

## NOTES: Section 13.6 – Apply the Law of Cosines

Goals: #1 - I can solve a triangle using the Law of Cosines.

#2 - I can use Heron's area formula to find the area of a triangle when given 3 side lengths.



Homework: Lesson 13.6 Worksheet

Warm Up:

1. Solve  $\triangle ABC$ . Round answers to the nearest tenth.

a.  $A = 112^\circ, a = 24, B = 29^\circ$

$$\angle C = 180^\circ - 112^\circ - 29^\circ$$

$$\boxed{\angle C = 39^\circ}$$

$$\boxed{b \approx 12.5}$$

$$\boxed{c \approx 16.3}$$

b.  $A = 96^\circ, a = 16, b = 7$

$$\frac{16}{\sin 96^\circ} = \frac{7}{\sin B}$$

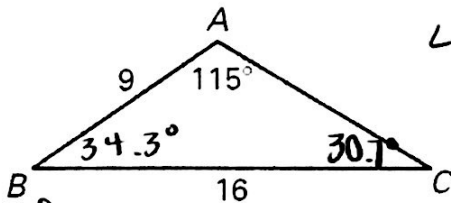
$$\boxed{\angle B \approx 25.8^\circ}$$

$$\angle C = 180^\circ - 96^\circ - 25.8^\circ$$

$$\boxed{\angle C \approx 58.2^\circ}$$

$$\frac{16}{\sin 96^\circ} = \frac{c}{\sin 58.2^\circ} \quad \boxed{c \approx 13.7}$$

2. Find the area of  $\triangle ABC$ .



$$\angle B = 180^\circ - 115^\circ - 30.7^\circ$$

$$\angle B = 34.3^\circ$$

$$A = \frac{1}{2} (9)(10) \sin 34.3^\circ$$

$$\boxed{A \approx 40.6 \text{ u}^2}$$

Review:

We can use LAW of SINES for triangles in the following cases:

• AAS :

• ASA :

• SSA :

- no solution }  $\angle$  is obtuse  
 - one solution }  
 - two solutions }  $\angle$  is acute

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Notes:

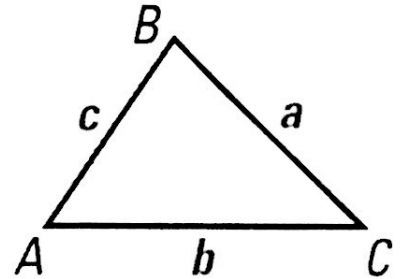
How do we solve triangles in other cases?

• LAW OF COSINES:

•  $a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc \cos A$

•  $b^2 = a^2 + c^2 - 2ac \cos B$

•  $c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos C$

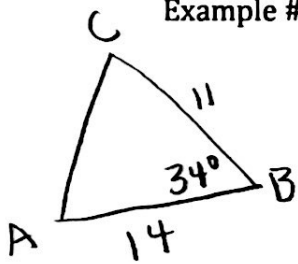


This can be used to solve triangles in the following cases:

• SAS:

• SSS:

Example #1: Solve  $\triangle ABC$  with  $a = 11$ ,  $c = 14$ , and  $B = 34^\circ$



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

$$b^2 = (11)^2 + (14)^2 - 2(11)(14) \cos 34^\circ$$

$$b^2 \approx 61.7$$

$$\boxed{b \approx 7.9}$$

$$\frac{7.9}{\sin 34^\circ} = \frac{11}{\sin A}$$

$$\boxed{\angle A \approx 51.1^\circ}$$

$$\angle C = 180^\circ - 34^\circ - 51.1^\circ$$

$$\boxed{\angle C \approx 94.9^\circ}$$

Example #2: Solve  $\triangle ABC$  with  $a = 12$ ,  $b = 27$ , and  $c = 20$

\* Find largest angle first! (other two must

$$27^2 = 20^2 + 12^2 - 2(20)(12) \cos B \quad \text{be acute)}$$

$$729 = 544 - 480 \cos B$$

$$-0.385 = \cos B$$

$$\boxed{\angle B \approx 112.7^\circ}$$

$$\boxed{\angle A \approx 24.2^\circ}$$

$$\angle C = 180^\circ - 112.7^\circ - 24.2^\circ$$

$$\boxed{\angle C \approx 43.1^\circ}$$

You practice: Solve  $\triangle ABC$  with  $a = 22$ ,  $b = 15$ , and  $C = 108^\circ$

$$c^2 = (22)^2 + (15)^2 - 2(22)(15) \cos 108^\circ$$

$$c^2 = 912.95$$

$$\boxed{c \approx 30.2}$$

$$\boxed{\angle A \approx 43.9^\circ}$$

$$\angle B = 180^\circ - 108^\circ - 43.9^\circ$$

$$\boxed{\angle B \approx 28.1^\circ}$$

You practice: Solve  $\triangle ABC$  with  $a = 19$ ,  $b = 26$ , and  $c = 31$

$$31^2 = 26^2 + 19^2 - 2(26)(19) \cos C$$

$$-76 = -988 \cos C$$

$$\boxed{\angle C \approx 85.6^\circ}$$

$$\boxed{\angle A \approx 37.7^\circ}$$

$$\angle B = 180^\circ - 85.6^\circ - 37.7^\circ$$

$$\boxed{\angle B \approx 56.7^\circ}$$

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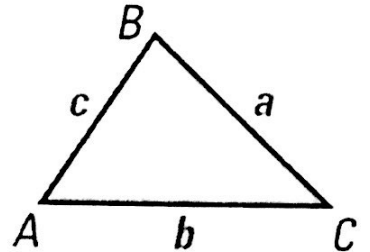
Notes:

## Heron's Area Formula:

When only given the side lengths of a triangle, we can still find the area of  $\triangle ABC$ .

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

○ where  $s = \frac{1}{2}(a+b+c)$   
↳ semiperimeter  
(half)



Example #3: A triangular path around an exhibit at the zoo is shown. Find the area of the exhibit.

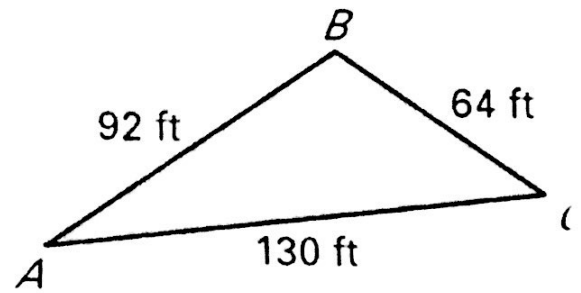
$$A = \sqrt{s(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)}$$

$$= \sqrt{143(143-64)(143-130)(143-92)}$$

$$= \sqrt{143(79)(13)(51)}$$

$$= \sqrt{7489911}$$

$$A \approx \boxed{2,736.8 \text{ ft}^2}$$



$$s = \frac{1}{2}(92+64+130)$$

$$s = 143$$