



Mathematical Proof: Figures 1 and 2

Pythagoras' theorem states that if a right-angled triangle has sides of length A and B , and a hypotenuse of length C , then $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$. Figure 1 and figure 2 each contain four equal right-angled triangles with sides of length A and B , and a hypotenuse of length C . Since figure 1 and figure 2 both have the same area, removing the four triangles from figure 1 leaves a region that must have the same area as the region left when the four triangles are removed from figure 2. The area of the region left in figure 1 is $A^2 + B^2$, and the area of the region left in figure 2 is C^2 . Thus $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$, proving Pythagoras' theorem.

Microsoft ® Encarta ® Encyclopedia 2003. © 1993-2002 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.