

Law of Cosines



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Oct 26-10:33 AM

Diagram of a triangle with vertices A, B, and C. Side a is labeled 6, side b is labeled 641, and angle A is labeled 29°. Angle B is labeled 75.5° and angle C is labeled 75.5°.

$$\frac{\sin 29^\circ}{641} = \frac{\sin 75.5^\circ}{b}$$

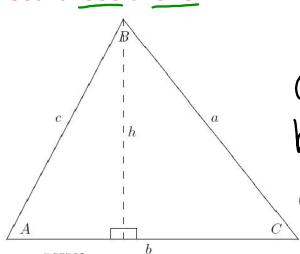
$$b = \frac{641 \sin 75.5^\circ}{\sin 29^\circ}$$

$$b = 1280.05 \text{ ft}$$

$$\frac{180}{29} - 151.2$$

$$75.5$$

Copy this triangle in your notes, please. Make it fairly large.
Use for SSS or SAS

Find a Side

$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc \cos A$$

$$b^2 = a^2 + c^2 - 2ac \cos B$$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos C$$

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Example

Use the Law of Cosines to solve the triangle given the following constraints:

$$b = 9, c = 12, A = 25^\circ$$

$$a^2 = 9^2 + 12^2 - 2(9)(12) \cos 25^\circ$$

$$a = 5.4$$

$$\frac{\sin 25^\circ}{5.4} = \frac{\sin B}{9}$$

$$180 - (25 + 44.67)^\circ$$

$$110.33^\circ$$

$$\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{9 \sin 25^\circ}{5.4}\right) = 44.67^\circ$$

$$B = 44.67^\circ$$

p. 421: #5 (HW)

Example

Find the three angles of the following triangle. Hint: always start with angle opposite longest side.

$$\cos A = \frac{b^2 + c^2 - a^2}{2bc}$$

$$\cos B = \frac{a^2 + c^2 - b^2}{2ac}$$

$$\cos C = \frac{a^2 + b^2 - c^2}{2ab}$$

$A = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{6^2 + 7^2 - 8^2}{2(6)(7)}\right) \quad A = 75.5^\circ$

$B = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{8^2 + 7^2 - 6^2}{2(8)(7)}\right) \quad B = 46.56^\circ$

$C = 180^\circ - (75.5^\circ + 46.56^\circ) \quad C = 57.94^\circ$

p. 421: #1 (HW)

Heron's Area Formula: (proof on p. 470)

$$S = \frac{a+b+c}{2}$$

$$\text{Area} = \sqrt{S(S-a)(S-b)(S-c)}$$

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Example

Find the area of a triangle having sides of lengths $a=43$, $b=53$, and $c=72$.

$$S = \frac{43+53+72}{2}$$

$$= 84$$

$$\text{Area} = \sqrt{84(84-43)(84-53)(84-72)}$$

$$\text{Area} = 1131.89 \text{ units}^2$$

p. 421: #27 (HW)

3 ways to find the area of a triangle!!

- Standard formula: $\frac{1}{2}bh$

- Oblique triangle: $\frac{1}{2}ac \sin B$

- Heron's formula: $S = \frac{a+b+c}{2}$

$$\text{Area} = \sqrt{S(S-a)(S-b)(S-c)}$$

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HOMEWORK

...law of cosines

6.2 (p. 421): 1-21 (every other odd), 23, 27-35 (odd), 38



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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Get ready for a lot of this...



And a lot of this...



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