

3.6 Introduction to trigonometry

Figure 3.8 shows two triangles whose angles are the same but the lengths of whose sides vary. In order that the angles remain the same the lengths of the corresponding sides must vary in the same ratio as shown.

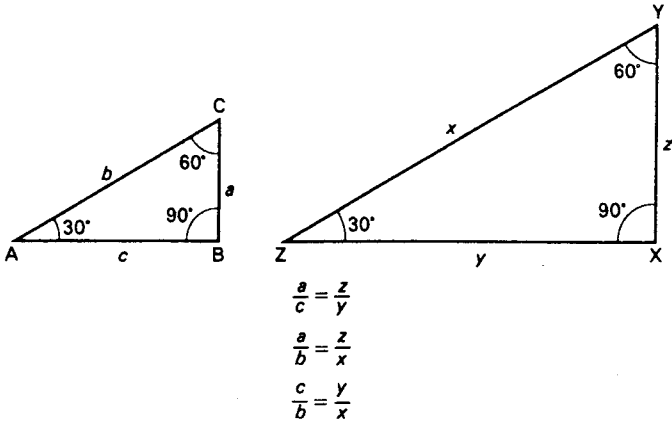


Fig. 3.8 Similar triangles

It can be seen, therefore, that the size of the acute angles in any right-angled triangle can be stated as the ratio of any two of the sides. Figure 3.9 shows a right-angled triangle and shows how the sides of the triangle are named.

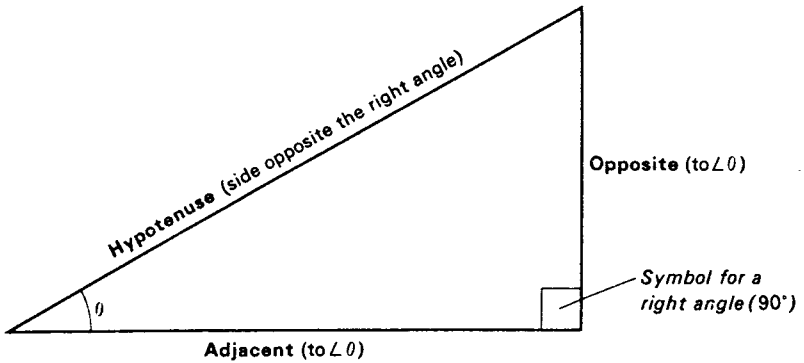


Fig. 3.9 The sides of the right-angled triangle

The ratios of these sides for a given angle are given special names as shown in Fig. 3.10. They are called the *trigonometrical ratios*. To keep things simple only the right-angled triangle will be considered in this chapter, and for most workshop purposes this is sufficient. At a more advanced level, trigonometry can be applied to any sort of triangle and angles of any magnitude.

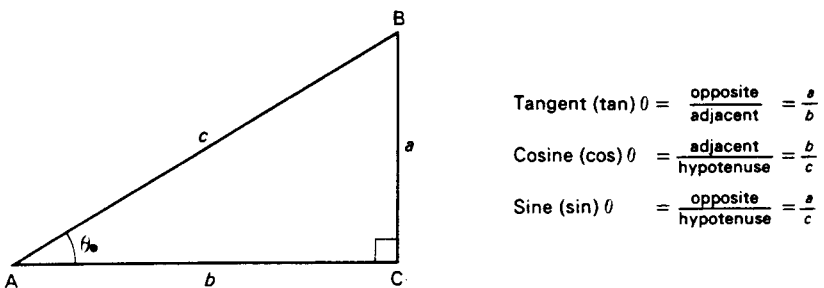


Fig. 3.10 The trigonometrical ratios

3.7 Trigonometrical tables

These are used to evaluate problems involving the sides and angles of triangles (trigonometry). Tables of natural tangents, natural sines, and natural cosines are included at the end of this book. Trigonometrical tables are used in a similar manner to the tables of logarithms introduced in *Basic Engineering*. Figures 3.11 to 3.13 inclusive show how the tables should be read. Figures 3.14 to 3.16 give examples involving the use of trigonometry.

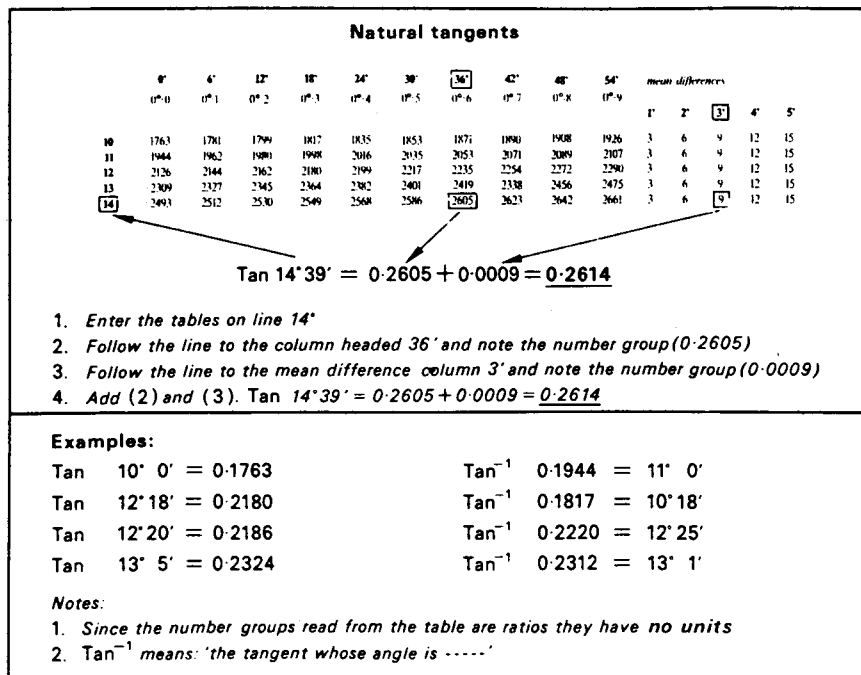


Fig. 3.11 Reading tables of natural tangents

Natural sines

	0°	6°	12°	18°	24°	30°	36°	42°	48°	54°	mean differences				
	0° 0'	0° 1'	0° 2'	0° 3'	0° 4'	0° 5'	0° 6'	0° 7'	0° 8'	0° 9'	1'	2'	3'	4'	5'
30	5000	5015	5030	5045	5060	5075	5090	5105	5120	5135	3	5	8	10	13
31	5150	5165	5180	5195	5210	5225	5240	5255	5270	5284	2	5	7	10	12
32	5299	5314	5329	5344	5358	5373	5388	5402	5417	5432	2	5	7	10	12
33	5446	5461	5476	5490	5505	5519	5534	5548	5563	5577	2	5	7	10	12
34	5592	5606	5621	5635	5650	5664	5678	5693	5707	5721	2	5	7	10	12

$$\sin 34^{\circ} 17' = 0.5621 + 0.0012 = \underline{0.5633}$$

1. Enter the tables on line 34°
2. Follow the line to the column headed 12' and note the number group (0.5621)
3. Follow the line to the mean difference column 5' and note the number group (0.0012)
4. Add (2) and (3). $\sin 34^{\circ} 17' = 0.5621 + 0.0012 = \underline{0.5633}$

Examples:

$\sin 30^{\circ} 0' = 0.5000$	$\sin^{-1} 0.5150 = 31^{\circ} 0'$
$\sin 31^{\circ} 30' = 0.5225$	$\sin^{-1} 0.5388 = 32^{\circ} 36'$
$\sin 32^{\circ} 45' = 0.5409$	$\sin^{-1} 0.5558 = 33^{\circ} 46'$
$\sin 33^{\circ} 1' = 0.5448$	$\sin^{-1} 0.5594 = 34^{\circ} 1'$

Notes:

1. Since the number groups read from the table are ratios they have no units
2. \sin^{-1} means: 'the sine whose angle is -----'

Fig.3.12 Reading tables of natural sines

Natural cosines

Numbers in difference columns to be subtracted, not added

	0°	6°	12°	18°	24°	30°	36°	42°	48°	54°	mean difference				
	0° 0'	0° 1'	0° 2'	0° 3'	0° 4'	0° 5'	0° 6'	0° 7'	0° 8'	0° 9'	1	2	3	4	5
45	7071	7059	7046	7034	7022	7009	6997	6984	6972	6959	2	4	6	8	10
46	6947	6934	6921	6909	6896	6884	6871	6858	6845	6833	2	4	6	8	11
47	6820	6807	6794	6782	6769	6756	6743	6730	6717	6704	2	4	6	9	11
48	6691	6678	6665	6652	6639	6626	6613	6600	6587	6574	2	4	7	9	11
49	6561	6547	6534	6521	6508	6494	6481	6468	6455	6441	2	4	7	9	11

$$\cos 49^{\circ} 34' = 0.6494 - 0.0009 = \underline{0.6485}$$

1. Enter the tables on line 49°
2. Follow the line to the column headed 30' and note the number group (0.6494)
3. Follow the line to the mean difference column 4' and note the number group (0.0009)
4. SUBTRACT (3) from (2). $\cos 49^{\circ} 34' = 0.6494 - 0.0009 = \underline{0.6485}$

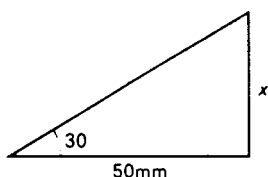
Examples:

$\cos 46^{\circ} 0' = 0.6947$	$\cos^{-1} 0.6820 = 47^{\circ} 0'$
$\cos 45^{\circ} 24' = 0.7022$	$\cos^{-1} 0.6934 = 46^{\circ} 6'$
$\cos 48^{\circ} 47' = 0.6589$	$\cos^{-1} 0.6780 = 47^{\circ} 17'$
$\cos 47^{\circ} 2' = 0.6816$	$\cos^{-1} 0.6680 = 48^{\circ} 5'$

Notes:

1. Since the number groups read from the tables are ratios they have no units
2. \cos^{-1} means: 'the cosine whose angle is -----'

Fig.3.13 Reading tables of natural cosines



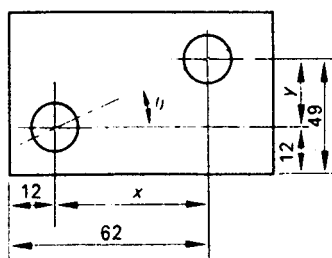
$$\frac{\text{opposite}}{\text{adjacent}} = \frac{x}{50} = \tan 30$$

$$x = 50 \tan 30$$

$$= 50 \times 0.5774$$

$$= \underline{28.87\text{mm}}$$

Calculate the angle θ



(Dimensions in millimetres)

$$\frac{\text{opposite}}{\text{adjacent}} = \frac{y}{x} = \tan \theta$$

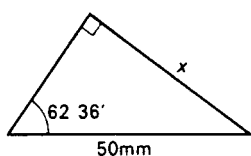
$$\frac{(49-12)}{(62-12)} = \tan \theta$$

$$\frac{37}{50} = \tan \theta$$

$$0.7400 = \tan \theta$$

$$\therefore \theta = \underline{36.30'}$$

Fig 3.14 Use of trigonometry - tangents



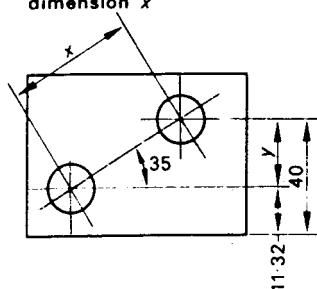
$$\frac{\text{opposite}}{\text{hypotenuse}} = \frac{x}{50} = \sin 62.60'$$

$$x = 50 \sin 62.60'$$

$$= 50 \times 0.8878$$

$$= \underline{44.39\text{mm}}$$

Calculate the checking dimension x



(Dimensions in millimetres)

$$\frac{\text{opposite}}{\text{hypotenuse}} = \frac{x}{y} = \sin 35$$

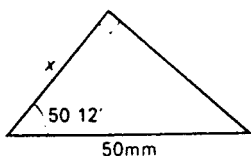
$$\frac{(40-11.32)}{x} = \sin 35$$

$$\frac{28.68}{x} = 0.5736$$

$$x = \frac{28.68}{0.5736}$$

$$= \underline{50\text{mm}}$$

Fig 3.15 Use of trigonometry - sines



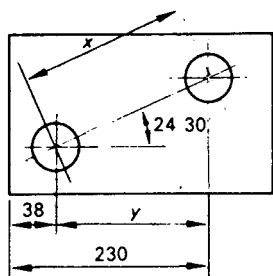
$$\frac{\text{adjacent}}{\text{hypotenuse}} = \frac{x}{50} = \cos 50.20'$$

$$x = 50 \cos 50.20'$$

$$= 50 \times 0.6401$$

$$= \underline{32.005\text{mm}}$$

Calculate the checking dimensions x



(Dimensions in millimetres)

$$\frac{\text{adjacent}}{\text{hypotenuse}} = \frac{y}{x} = \cos 24.50'$$

$$\frac{(230-38)}{x} = \cos 24.50'$$

$$\frac{192}{x} = 0.9100$$

$$x = \frac{192}{0.9100}$$

$$= \underline{200\text{mm}}$$

Fig 3.16 Use of trigonometry - cosines

