Quantitative Methods Trigonometry

Module No. Cons 1012 Lecturer Jennifer Byrne

- Earlier we learned what the Hypotenuse line in a triangle was. It is the longest length and it is always opposite the right angle in a right angled triangle.
- It is possible to calculate the angles in any right angle triangle once you have two sides, or if you have one side and one angle you can calculate the other side.
- The SIN, COS, and the TAN RULES are required once angles are involved.
- These are three mathematical ratios that enable you to transfer from numbers to angles (in the triangle) and also from angles to numbers.

 You will have to decide which of the rules SIN, COS, and the TAN RULES are applied. This will depend on what information is shown.



- The **HYPOTENUSE** is the longest side in the triangle and is always opposite from the right-angle (*It's position never changes*).
- The OPPOSITE is the side that is opposite to the angle in question.
- The ADJACENT is the side that is adjacent to or beside the angle in question.



Adjacent

- For every question only one of the formulas can be used.
- To work out which formula to use you need to assess what you have and what you want.
- In all cases you will have two out of the three pieces of information required.
- You may be required to carry out some additional work to find the remaining angle. The three angles in a triangle add up to 180°.
- 30° + 60° + 90° = 180°
- 18° + 72° + 90° = 180°

For every question only one of the formulas can be used.

Formulas:	opposite	adjacent	opposite
Sin A =	hypotenuse (Cos A = hypotenuse	Tan A = adjacent

- If you have an angle starting out you will have to subject it to Sin, Cos, or Tan to calculate your answer.
- If you are looking for an angle, your last line will consist of you using Inverse Sin, Inverse Cos, or Inverse Tan against a decimal figure to get your answer.
- For cross multiplying purposes:
- If x is below the line, swap it over
- If x is above the line, just multiply it out

Calculators

- Different models of calculators have 2nd function buttons in different places. On this model it is the SHIFT button
- Make sure that you become familiar with them by carrying out simple or known calculations.
- Be careful pressing the equals button too many times.
- Inverse Cos or Cos⁻¹ press
 SHIFT Cos to convert decimal number to degrees.



- Example 1: Calculate the angle at A
- Which two sides do we have in relation to the angle?
- Adjacent and Hypotenuse
- Which formula contains these two sides?
 - Cosine
- Cos A = $\frac{10}{18}$ (10 ÷ 18 = 0.5556)
- Cos A = 0.5556
- Cos⁻¹ A = 56.247 degrees (inverse of Cos)
- A = 56.25°



Formula Cos A = $\frac{\text{Adjacent}}{\text{Hypotenuse}}$

• Example 2: Calculate the length of the unknown side if the given angle is 34°



- Which two sides do we have in relation to the angle?
- Opposite and Hypotenuse
- Which formula contains these two sides? Formula Sine A = Opposite Hypotenuse
- Sine
- Sine $34^\circ = \frac{9}{X}$ (sin $34^\circ = 0.5592$)
- 0.5592 = $\frac{9}{x}$
- $X = \frac{9}{0.5592}$
- X = 16.0944

Find the Unknown Angle or Side Length



Solutions



- Tan 65° = X/4
- 2.145 = X/4
- 2.245 x 4 = X
- Answer = 8.578



- Sin 37° = 7/X
- 0.6018 = 7/X
- X = 7/0.6018
- Answer 11.63

Solutions



- Sin A = 12/17
- Sin A = 0.7059
- Sin⁻¹ A = 44.901
- Answer = 44.9°



- Tan A = 7/14
- Tan A = 0.5
- Tan ⁻¹ A = 26.565
- Answer 26.57°