Re: History of trigonometry

Source: http://sci.tech−archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2007−01/msg00288.html

- *From*: "Nick" <tulse04−news1@xxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date*: Wed, 3 Jan 2007 01:35:37 −0000

"Ken Pledger" <ken.pledger@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:ken.pledger−E6DD48.11304703012007@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

> In article
> <2386070.1166882761600.JavaMail.jakarta@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>,
> zeros <nimzeros@xxxxxxxxx> wrote:
>
> > ....
> > When did someone define the sine of an angle greater than 90 degrees?
> >
> > I think this may be happened in 17c. But I can't find any record about my
> > question....
>
> It's an interesting question, which most popular historians of
> mathematics scarcely mention.

In fact, http://www−history.mcs.st−andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Euler.html says that:

"He made large bounds forward in the study of modern analytic geometry and trigonometry where he was the first to consider sin, cos etc. as functions rather than as chords as Ptolemy had done."

http://www−history.mcs.st−andrews.ac.uk/HistTopics/Trigonometric_functions.html#76 says that:

"The first actual appearance of the sine of an angle appears in the work of the Hindus."

"Chapters of Copernicus's book giving all the trigonometry relevant to astronomy was published in 1542 by Rheticus. Rheticus also produced substantial tables of sines and cosines which were published after his death. In 1533 Regiomontanus's work De triangulis omnimodis was published. This contained work on planar and spherical trigonometry originally done

much earlier in about 1464. The book is particularly strong on the sine and its inverse."

See reference for more.

Nick

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