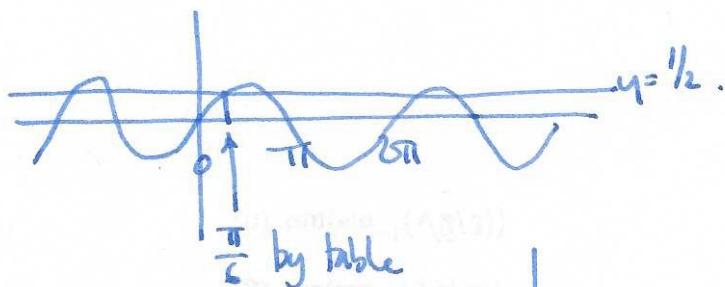


## §7.4 Trig equations

Example (exact values) solve  $\sin \theta = \frac{1}{2}$



$\sin \theta$   $2\pi$ -periodic, so start by finding all solutions in  $[0, 2\pi]$

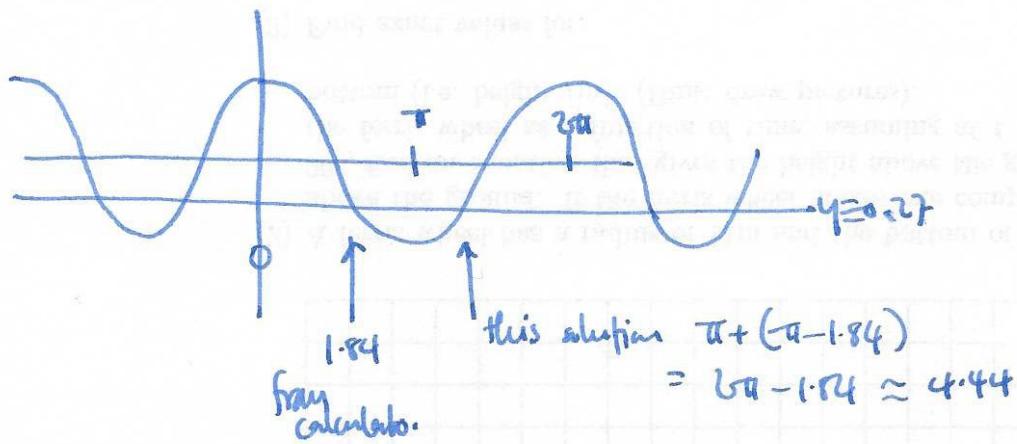
$$\theta = 0, \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\sin \theta = 0, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{1}{2}$$

so all solutions are of the form  $\frac{\pi}{6} + 2\pi n, \frac{5\pi}{6} + 2\pi n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$

Example (decimal approx)

$$\text{solve } \cos \theta = -0.27 \quad \theta = \arccos(-0.27) = 1.84$$



$\cos \theta$   $2\pi$ -periodic, so find all solutions in  $[0, 2\pi]$ .

all solutions:

$$1.84 + 2\pi n$$

$$4.44 + 2\pi n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Fancier: solve  $2\cos^2 \theta - 7\cos \theta + 3 = 0$

$$(2\cos \theta - 1)(\cos \theta - 3) = 0$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{1}{2}$$

solve as  
above.

$$\cos \theta = 3$$

no solutions!

Example solve  $\tan^2 \theta + \tan \theta - 12 = 0$ .