

Math 3 Unit 3.2 Notes Law of Sines Ambiguous Cases

Use Law of Sines when you have: ASS

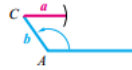
How many possible triangles?

Is the given angle OBTUSE?

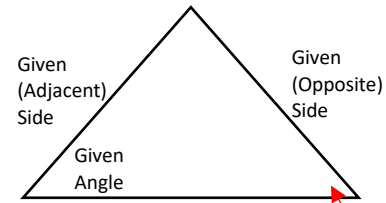
→ YES, then there are 0 or 1 possible triangle

Is the opposite side \leq adjacent side?

YES, then there are 0 possible triangles



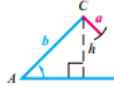
NO, then there is 1 possible triangle
To solve triangle, use law of Sines



→ NO, then there are 0 or 1 or 2 possible triangles

Is $\sin(\text{NOT given angle and across from given side}) > 1$ when using Law of Sines?

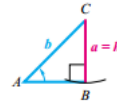
YES, then there are 0 possible triangles



NO, then there is 1 or 2 possible triangles

Is $\sin(\text{NOT given angle and across from given side}) = 1$ when using Law of Sines?

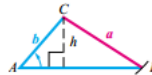
YES, then there are 1 possible triangles
To solve triangle, use law of Sines



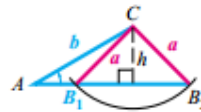
NO, then there is still 1 or 2 possible triangles

Is the opposite side \geq adjacent side?

YES, then there is 1 possible triangle
To solve triangle, use law of Sines



NO, then there is 2 possible triangles
To solve 1st possible triangle, use law of Sines



To solve 2nd possible triangle, solve for angle across from adjacent side,
(in here we will call that angle B_1)

Take $180 - B_1 = B_2$

Using B_2 as your new angle, use law of Sines, and finish solving the 2nd Triangle.