

Sec. 7.5 Right Triangles and Inverse Trigonometric Functions

We define:

- the arc sine or inverse sine function as $\arcsin x = \sin^{-1} x =$ The angle in a right triangle whose sine is x
- the arc cosine or inverse cosine function as $\arccos x = \cos^{-1} x =$ The angle in a right triangle whose cosine is x
- the arc tangent or inverse tangent function as $\arctan x = \tan^{-1} x =$ The angle in a right triangle whose tangent is x .

This means that for an angle θ in a right triangle (other than the right angle),

$$\sin \theta = x \text{ means } \theta = \sin^{-1} x$$

$$\cos \theta = x \text{ means } \theta = \cos^{-1} x$$

$$\tan \theta = x \text{ means } \theta = \tan^{-1} x.$$

Ex: Find θ , an angle in a right triangle if:

a. $\sin \theta = .7324$

$\theta = \sin^{-1} .7324$
or
 $\theta = \arcsin .7324$
 $\theta = 47.088^\circ$

b. $\tan \theta = -1.2368$

$\theta = \tan^{-1} (-1.2368)$
or
 $\theta = \arctan (-1.2368)$
 $\theta = -51.043^\circ$
(not in RT Δ)

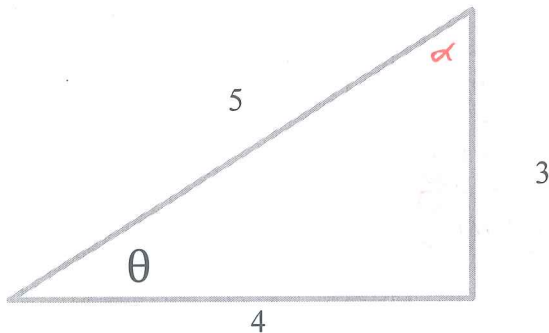
c. $\cos \theta = 1.2347$

$\theta = \cos^{-1} (1.2347)$
Does not exist
 $-1 \leq \cos \theta \leq 1$

d. $\cos \theta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

(without calculator)
 $\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right)$
(What angle has an x-value of $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$)
 $\theta = 30^\circ$

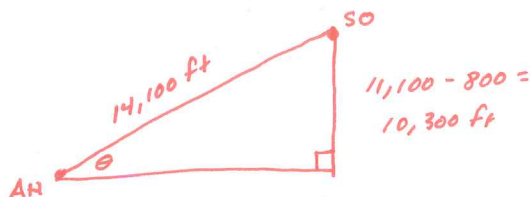
Ex: Use the inverse sine function to find the angles in the figure.



$\sin \theta = \frac{h}{h}$
 $\sin \theta = \frac{3}{5}$
 $\theta = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{3}{5} \right)$
 $\theta = 36.870^\circ$

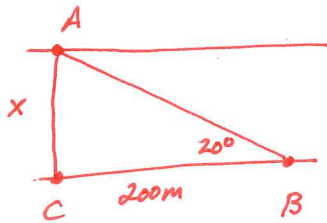
$\sin \alpha = \frac{h}{h}$
 $\sin \alpha = \frac{4}{5}$
 $\alpha = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{4}{5} \right)$
 $\alpha = 53.130^\circ$

Ex: A straight trail leads from the Alpine Hotel, elevation 800 feet, to a scenic overlook, elevation 11,100 feet. The length of the trail is 14,100 feet. What is the inclination of the trail?



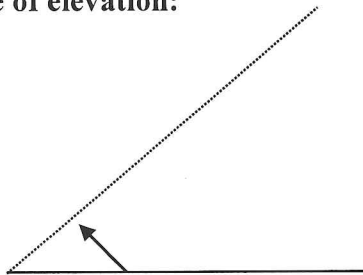
$\sin \theta = \frac{10,300}{14,100}$
 $\theta = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{10,300}{14,100} \right)$
 $\theta = 46.928^\circ$

Ex: A surveyor can measure the width of a river by setting up a transit at a point C on one side of the river and taking a sighting of a point A on the other side. After turning through an angle of 90 degrees at C, the surveyor walks a distance of 200 meters to point B. Using the transit at B, the angle B is measured and found to be 20 degrees. What is the width of the river rounded to the nearest meter?

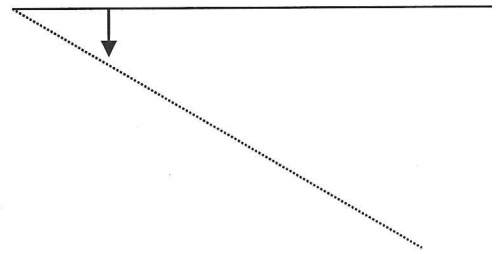


$$\begin{aligned} \tan 20^\circ &= \frac{x}{200m} \\ 200 \tan 20^\circ &= x \\ 72.949m &= x \\ \boxed{73m = x} \end{aligned}$$

Angle of elevation:

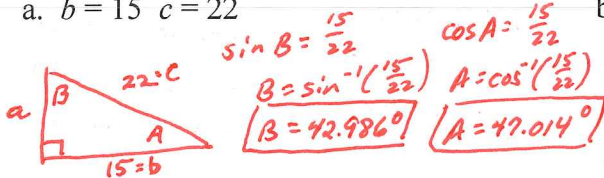


Angle of Depression:



Ex: Find the missing sides and angles in the right triangle, where a is the side across angle A , b across from B , and c across from C .

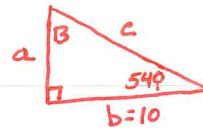
a. $b = 15$ $c = 22$



$$\begin{aligned} \sin B &= \frac{15}{22} \\ B &= \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{22}\right) \\ \boxed{B = 42.986^\circ} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \cos A &= \frac{15}{22} \\ A &= \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{22}\right) \\ \boxed{A = 47.014^\circ} \end{aligned}$$

b. $b = 10$ $A = 54^\circ$



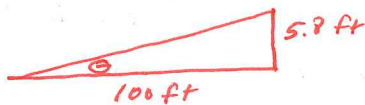
$$\begin{aligned} B &= 180 - (90 + 54) \\ &= 180 - 144 \\ \boxed{B = 36^\circ} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \cos 54^\circ &= \frac{10}{c} \\ c \cos 54^\circ &= 10 \\ \frac{c \cos 54^\circ}{\cos 54^\circ} &= \frac{10}{\cos 54^\circ} \\ \boxed{c = 17.013} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tan 54^\circ &= \frac{a}{10} \\ 10 \tan 54^\circ &= a \\ \boxed{13.764 = a} \end{aligned}$$

Avoid using Pythagorean Theorem for third side.

Ex: The grade of a road is 5.8%. What angle does the road make with the horizontal?
(vertical rise per 100 ft)



$$\begin{aligned} \tan \theta &= \frac{5.8}{100} \\ \theta &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{5.8}{100}\right) \\ \boxed{\theta = 3.319^\circ} \end{aligned}$$

Ex: Solve the following equations:

a. $12 \tan \theta - 4 = 6$

$$\begin{aligned} 12 \tan \theta &= 10 \\ \tan \theta &= \frac{10}{12} \\ \theta &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{5}{6}\right) \\ \boxed{\theta = 39.806^\circ} \end{aligned}$$

b. $4 \sin \theta - 5 = 6 \sin \theta - 3$

$$\begin{aligned} -5 &= 6 \sin \theta - 4 \sin \theta - 3 \\ -2 &= 6 \sin \theta - 4 \sin \theta \\ -2 &= 2 \sin \theta \\ -1 &= \sin \theta \\ \theta &= \sin^{-1}(-1) \\ \boxed{\theta = -90^\circ \text{ or } 270^\circ} \end{aligned}$$