

# Regular Star Polygons : Angles and Lengths

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A regular star polygon is defined by the radius of the circumscribing circle and by its Schläfli symbol  $\{n/m\}$  where  $n$  is the number of vertices and  $m$  is the step used to connect the vertices. The vertices are numbered from 0 to  $n-1$  and regularly placed on the circle. Starting from the vertex 0, the star is built step by step by connecting the vertex  $i$  to the vertex  $(i+m) \% n$  until the initial vertex 0 is reached ( $\%$  is the modulo operator). If  $n$  and  $m$  are coprime ( $d=\gcd(m,n)=1$ ), all vertex are reached and the star is done. if  $n$  and  $m$  are not coprime ( $d>1$ ) the construction is done via stellation: the figure is composed of  $d$  star polygons  $\{(n/d) / (m/d)\}$ . Examples: an hexagram  $\{6/2\}$  is composed of 2 triangles, i.e.  $\{6/2\} \Rightarrow 2 \times \{3\}$ ;  $\{12/3\} \Rightarrow 3 \times \{4\}$  and  $\{30/12\} \Rightarrow 6 \times \{5/2\}$ .

## Input data 1

$r$ : radius of circumscribing circle (drawn in blue)  
 $n$ : number of vertices (numbered from 0 to  $n-1$ )  
 $m$ : step to connect edges, vertex  $i$  is linked to vertex  $(i+m) \% n$   
 1 corresponds to a convex polygon (drawn in orange)  
 $n/2$  is the “narrowest” concave polygon (drawn in black+red)

Case 1: the star is drawn with internal segments (e.g. as done by hand we tracing a 5-points star, i.e. pentagram)

Case 2: the star is drawn without internal segments.

## Input data 2

$r$ : radius of circumscribing circle  
 $n$ : number of vertices  
 $u$ : length of the edge

Case 3: from  $u$  compute angles  $\theta$  and  $\rho$  and then as Case 2

## Angles (degrees) and lengths

(font colors corresponds to values needed in the above cases)

$\alpha = 360 / n$   
 $\beta = \alpha \times (m + 1) / 2$  or  $\beta = \gamma - \rho$   
 $\gamma = \alpha \times m$   
 $\delta = (n - 2) / n * 180$   
 $\theta = 180 - \gamma$  or  $\theta = \delta - 2 \times \rho$   
 $\rho = (\delta - \theta) / 2$  or  $\rho = \arccos(s / (2 \times u))$   
 $\lambda = 180 - (\alpha + \theta) / 2$   
 $\sigma = 180 - 2 * \rho$   
 $s = 2 \times r \times \sin(\alpha / 2)$   
 $t = 2 \times r \times \sin(\gamma / 2)$   
 $u = \sin(\alpha / 2) \times r / \sin(\lambda)$

