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Trigonometry

Define ratios in a right angle triangle

Consider a right angle triangle ABC having right angle at B as shown in the following figure. Then, trigonometric ratios of the $\angle A$ in right angle ABC are defined as follows:



- $\sin A = \frac{\text{length of the side opposite to } \angle A}{\text{Length of hypotenuse}} = \frac{BC}{AC}$
- $\cos A = \frac{\text{length of the side adjacent to } \angle A}{\text{Length of hypotenuse}} = \frac{AB}{AC}$
- $\tan A = \frac{\text{length of the side opposite to } \angle A}{\text{length of the side adjacent to } \angle A} = \frac{BC}{AB}$

Problem 1:

Find i) $\sin C$ ii) $\cos C$ and iii) $\tan C$ for the triangle below:



Solution:

by using Pythagoras theorem,

$$AC^2 = AB^2 + BC^2$$

$$(13)^2 = AB^2 + (5)^2$$

$$169 = AB^2 + (25)$$

$$AB^2 = (169) - (25)$$

$$AB^2 = 144$$

$$AB = \sqrt{144}$$

$$AB = 12 \text{ cm}$$

Therefore

$$\sin C = \frac{AB}{AC} = \frac{BC}{AC}$$

$$\sin C = \frac{12}{13} = \frac{5}{13}$$

$$\tan C = \frac{AB}{BC}$$

$$\tan C = \frac{12}{5}$$

Problem 2:

In a triangle XYZ, $\angle Y$ is right angle, $XZ = 17\text{cm}$ and $YZ = 15\text{cm}$, then Find (i) $\sin X$ (ii) $\cos Z$ and (iii) $\tan X$ in the triangle

Solution:

by using Pythagoras theorem,

$$(XZ)^2 = (XY)^2 + (YZ)^2$$

$$(17)^2 = (XY)^2 + (15)^2$$

$$(289) = (XY)^2 + (225)$$

$$(XY)^2 = 289 - 225$$

$$(XY)^2 = 64$$

$$XY = \sqrt{64}$$

$$XY = 8 \text{ cm}$$

$$\sin X = \frac{YZ}{XZ} = \frac{15}{17}$$

$$\sin X = \frac{15}{17}$$

$$\tan X = \frac{YZ}{XY}$$

$$\tan X = \frac{15}{8}$$