

Math for 3D/Games Programmers

1. Trigonometry

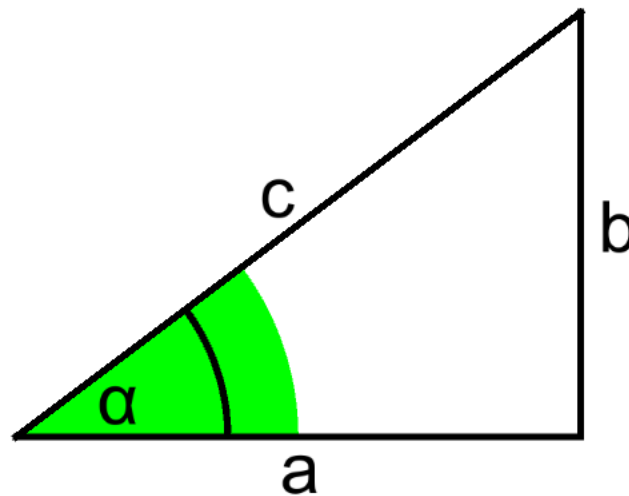
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Trigonometric Functions

- **Trigonometric functions** describe relationships between sides' lengths of the right triangle and its interior angles
- They are extremely common in 3D/games programming: movement calculation, smooth animation of values, generating points on circle/sphere
- The most commonly used triplet: **sine, cosine, tangent**

Trigonometric Functions



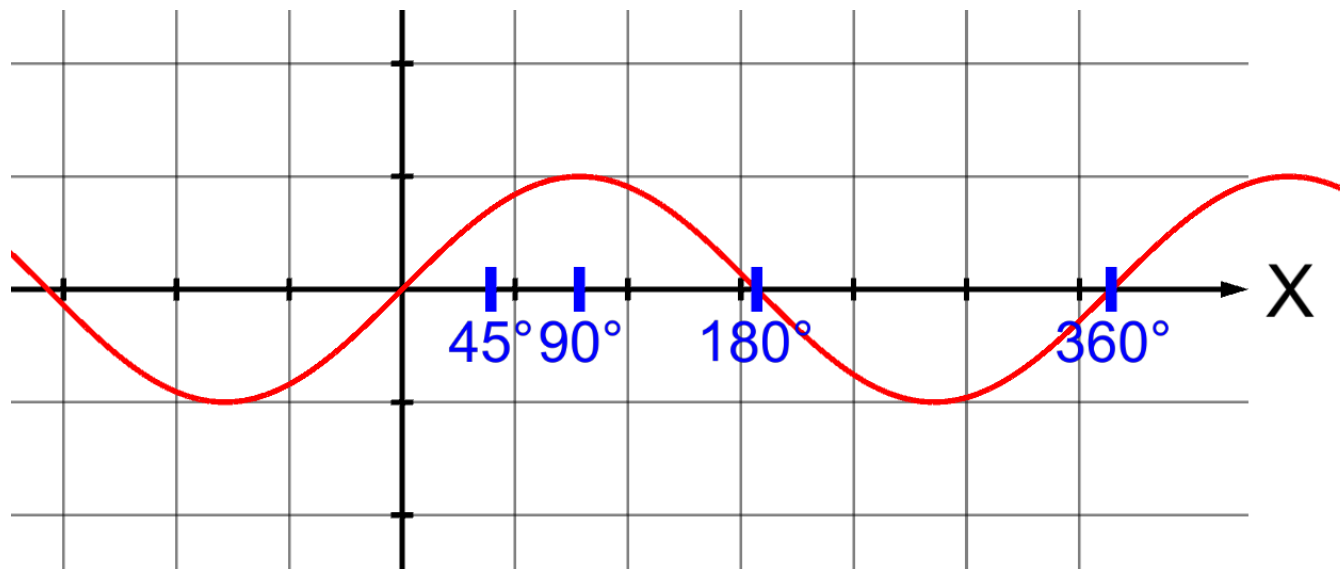
$$\sin(\alpha) = \frac{b}{c}$$

$$\cos(\alpha) = \frac{a}{c}$$

$$\tan(\alpha) = \frac{b}{a}$$

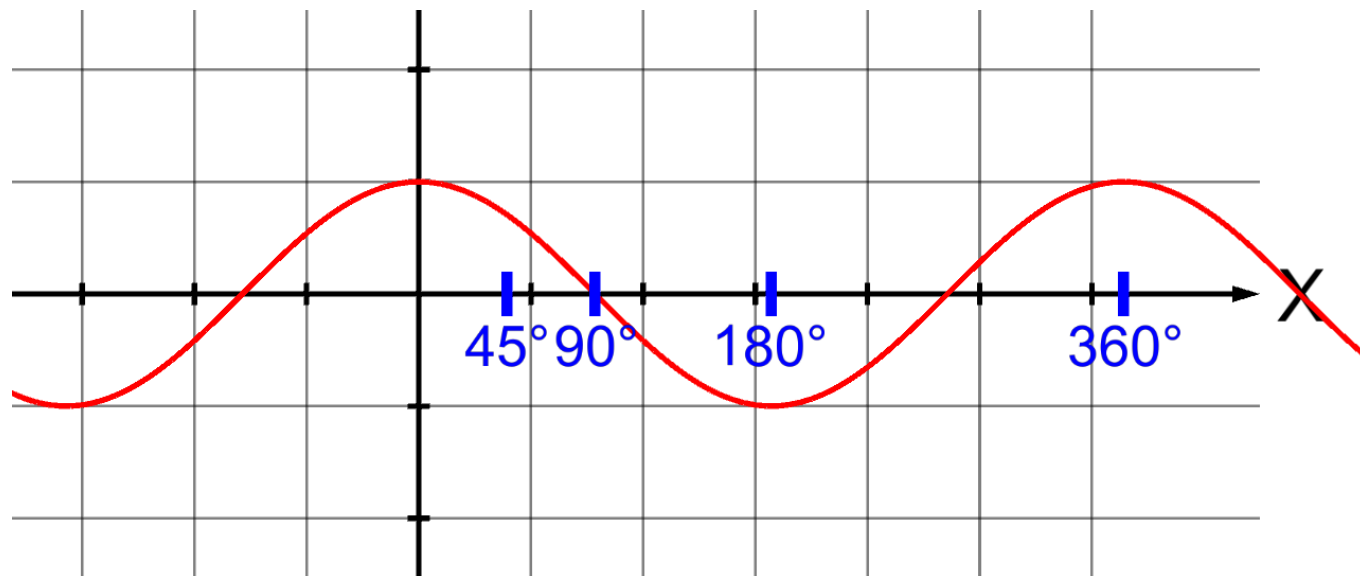
Trigonometric Functions

- Sine graph:



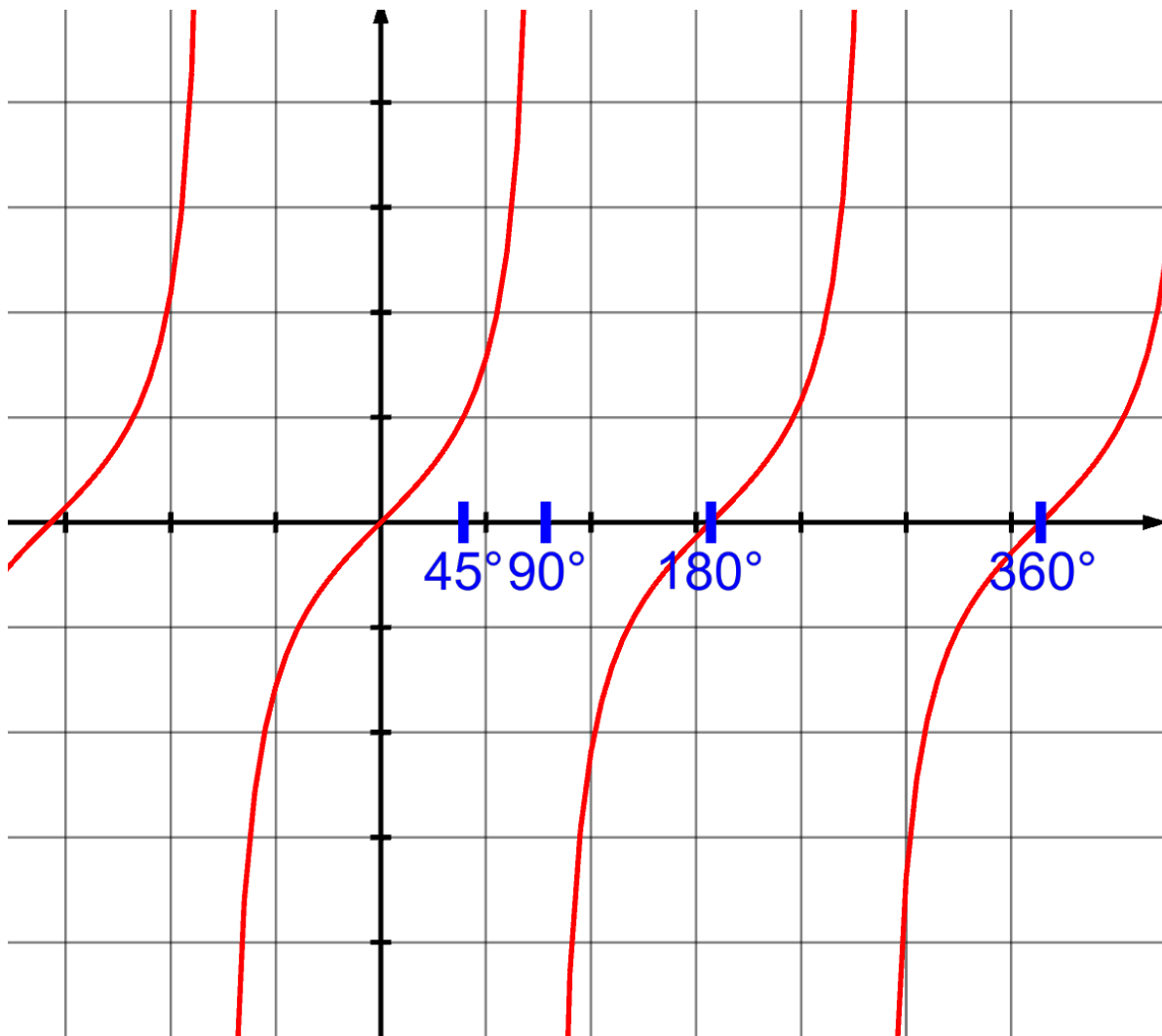
Trigonometric Functions

- Cosine graph:



Trigonometric Functions

- Tangent graph:



Trigonometric Functions

- There are also inverse functions called **arcus functions (arcsin, arccos, arctan)**:

$$\sin^{-1} \quad \cos^{-1} \quad \tan^{-1}$$

- We can use them to calculate inner angles in the right triangle:

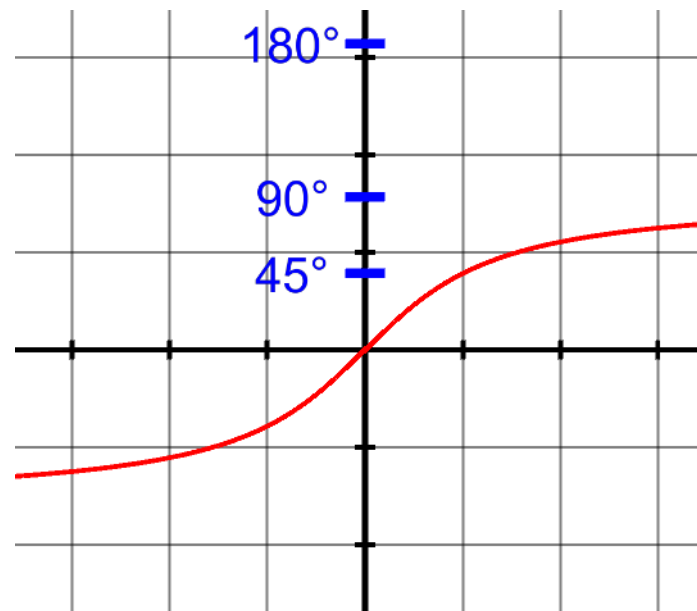
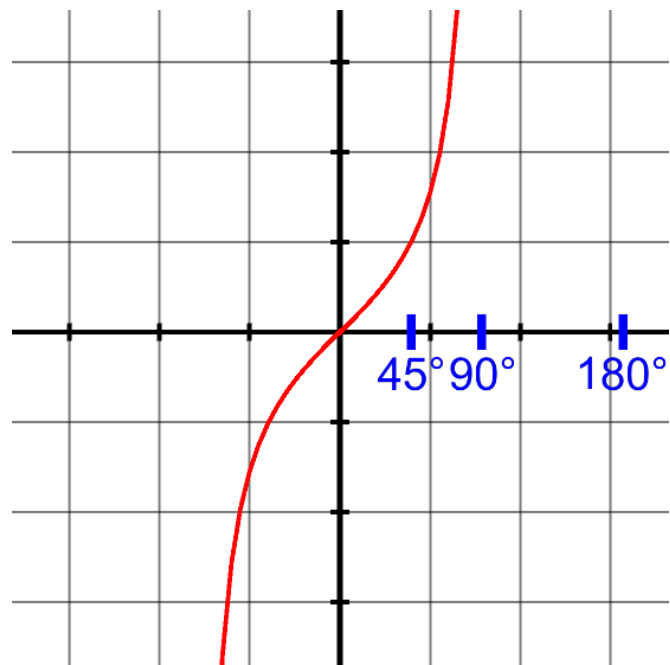
$$\sin(\alpha) = \frac{b}{c}$$

$$\sin^{-1}(\sin(\alpha)) = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{b}{c}\right)$$

$$\alpha = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{b}{c}\right)$$

Trigonometric Functions

- Tangent and arcus tangent:



Trigonometric Functions

- Angles are often measured in **degrees** in range $[0, 360)$
- Mathematical and programming practice is dominated by **radians**, though
- Radian is just a different unit of angle measurement, where 360 degrees equals $2\pi \approx 6.28$ radians
- For example:

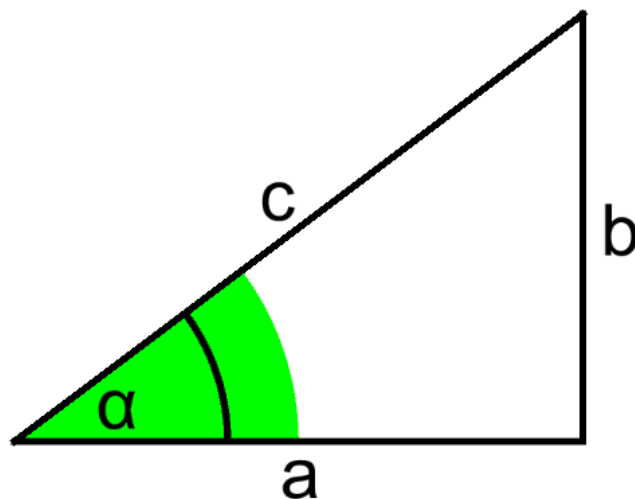
$$0 \text{ deg} = 0 \text{ rad}$$

$$90 \text{ deg} = \frac{\pi}{2} \text{ rad}$$

$$180 \text{ deg} = \pi \text{ rad}$$

$$360 \text{ deg} = 2\pi \text{ rad}$$

Trigonometric Functions



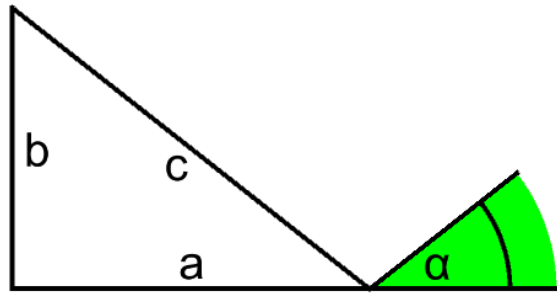
[00:12:56] a = 4 b = 3 c = 5
UnityEngine.Debug:Log (object)

[00:12:56] 36.8699 36.8699 36.8699
UnityEngine.Debug:Log (object)

Functions (Script)	
Script	# Functions
X1	0
Y1	0
X2	4
Y2	3

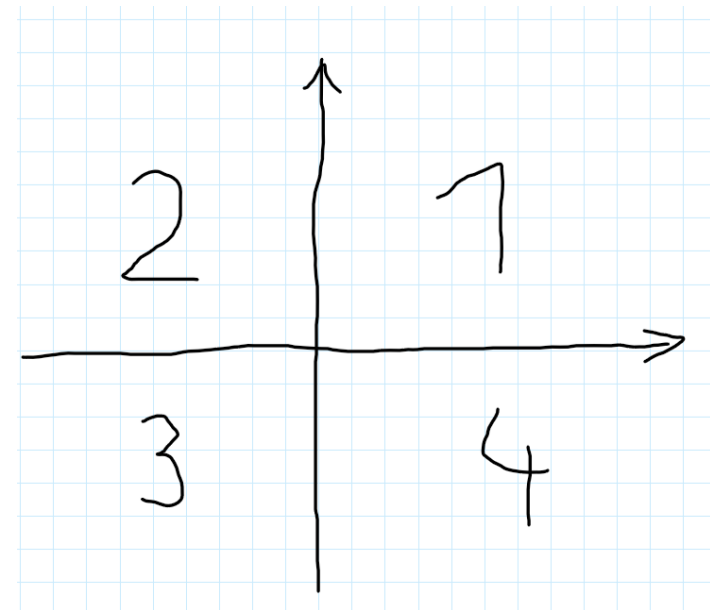
Trigonometric Functions

- This program somewhat falls apart under certain conditions:

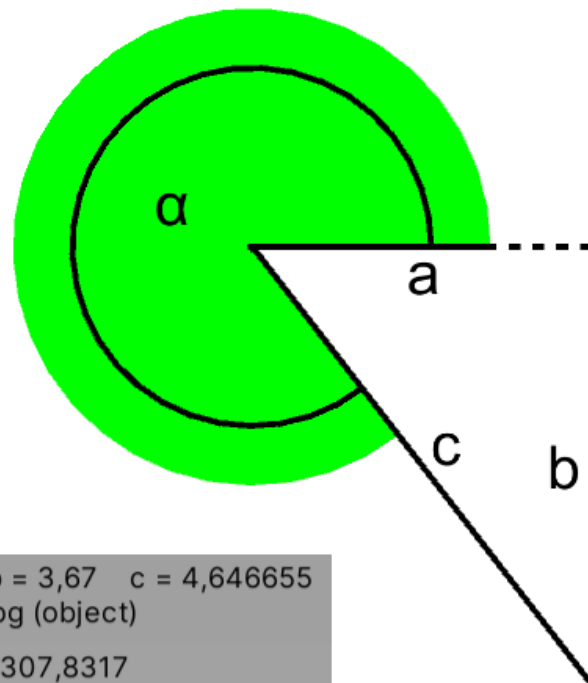


# Functions (Script)	
Script	# Functions
X1	0
Y1	0
X2	-3.83
Y2	3

- It marks the angle correctly only in the first **quadrant**:



Trigonometric Functions

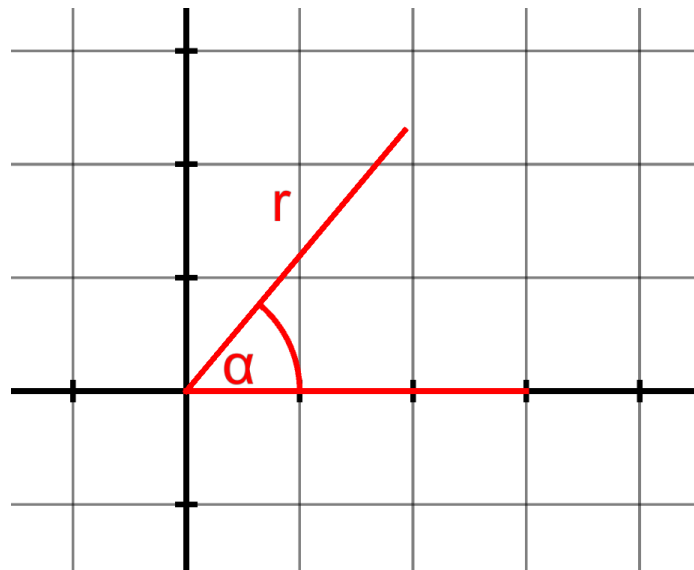


```
[14:40:17] a = 2,85 b = 3,67 c = 4,646655  
UnityEngine.Debug:Log (object)  
[14:40:17] 52,16828 307,8317  
UnityEngine.Debug:Log (object)
```

Functions 2 (Script)	
Script	# Functions2
X	2.85
Y	-3.67

Polar Coordinates

- Traditionally location of a point in the 2D coordinate system is described with a pair of numbers (x, y) . These are so called **Cartesian coordinates**
- An alternative way to describe location is with **polar coordinates**, that is a pair (r, α) , the radius (distance from the origin of the coordinate system) and the angle:



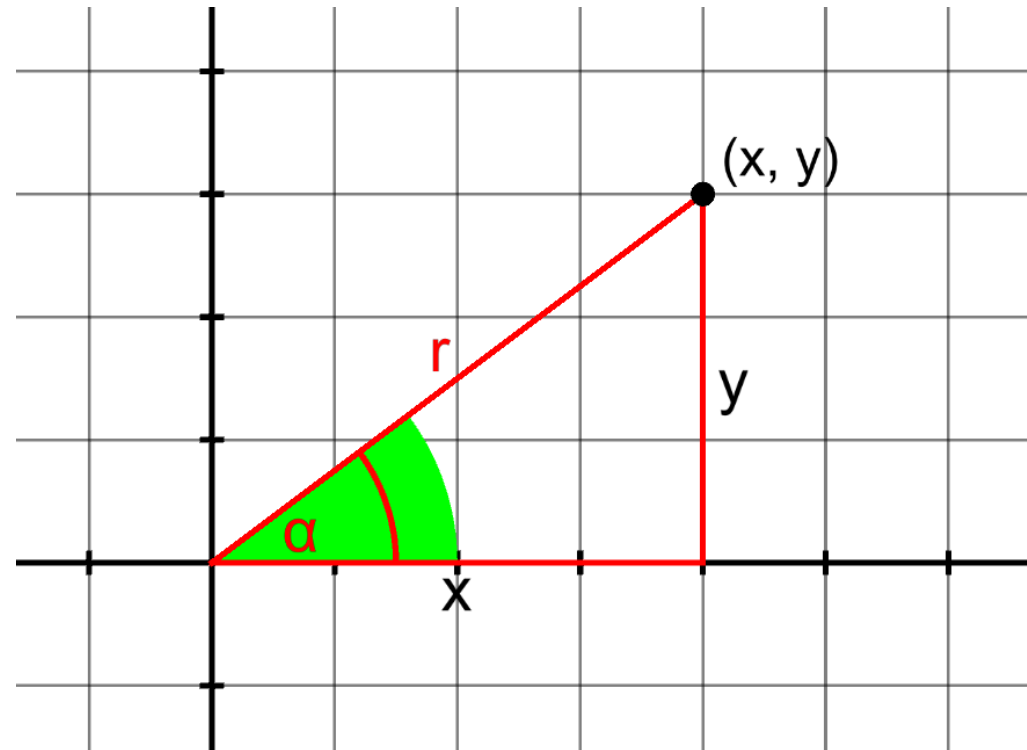
Polar Coordinates

- Using trigonometry we can freely convert between Cartesian coordinates and polar coordinates:

$$\frac{y}{r} = \sin(\alpha)$$

$$\frac{x}{r} = \cos(\alpha)$$

$$\frac{y}{x} = \tan(\alpha)$$



Polar Coordinates

- Polar to Cartesian:

$$\frac{y}{r} = \sin(\alpha) \quad \frac{x}{r} = \cos(\alpha)$$

$$y = r \sin(\alpha)$$

$$x = r \cos(\alpha)$$

Polar Coordinates

- Cartesian to polar:

$$\frac{y}{x} = \tan(\alpha)$$

$$\alpha = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$$

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

Polar Coordinates

1 reference

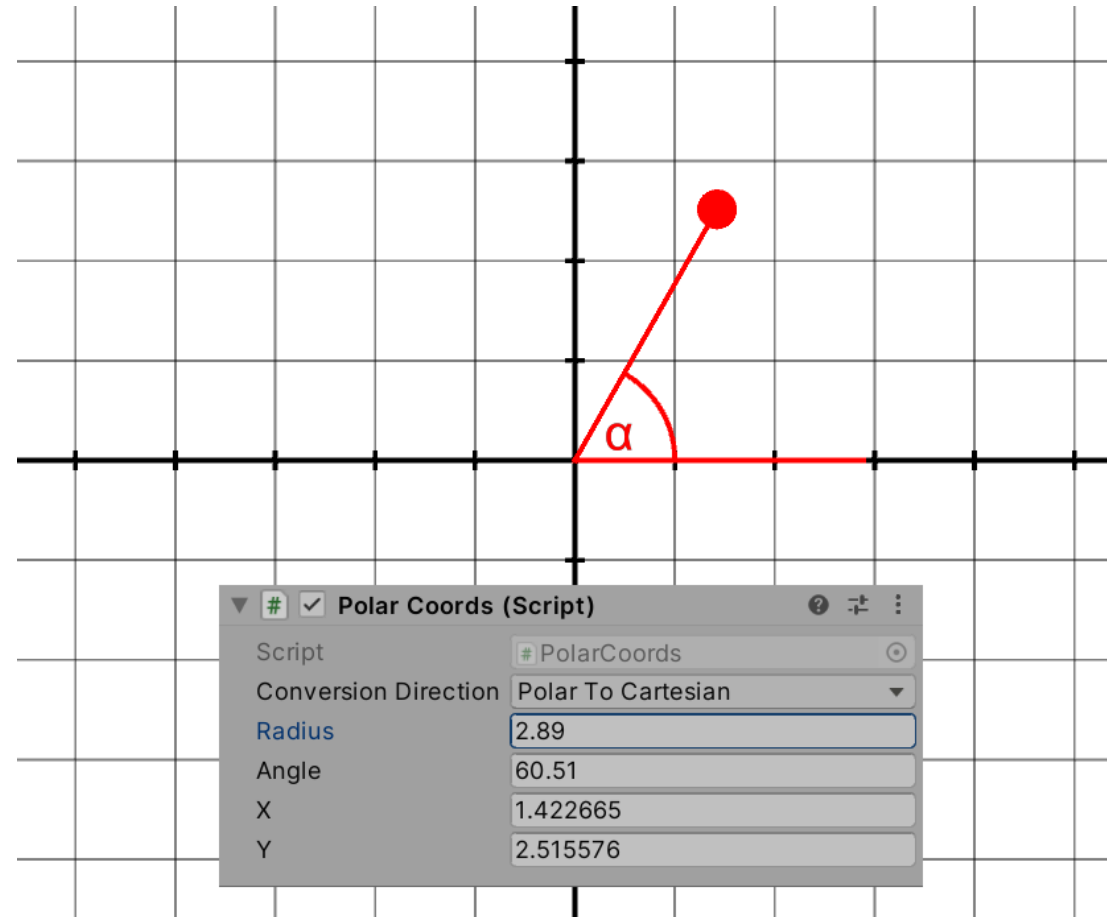
```
private void PolarToCartesian(out float x, out float y, float radius, float angle)
{
    x = radius * Mathf.Cos(angle);
    y = radius * Mathf.Sin(angle);
}
```

1 reference

```
private void CartesianToPolar(out float radius, out float angle, float x, float y)
{
    radius = Mathf.Sqrt(x*x + y*y);
    angle = Mathf.Atan2(y, x);
}
```

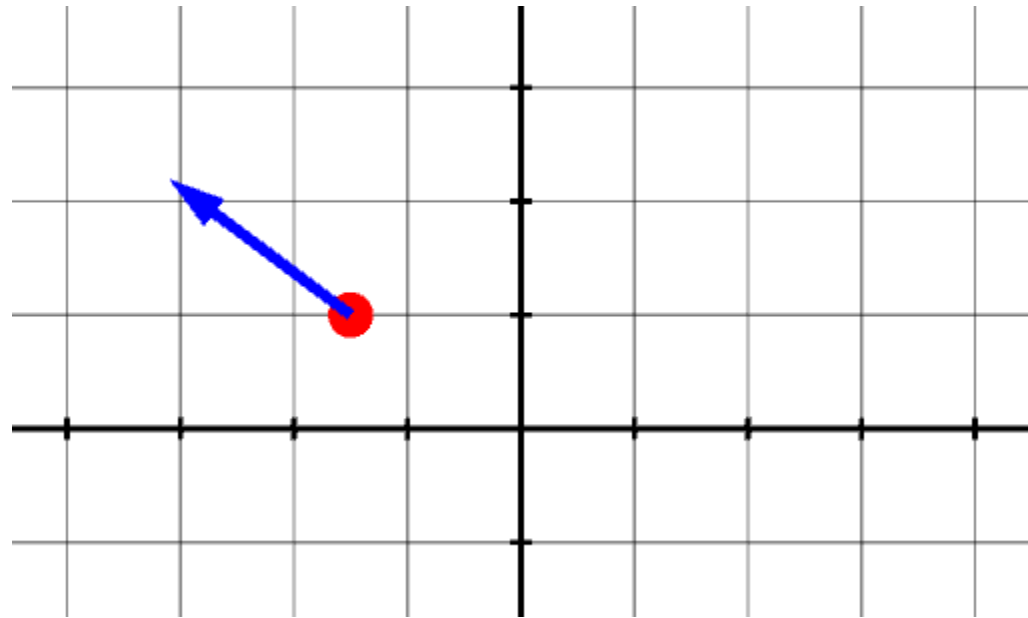
- Note [Atan2](#)

Polar Coordinates



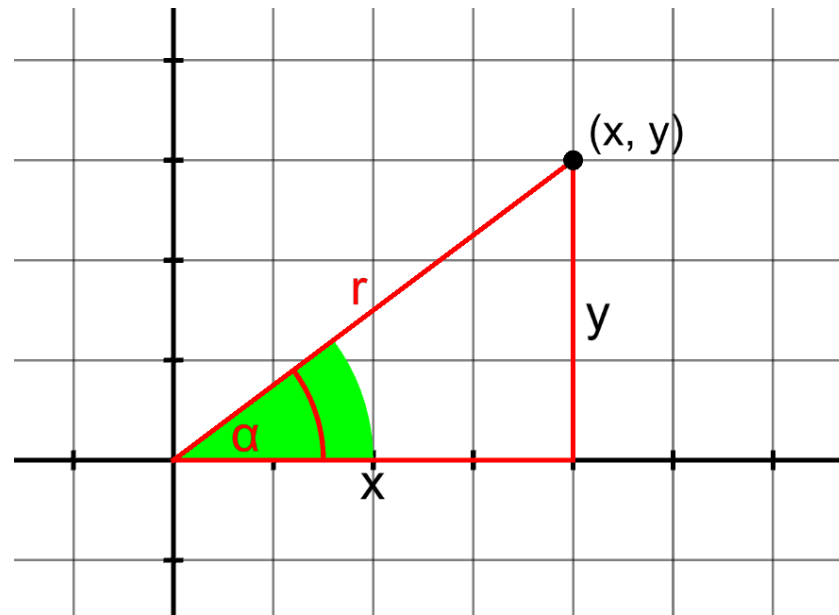
Polar Coordinates

- A classic example where polar coordinates are useful is in achieving the effect of movement like in Grand Theft Auto 2 game, with top-down view:

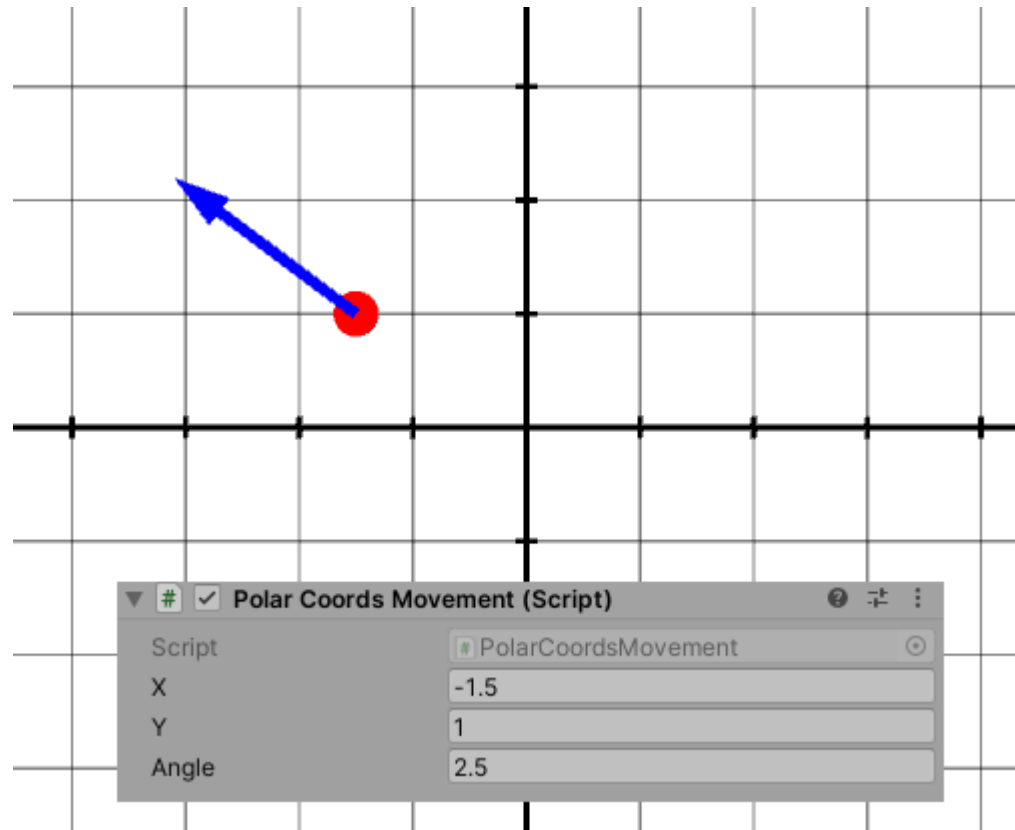


Polar Coordinates

- How it works:



Polar Coordinates



Generic Sine Function

- Basic sine function:

$$y = \sin(x)$$

- We can introduce a few parameters to make it more generic:

$$y = A * \sin(sx + t)$$

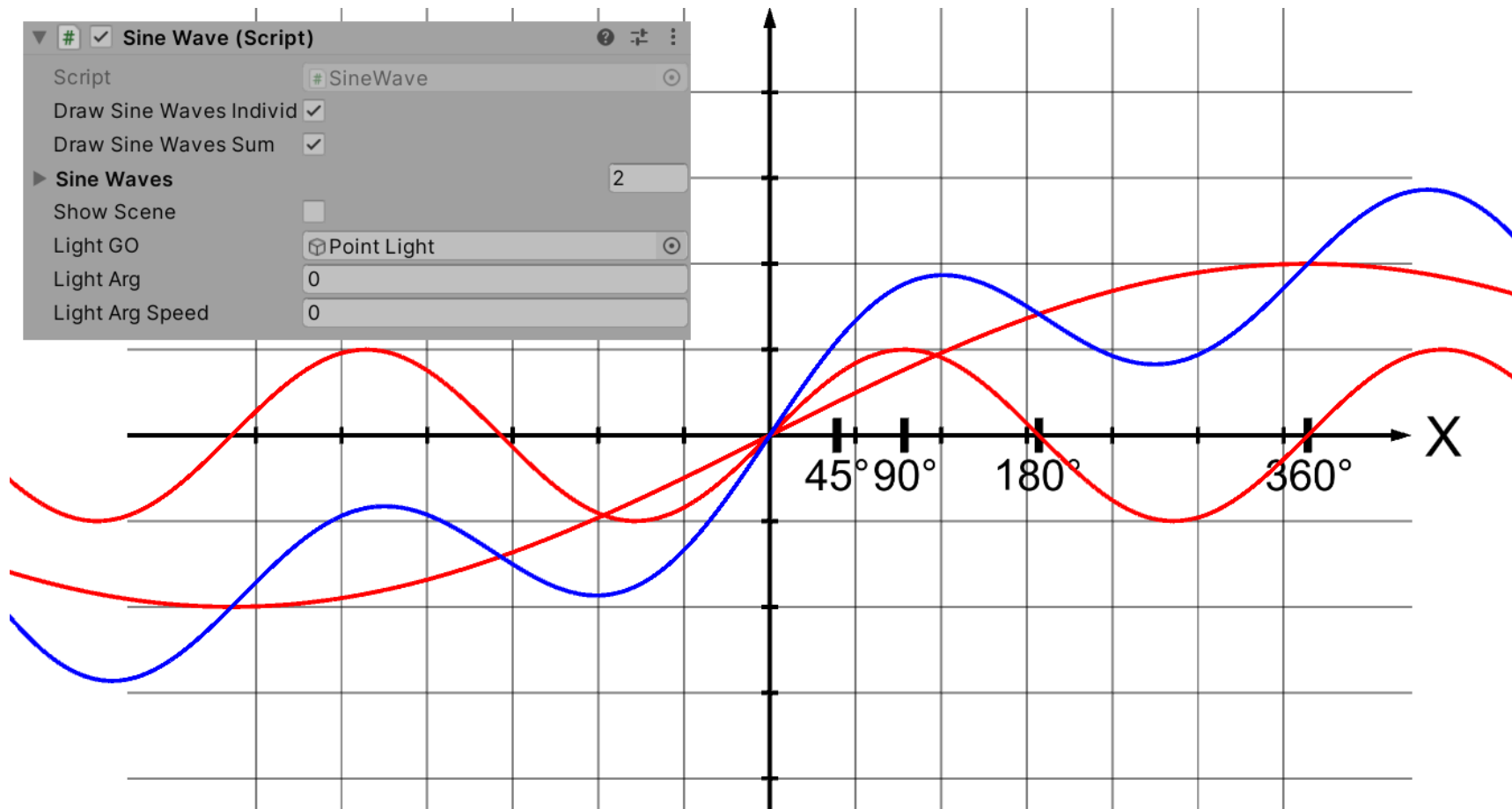
A – amplitude

s – scale (frequency)

t – offset (phase)

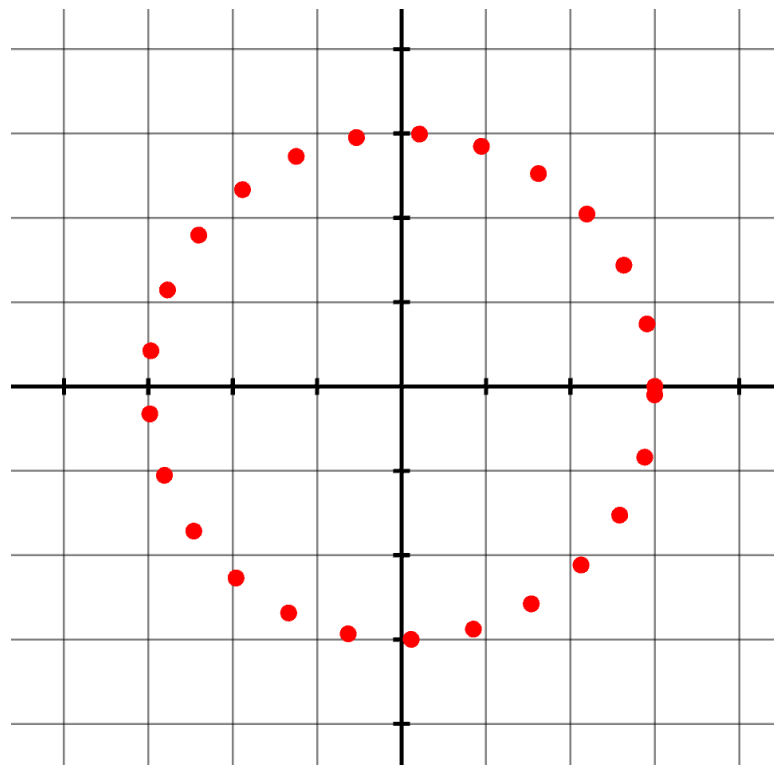
- [Wikipedia](#)

Generic Sine Function



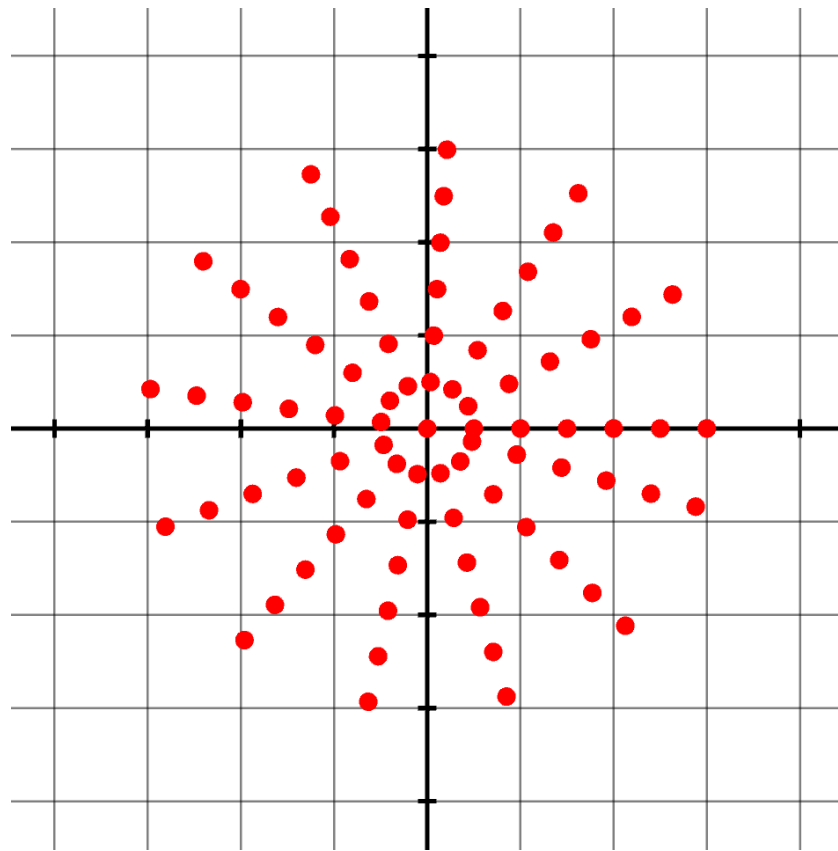
Generating Points on Circle

- Thanks to polar coordinates we can generate points on circle with ease:



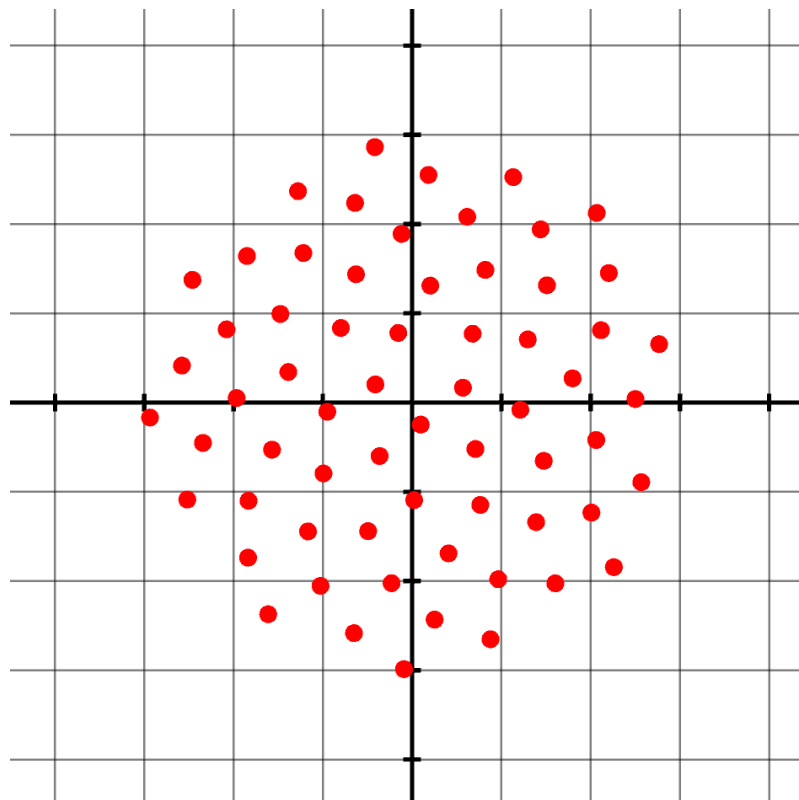
Generating Points on Circle

- We can also generate points on disk (in a naive way):

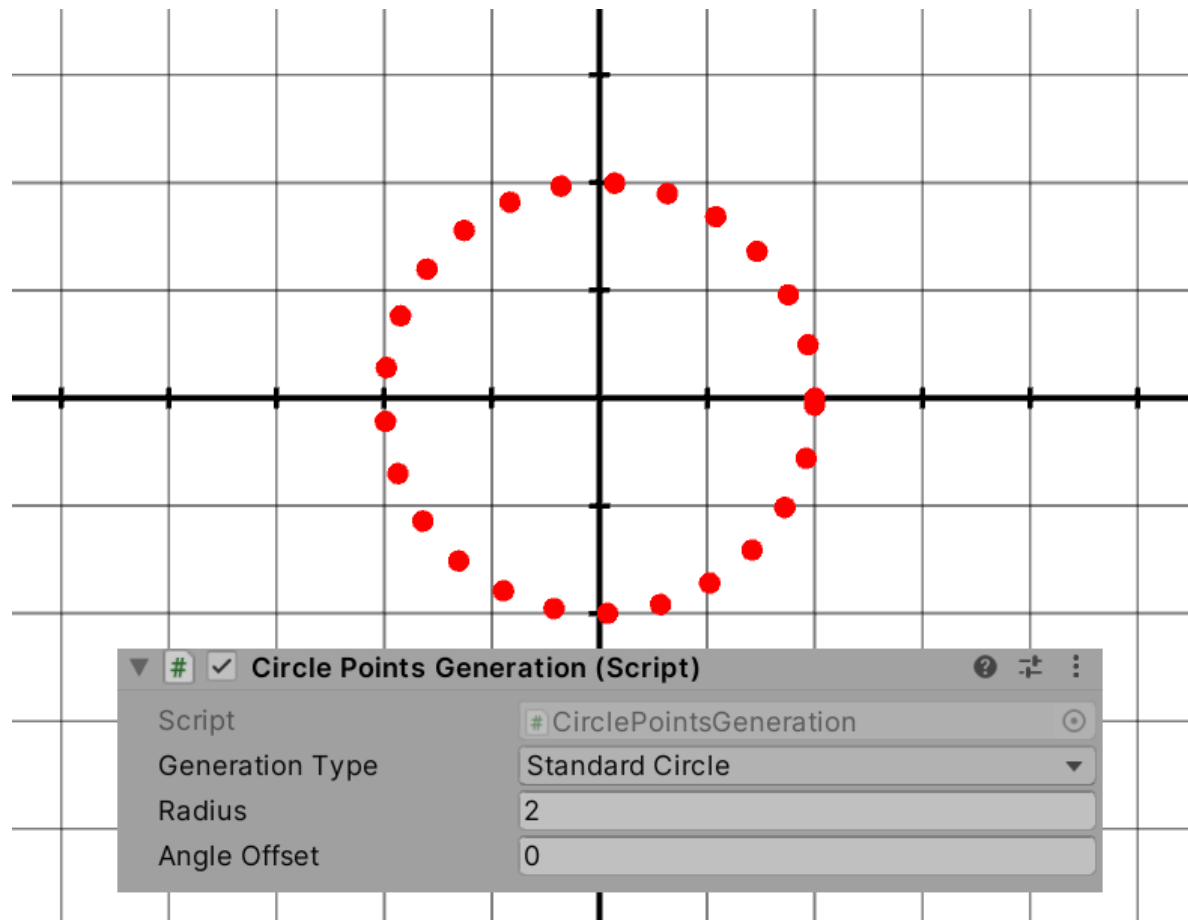


Generating Points on Circle

- There are algorithms that yield better results:



Generating Points on Circle

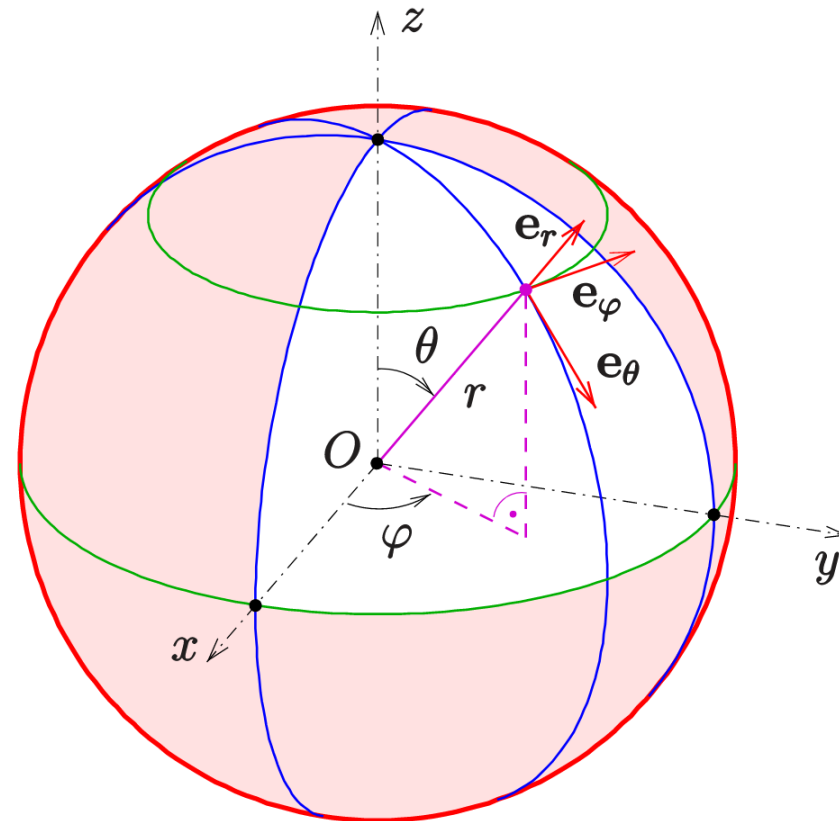


Generating Points on Circle

- Another great algorithm on generating points on disk is discusse here:
<https://www.adriancourreges.com/blog/2018/12/02/ue4-optimized-post-effects>
- It is also covered in the book [Ray Tracing from the Ground Up](#)

Spherical Coordinates

- **Spherical coordinates** are an extension of polar coordinates into 3D:



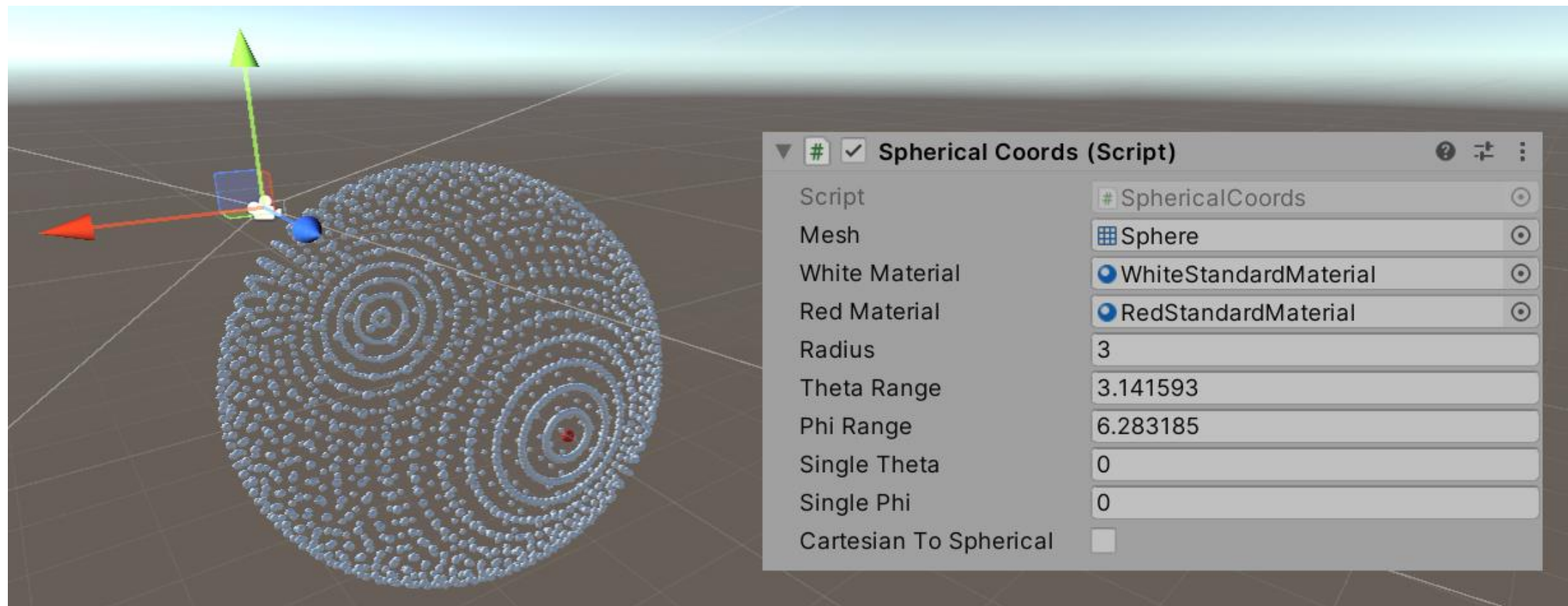
Spherical Coordinates

- Coordinates of a point are described with a triplet (r, θ, φ)
- Conversions between spherical coordinates and Cartesian:

Spherical to Cartesian	Cartesian to spherical
$x = r \sin(\theta) \cos(\varphi)$ $y = r \sin(\theta) \sin(\varphi)$ $z = r \cos(\theta)$ $\theta \in [0, \pi] \quad \varphi \in [0, 2\pi)$	$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$ $\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{z}{r} \right)$ $\varphi = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{y}{x} \right)$

- [Wikipedia](#)

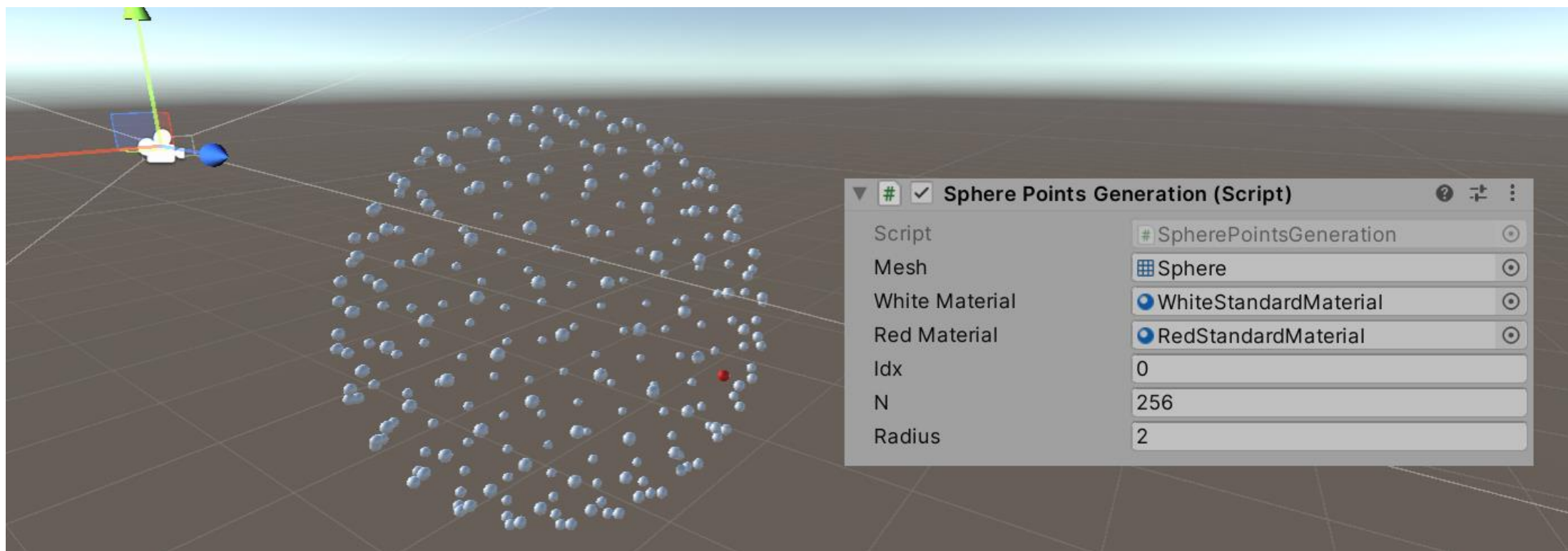
Spherical Coordinates



Generating Points on Sphere

- We've just seen a naive way of generating points on sphere
- There are more „balanced” ways

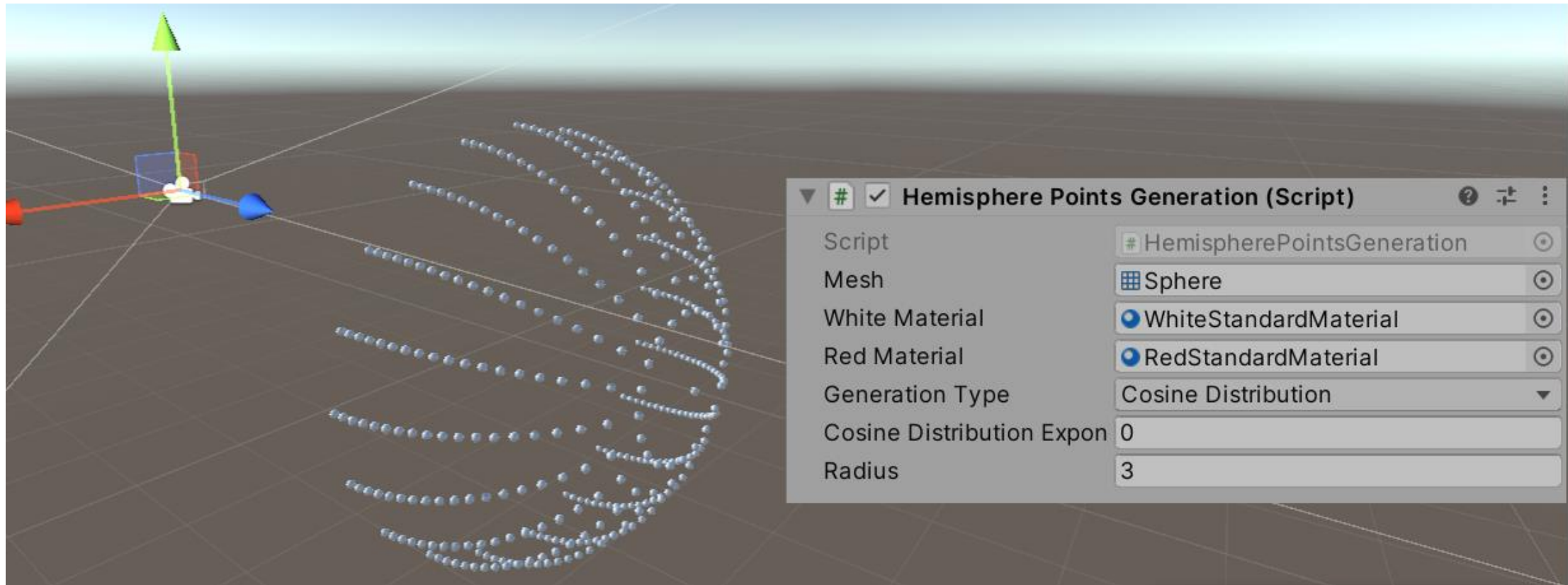
Generating Points on Sphere



Generating Points on Hemisphere

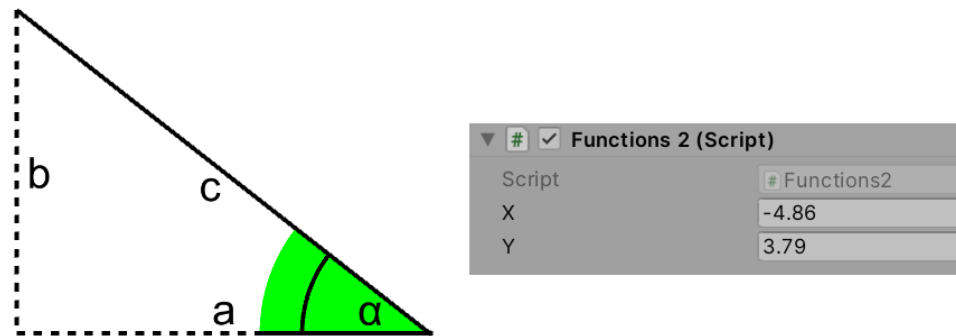
- We've just seen multiple ways of how to generate points on a sphere
- Equally important is to know how to generate points on a hemisphere
- We will see a few ways of achieving that.
One of them comes from the book [Ray Tracing from the Ground Up](#)

Generating Points on Hemisphere



Exercises

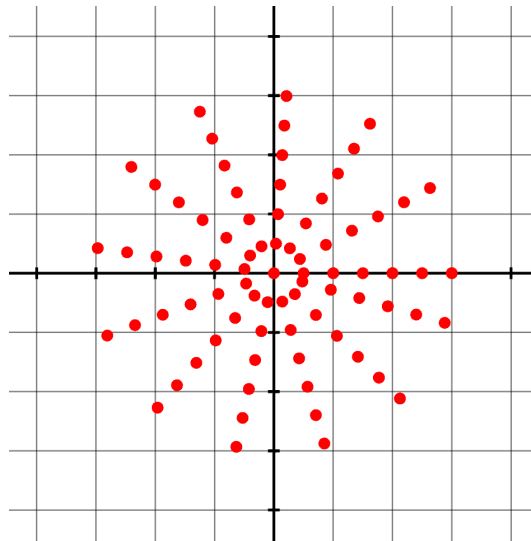
1. Modify program Functions so that it displays the angle correctly in all quadrants (slide 12):



2. Modify program Functions2 so that it returns the same values as [Atan2](#). Instead of returning range $[0, 360)$ make it return $[-180, 180)$ (slide 13)

Exercises

3. In program CirclePointsGeneration (slide 28) naive generation of points on disk gave us the following result:



Try to achieve a better „balanced” distribution of points by adding some angular offset to each „sub-circle”