

## Precalculus

**Find the area of a triangle from two sides and  
an angle between them**

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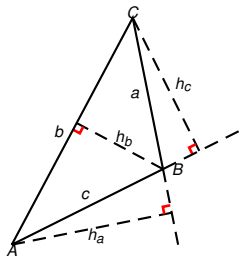
2019

# Triangle area = $\frac{1}{2}$ base $\cdot$ height

Let  $\triangle ABC$  have side lengths  $a, b, c$  and height lengths  $h_a, h_b, h_c$ , as indicated - side  $a$  is opposite to vertex  $A$  and  $h_a$  starts at  $A$ , and so on.

## Proposition (Triangle area)

$$\text{Area}(\triangle ABC) = \frac{1}{2} \text{height} \cdot \text{base} = \frac{1}{2} h_a a = \frac{1}{2} h_b b = \frac{1}{2} h_c c.$$



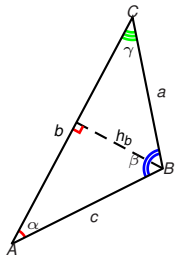
# Triangle area from two sides and angle between them

Let  $\triangle ABC$  have sides lengths  $a, b, c$  angles  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ , as indicated:  $\alpha$  is opposite to  $a$ ,  $\beta$  is opposite to  $b$ ,  $\gamma$  is opposite to  $c$ .

## Proposition ( $\triangle$ area from two sides and angle between them)

*The area of a triangle is half the product of the lengths of two of its sides times the sine of the angle between them. In other words,*

$$\text{Area}(\triangle ABC) = \frac{ab \sin \gamma}{2} = \frac{bc \sin \alpha}{2} = \frac{ca \sin \beta}{2}$$



## Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area}(\triangle ABC) &= \frac{\text{base} \cdot \text{height}}{2} = \frac{bh_b}{2} \\ &= \frac{ba \sin \gamma}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

The proof of the other two cases is similar. □