 210^\circ \text{ or } \sin x = \sin 330^\circ$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin x = \sin \frac{7\pi}{6} \text{ or } \sin x = \sin \frac{11\pi}{6}$$

Therefore, the principal solutions are  $\frac{7\pi}{6}, \frac{11\pi}{6}$ .

$$\text{Now, } \sin x = -\sin \frac{\pi}{6}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = n\pi + (-1)^n \left( \frac{7\pi}{6} \right) \text{ where } n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

---

5.  $\cos 4x = \cos 2x$

**Ans.** Given:  $\cos 4x = \cos 2x$

$$\Rightarrow 4x = 2n\pi \pm 2x, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow 4x - 2x = 2n\pi \text{ or } 4x + 2x = 2n\pi, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x = 2n\pi \text{ or } 6x = 2n\pi, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = n\pi \text{ or } x = \frac{n\pi}{3}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Therefore, the principal solutions are  $n\pi, \frac{n\pi}{3} \text{ } n \in \mathbb{Z}$

---

6.  $\cos 3x + \cos x - \cos 2x = 0$

**Ans.** Given:  $\cos 3x + \cos x - \cos 2x = 0$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \cos \left( \frac{3x+x}{2} \right) \cos \left( \frac{3x-x}{2} \right) - \cos 2x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \cos 2x \cos x - \cos 2x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos 2x(2 \cos x - 1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos 2x = 0 \text{ or } 2 \cos x - 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x = (2n+1)\frac{\pi}{2} \text{ or } \cos x = \frac{1}{2} = \cos \frac{\pi}{3}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = (2n+1)\frac{\pi}{4} \text{ or } x = 2n\pi \pm \frac{\pi}{3}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

---

7.  $\sin 2x + \cos x = 0$

**Ans.** Given:  $\sin 2x + \cos x = 0$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \sin x \cos x + \cos x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos x(2 \sin x + 1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos x = 0 \text{ or } 2 \sin x + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = (2n+1)\frac{\pi}{2} \text{ or } \sin x = \frac{-1}{2} = -\sin \frac{\pi}{6}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = (2n+1)\frac{\pi}{2} \text{ or } x = n\pi + (-1)^n \left( \frac{-\pi}{6} \right), n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = (2n+1)\frac{\pi}{2} \text{ or } x = n\pi + (-1)^n \frac{7\pi}{6}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

---

8.  $\sec^2 2x = 1 - \tan 2x$

**Ans.** Given:  $\sec^2 2x = 1 - \tan 2x$

$$\Rightarrow 1 + \tan^2 2x = 1 - \tan 2x$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan 2x(\tan 2x + 1) = 0$$

---

$$\Rightarrow \tan 2x = 0 \text{ or } \tan 2x + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x = n\pi \text{ or } \tan 2x = -1 = -\tan \frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{n\pi}{2} \text{ or } x = \frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{3\pi}{8}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

---

9.  $\sin x + \sin 3x + \sin 5x = 0$

**Ans.** Given:  $\sin x + \sin 3x + \sin 5x = 0$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \sin \left( \frac{5x+x}{2} \right) \cos \left( \frac{5x-x}{2} \right) + \sin 3x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \sin 3x \cos 2x + \sin 3x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin 3x (2 \cos 2x + 1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin 3x = 0 \text{ or } 2 \cos 2x + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 3x = n\pi \text{ or } \cos 2x = \frac{-1}{2} = \cos \frac{2\pi}{3}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{n\pi}{3} \text{ or } 2x = 2n\pi \pm \frac{2\pi}{3}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{n\pi}{3} \text{ or } x = n\pi \pm \frac{\pi}{3}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$