

Programming Problem: n th Roots & Trigonometry in Triangles

Bài Tập Lập Trình: Căn Bậc n & Lượng Giác trong Tam Giác

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1 Root

1.1 Square Root

1.2 Cube Root

1.3 n th Root

Bài toán 1 (Root – Căn).

2 Trigonometry in Right Triangles

“A *right triangle* (**American English**) or *right-angled triangle* (**British English**), or more formally an *orthogonal triangle*, formerly called a *rectangled triangle* is a **triangle** in which 1 **angle** is a **right angle** (i.e., a 90° angle), i.e., in which 2 **sides** are **perpendicular**. The relation between the sides & other angles of the right triangle is the basis for **trigonometry**.”

“The side opposite to the right angle is called the **hypotenuse**. The sides adjacent to the right angle are called *legs* (or *catheti*, singular: **cathetus**).” – [Wikipedia/right triangle](#)

Given a right triangle $\triangle ABC$ with $\hat{A} = 90^\circ$. Define $a := BC$, $b := CA$, $c := AB$. Side b is the side *adjacent to angle C* & *opposed to angle B*, while side c may be identified as the side *adjacent to angle B* & *opposed to (or opposite) angle C*.

2.1 Pythagorean Triple

Definition 1 (Pythagorean triple). *If the lengths of all 3 sides of a right triangle are integers, the triangle is said to be a Pythagorean triangle & its side lengths are collectively known as a **Pythagorean triple**.*

“A *Pythagorean triple* consists of 3 positive integers a, b, c , such that $a^2 = b^2 + c^2$. Such a triple is commonly written (b, c, a) , & a well-known example is $(3, 4, 5)$. If (b, c, a) is a Pythagorean triple, then so is (kb, kc, ka) for any positive integer k . A *primitive Pythagorean triple* is one in which a, b, c are **coprime** (i.e., they have no common divisor larger than 1), e.g., $(3, 4, 5)$ is a primitive Pythagorean triple whereas $(6, 8, 10)$ is not. A triangle whose sides form a Pythagorean triple is called a *Pythagorean triangle*, & is necessarily a **right triangle**.

The name is derived from the **Pythagorean theorem**, stating that every right triangle has side lengths satisfying the formula $a^2 = b^2 + c^2$; thus, Pythagorean triples describe the 3 integer side lengths of a right triangle. However, right triangles with non-integer sides do not form Pythagorean triples. E.g., the triangle with sides $(b, c, a) = (1, 1, \sqrt{2})$ is a right triangle, but $(1, 1, \sqrt{2})$

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is not a Pythagorean triple because $\sqrt{2}$ is not an integer.¹ Moreover, 1 & $\sqrt{2}$ do not have an integer common multiple because $\sqrt{2}$ is **irrational**.¹

“When searching for integer solutions, the equation $b^2 + c^2 = a^2$ is a **Diophantine equation**. Thus Pythagorean triples are among the oldest known solutions of a **nonlinear** Diophantine equation.” – [Wikipedia/Pythagorean triple](#)

Problem 1 (Pythagorean triple). *Write Pascal, Python, C/C++ programs to check if 3 integers a, b, c input from the keyboard: (a) form a Pythagorean triangle or not. (b) form a primitive Pythagorean triple or not. If not, find & print out their primitive Pythagorean triple.*

Problem 2 (List of primitive & non-primitive Pythagorean triples). *Let N be an integer input from the keyboard. Write Pascal, Python, C/C++ programs to print out all: (a) primitive Pythagorean triples of numbers up to N . (b) Pythagorean triples of numbers up to N .*

Sample: “There are 16 primitive Pythagorean triples of numbers up to 100:

(3, 4, 5), (5, 12, 13), (8, 15, 17), (7, 24, 25), (20, 21, 29), (12, 35, 37), (9, 40, 41), (28, 45, 53), (11, 60, 61), (16, 63, 65), (33, 56, 65), (48, 55, 73), (13, 84, 85), (36, 77, 85), (39, 80, 89), (65, 72, 97).

Other small Pythagorean triples such as (6, 8, 10) are not listed because they are not primitive; for instance (6, 8, 10) is a multiple of (3, 4, 5).” [...] “Additionally, these are the remaining primitive Pythagorean triples of numbers up to 300:

(20, 99, 101), (60, 91, 109), (15, 112, 113), (44, 117, 125), (88, 105, 137), (17, 144, 145), (24, 143, 145), (51, 140, 149), (85, 132, 157), (119, 120, 169), (52, 165, 173), (19, 180, 181), (57, 176, 185), (104, 153, 185), (95, 168, 193), (28, 195, 197), (84, 187, 205), (133, 156, 205), (21, 220, 221), (140, 171, 221), (60, 221, 229), (105, 208, 233), (120, 209, 241), (32, 255, 257), (23, 264, 265), (96, 247, 265), (69, 260, 269), (115, 252, 277), (160, 231, 281), (161, 240, 289), (68, 285, 293).” – [Wikipedia/Pythagorean triple/examples](#)

“*Euclid’s formula* is a fundamental formula for generating Pythagorean triples given an arbitrary pair of integers m, n with $m > n > 0$. The formula states that the integers

$$b = m^2 - n^2, c = 2mn, a = m^2 + n^2, \text{ where } m, n \in \mathbb{N}^*, m > n, \quad (1)$$

form a Pythagorean triple. The triple generated by Euclid’s formula is primitive iff m, n are **coprime** & 1 of them is even. When both m, n are odd, then a, b, c will be even, & the triple will not be primitive; however, dividing a, b, c by 2 will yield a primitive triple when m, n are coprime.

Every primitive triple arises (after the exchange of b & c , if b is even) from a *unique pair* of coprime numbers m, n , one of which is even. It follows that there are infinitely many primitive Pythagorean triples.” [...] “Despite generating all primitive triples, Euclid’s formula does not produce all triples, e.g., (9, 12, 15) cannot be generated using integer m, n . This can be remedied by inserting an additional parameter k to the formula. The following will generate all Pythagorean triples uniquely:

$$b = k(m^2 - n^2), c = 2kmn, a = k(m^2 + n^2), \text{ where } m, n, k \in \mathbb{N}^*, m > n, \gcd(m, n) = 1, mn : 2. \quad (2)$$

These formulas generate Pythagorean triples can be verified by expanding $b^2 + c^2$ using **elementary algebra** & verifying that the result equals a^2 . Since every Pythagorean triple can be divided through by some integer k to obtain a primitive triple, every triple can be generated uniquely by using the formula with m, n to generate its primitive counterpart & then multiplying through by k as in the last equation (2).

Choosing m, n from certain integer sequences gives interesting results, e.g., if m, n are consecutive **Pell numbers**, a, b will differ by 1. Many formulas for generating triples with particular properties have been developed since the time of Euclid.” – [Wikipedia/Pythagorean triple/generating a triple](#)

Problem 3. (a) *Prove that (a, b, c) given by either formulas (1) or (2) is a Pythagorean triple. (b) Compute \sin, \cos, \tan, \cot of angles B, C in terms of m, n, k .*

See [Wikipedia/formulas for generating Pythagorean triples/proof of Euclid’s formula](#) for a (mathematically rigorous) proof. & [Wikipedia/formulas for generating Pythagorean triples/interpretation of parameters in Euclid’s formula](#).

A variant of Euclid’s formula for Pythagorean triples. The following variant of Euclid’s formula is sometimes more convenient, as being more symmetric in m, n (same parity condition on m, n). Prove that

$$b = mn, c = \frac{m^2 - n^2}{2}, a = \frac{m^2 + n^2}{2}, \text{ where } m, n, k \in \mathbb{N}^*, m > n, \gcd(m, n) = 1, mn \not\equiv 2. \quad (3)$$

are 3 integers that form a Pythagorean triple, which is primitive iff m, n are coprime. Conversely, every primitively Pythagorean triple arises (after the exchange of b, c , if b is even) from a unique pair $m > n > 0$ of coprime odd integers. \square

Problem 4 (List of primitive & non-primitive Pythagorean triples). *Let n be an integer input from the keyboard. Use Euclid’s formulas (1), (2), & (3) for generating Pythagorean triples, write Pascal, Python, C/C++ programs to print out all: (a) primitive Pythagorean triples of numbers up to N . (b) Pythagorean triples of numbers up to N .*

See also, [Wikipedia/formulas for generating Pythagorean triples](#)

¹ $\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$, i.e., $\sqrt{2}$ is an irrational number (i.e., a real number which is not a rational number).

2.2 Solve Right Triangle

Bài toán 2 (Solve right triangle – Giải tam giác vuông).

3 Trigonometry in Triangles

Tổng quát hơn cho tam giác (không suy biến) bất kỳ (i.e., tam giác nhọn, vuông, tù).

3.1 Solve Triangle

Bài toán 3 (Solve triangle – Giải tam giác).