

Instrument Approach Math

Standard rate turn radius (up to 170 kts)

$$r = (\text{nm}/\text{min}) / 3$$

Turn radius @ 25° bank

$$r = (\text{nm}/\text{min})^2 / 9$$

Descent Gradient (degrees)

Gradient = Flight levels to lose divided
by miles to lose them

$$\text{VVI} = (\text{nm}/\text{min}) \times \text{gradient} \times 100$$

Top of Descent

3° Gradient – three times altitude
in thousands

2.5° Gradient - four times altitude in
thousands



Conversions:

$$1 \text{ sm} = 5,280'$$

$$1 \text{ nm} = 6,076'$$

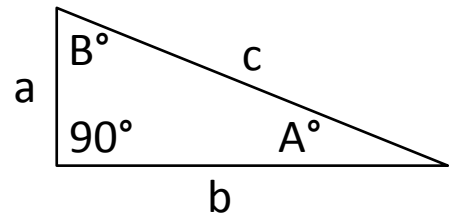
$$1 \text{ nm} = 1.15 \text{ sm}$$

$$1 \text{ m} = 3.281'$$

$$1,852 \text{ m} = 1 \text{ nm}$$

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Given a right triangle and 2 items (2 sides or a side and an angle) you can find a third.



$$a = (c) \sin(A)$$

$$a = (c) \cos(B)$$

$$a = (b) \tan(A)$$

$$a = b / \tan(B)$$

$$a = c / \sec(B)$$

$$a = c / \csc(A)$$

$$b = (c) \sin(B)$$

$$b = (c) \cos(A)$$

$$b = a / \tan(A)$$

$$b = (a) \tan(B)$$

$$b = c / \sec(A)$$

$$b = c / \csc(B)$$

$$c = a / \sin(A)$$

$$c = b / \sin(B)$$

$$c = b / \cos(A)$$

$$c = a / \cos(B)$$

$$c = (b) \sec(A)$$

$$c = (a) \sec(B)$$

$$c = (a) \csc(A)$$

$$c = (b) \csc(B)$$

$$A = \sin^{-1}(a/c)$$

$$A = \tan^{-1}(a/b)$$

$$B = \cos^{-1}(a/c)$$

$$B = \tan^{-1}(b/a)$$