

Sound, light, water or electrical waves can be described using a combination of Sine and Cosine waves.

The function formed by adding a sine and cosine function can be expressed as a related cosine or sine function.

In general, this is as shown on the formula sheet as $\sin A \pm \sin B = \sin A \cos B \pm \cos A \sin B$.

And $\cos A \pm \sin B = \cos A \cos B \mp \sin A \sin B$.

Express $2 \cos x + 3 \sin x$ in the form $k \cos(x - a)$.

Expand $k \cos(x - a)$ to get $k \cos x \cos a + k \sin x \sin a$

Rearrange to compare with the original expression and compare the coefficients of $\cos x$ and $\sin x$.

So, $k \cos a = 2$ and $k \sin a = 3$

To find k take the square root of $2^2 + 3^2$ so $k = \sqrt{13}$.

To find angle a , use the fact $\tan a = \frac{\sin a}{\cos a}$, and that $\sin a = \frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}$ and $\cos a = \frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}$, from the coefficients of $\cos x$ and $\sin x$.

$\tan a$ will be positive as $\sin x$ and $\cos x$ are both positive from the CAST diagram.

Find the angle by taking the inverse function of $\frac{3}{2}$, which is 56.3° .

Put together to get $2 \cos x + 3 \sin x = \sqrt{13} \cos(x - 56.3^\circ)$.

For wave functions, use the formula sheet and use the CAST diagram to find the angle.