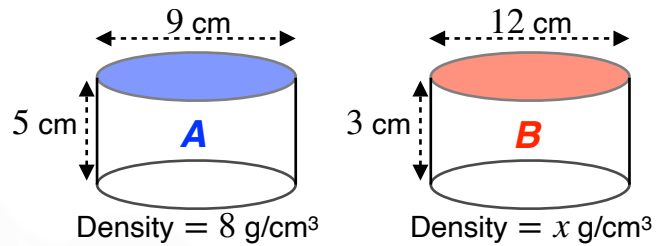


## Pythagoras' Theorem

### Starter

1. **(Review of last lesson)**  
The two solid cylinders shown have the same mass. Calculate the density,  $x \text{ g/cm}^3$ , of cylinder  $B$ .



**Working:** **A:**  $r = 4.5, h = 5$

Volume,  $V = \pi r^2 h$ :

$$\text{Density} = \frac{\text{Mass}}{\text{Volume}}$$

**B:**  $r = 6, h = 3$

Volume,  $V = \pi r^2 h$ :

$$\text{Density} = \frac{\text{Mass}}{\text{Volume}}$$

The density of cylinder B is  $7.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .

$$V = \pi \times 4.5^2 \times 5$$

$$= 101.25\pi$$

$$8 = \frac{\text{Mass}}{101.25\pi}$$

$$\text{Mass} = 8 \times 101.25\pi = 810\pi$$

$$V = \pi \times 6^2 \times 3$$

$$= 108\pi$$

$$\text{Density} = \frac{810\pi}{108\pi} = 7.5$$

**E.g. 1** By finding the area of the large square in two different ways, prove Pythagoras Theorem i.e. that  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$

**Working:** Length of one side of big square =  $a + b$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area of large square} &= (a + b)^2 \\ &= (a + b)(a + b) \\ &= a^2 + ab + ab + b^2 \\ &= a^2 + 2ab + b^2 \end{aligned}$$

Also, area of large square = area of small square +

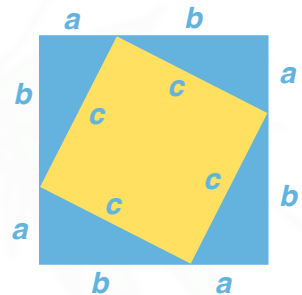
area of 4 triangles

$$\begin{aligned} &= c^2 + 4 \times \left( \frac{a \times b}{2} \right) \\ &= c^2 + 2ab \end{aligned}$$

Equating the two formulae for the area of the big area:

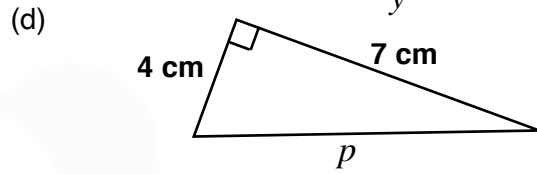
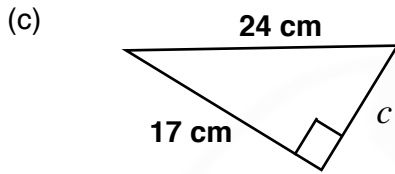
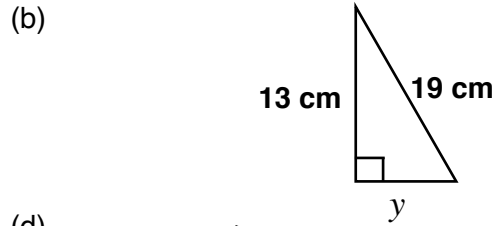
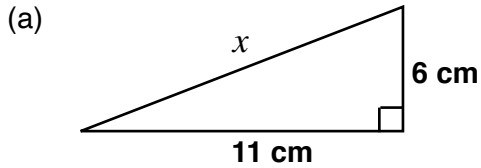
$$a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = c^2 + 2ab$$

Subtracting  $2ab$  from both sides:  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$



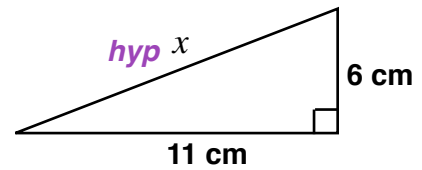
**N.B.** Always label the hypotenuse — this value is on its own on one side of the formula.

**E.g. 2** Find the length of the missing side of these right-angled triangles:

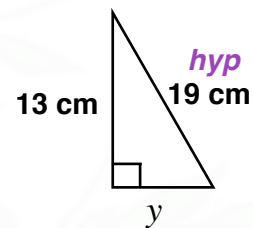


**Working:**

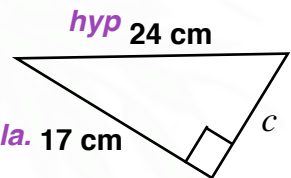
(a) **Label the hypotenuse**  
 $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$   
 $6^2 + 11^2 = x^2$   
 $36 + 121 = x^2$   
 $x^2 = 157$   
 $x = \sqrt{157} = 12.5$  (3 s.f.)



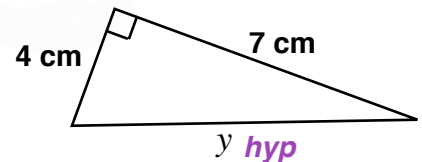
(b) **Label the hypotenuse**  
 $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$   
 $13^2 + y^2 = 19^2$   
 $y^2 = 19^2 - 13^2$   
 $y^2 = 192$   
 $y = \sqrt{192} = 13.9$  (3 s.f.)



(c) **Label the hypotenuse**  
**Even though the side is labelled as c, it is not hypotenuse.**  
**Be careful when substituting into the formula.**  
 $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$   
 $c^2 + 17^2 = 24^2$   
 $c^2 = 24^2 - 17^2$   
 $c^2 = 287$   
 $y = \sqrt{192} = 16.9$  (3 s.f.)



(d) **Label the hypotenuse**  
 $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$   
 $4^2 + 7^2 = p^2$   
 $y^2 = 65$   
 $y = \sqrt{65} = 8.06$  (3 s.f.)



**E.g. 3** Find the distance between the points  $(-3, 7)$  and  $(8, -1)$ .

**Working:** Horizontal distance between the points  $= 8 - -3 = 11$   
Vertical distance between the points  $= -1 - 7 = -8$   
Let  $x$  be the distance between the points  
 $x^2 = 11^2 + (-8)^2 \Rightarrow x^2 = 185 \Rightarrow x = \sqrt{185}$   
The distance between the points is  $\sqrt{185} = 13.6$  cm (3 s.f.)

**E.g. 4** Determine whether a triangle with sides 19 cm, 16 cm, 10 cm has a right angle.

**Working:** If the triangle has a right-angle the lengths will satisfy Pythagoras' theorem.  
 $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ : LHS:  $10^2 + 16^2 = 100 + 256 = 356$   
RHS:  $19^2 = 361$   
Since  $356 \neq 361$ , the lengths do not satisfy Pythagoras' theorem and so the triangle does not have a right angle.

**E.g. 5** The lengths in a right-angled triangle are  $x$ ,  $3x$  and 45 with 45 cm being the hypotenuse. Find  $x$ .

**Working:**  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ :  $x^2 + (3x)^2 = 45^2$  *use brackets*  
 $x^2 + 9x^2 = 2025$  *the 3 and the x get squared*  
 $10x^2 = 2025$   
 $x^2 = 202.5$   
 $x = \sqrt{202.5} = 14.2$  cm (3 s.f.)

**Video:** [Pythagoras' Theorem](#)

[Solutions to Starter and E.g.s](#)

### Exercise

9-1 class textbook: p315 M10.5 Qu 1-8; p317 M10.6 Qu 1-18  
A\*-G class textbook: p278 M10.5 Qu 1-6; p280 M10.6 Qu 1-20 even  
9-1 homework book: p107 M10.5 Qu 1-8; p108 M10.6 Qu 1-12  
A\*-G homework book: p78 M10.5 Qu 1-5; p79 M10.6 Qu 1-12