Cosine rule

The *cosine rule* states that if a, b and c are the side lengths of a triangle, and A is the angle opposite side a, then

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

This is a generalisation of Pythagoras' Theorem, as if $A = 90°$, then $\cos A = 0$.

Last updated 07-Jul-16