

Problem 2: The angle of elevation of a hot air balloon, climbing vertically, changes from 25 degrees at 10:00 am to 60 degrees at 10:02 am. The point of observation of the angle of elevation is situated 300 meters away from the take off point. What is the upward speed, assumed constant, of the balloon? Give the answer in meters per second and round to two decimal places.

3/24/2014 Solve Trigonometry Problems

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**Solution to Problem 2:**

Problem 3: Point P has initially coordinates  $(x,y)$ . It is then rotated by angle  $a$  about the origin to point P' (the distance  $r$  from the origin is conserved). What are the new coordinates  $(x',y')$  of point P'.

Solution to Problem 3:

Problem 4: An airplane is approaching point A along a straight line and at a constant altitude  $h$ . At 10:00 am, the angle of elevation of the airplane is  $20^\circ$  and at 10:01 it is  $60^\circ$ . What is the altitude  $h$  of the airplane if the speed of the airplane is constant and equal to 600 miles/hour? (round answer to 2 decimal places).

Solution to Problem 4:

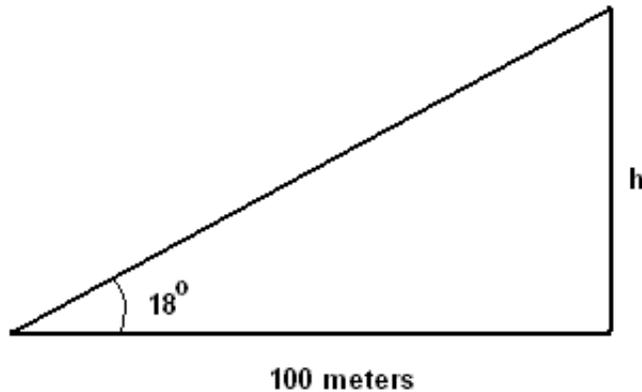
Problem 5: When the top T of a mountain is viewed from point A, 2000 m from ground, the angle of depression  $a$  is equal to  $15^\circ$  and when it is viewed from point B on the ground the angle of elevation  $b$  is equal to  $10^\circ$ . If points A and B are on the same vertical line, find the height  $h$  of the mountain. (round answer to one decimal place).

Solution to Problem 5:

# Solve Trigonometry Problems

Trigonometry problems with detailed solution are presented.

**Problem 1:** A person 100 meters from the base of a tree, observes that the angle between the ground and the top of the tree is 18 degrees. Estimate the height  $h$  of the tree to the nearest tenth of a meter.



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## Solution to Problem 1:

- Use the [tangent](#)

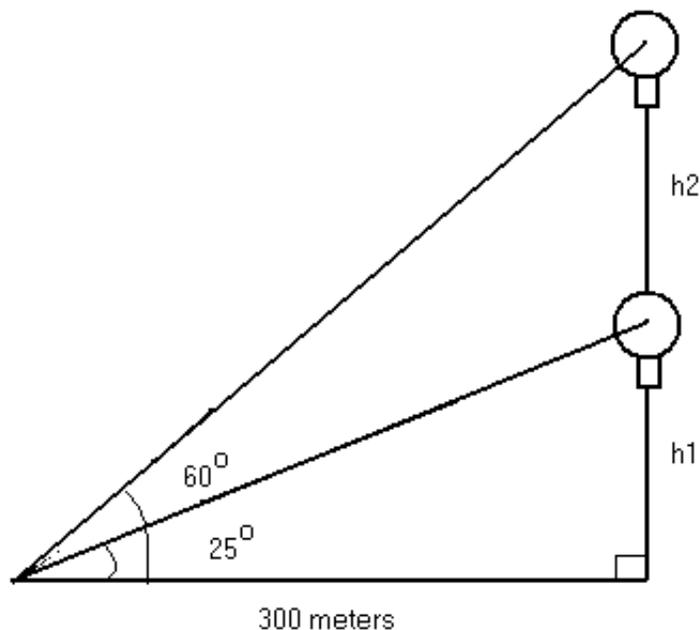
$$\tan(18^\circ) = h / 100$$

- Solve for  $h$  to obtain

$$h = 100 \tan(18^\circ) = 32.5 \text{ meters.}$$

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**Problem 2:** The angle of elevation of a hot air balloon, climbing vertically, changes from 25 degrees at 10:00 am to 60 degrees at 10:02 am. The point of observation of the angle of elevation is situated 300 meters away from the take off point. What is the upward speed, assumed constant, of the balloon? Give the answer in meters per second and round to two decimal places.



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### Solution to Problem 2:

- Use the tangent to write

$$\tan(25^\circ) = h1 / 300$$

and

$$\tan(60^\circ) = (h1 + h2) / 300$$

- Solve for h1 and h2

$$h1 = 300 \tan(\tan(25^\circ))$$

and

$$h1 + h2 = 300 \tan(60^\circ)$$

- Use the last two equations to find h2

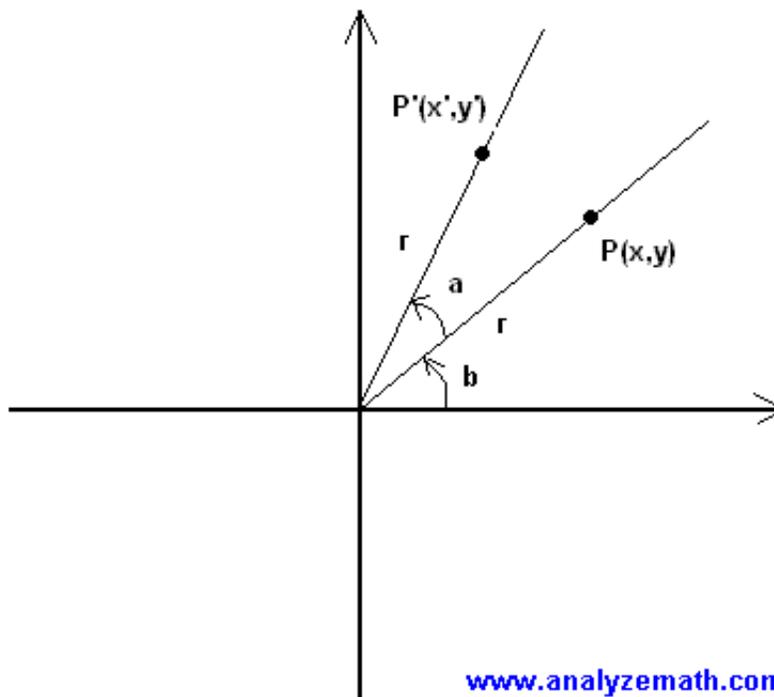
$$h2 = 300 [ \tan(60^\circ) - \tan(25^\circ) ]$$

- If it takes the balloon 2 minutes (10:00 to 10:02) to climb h2, the the upward speed S is given by

$$S = h2 / 2 \text{ minutes}$$

$$= 300 [ \tan(60^\circ) - \tan(25^\circ) ] / (2 * 60) = 3.16 \text{ m/sec}$$

**Problem 3:** Point P has initially coordinates  $(x,y)$ . It is then rotated by angle  $a$  about the origin to point P' (the distance  $r$  from the origin is conserved). What are the new coordinates  $(x',y')$  of point P'.



### Solution to Problem 3:

- Express  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $x'$  and  $y'$  using angles  $b$  and  $a + b$  as follows

$$\begin{aligned}x &= r \cos b \\y &= r \sin b \\x' &= r \cos(a + b) \\y' &= r \sin(a + b)\end{aligned}$$

and

- Expand  $x'$  and  $y'$ .

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= r \cos(a + b) \\&= r \cos a \cos b - r \sin a \sin b \\y' &= r \sin(a + b) \\&= r \sin a \cos b + r \cos a \sin b\end{aligned}$$

- We now use  $x = r \cos b$  and  $y = r \sin b$  in the above expressions to obtain

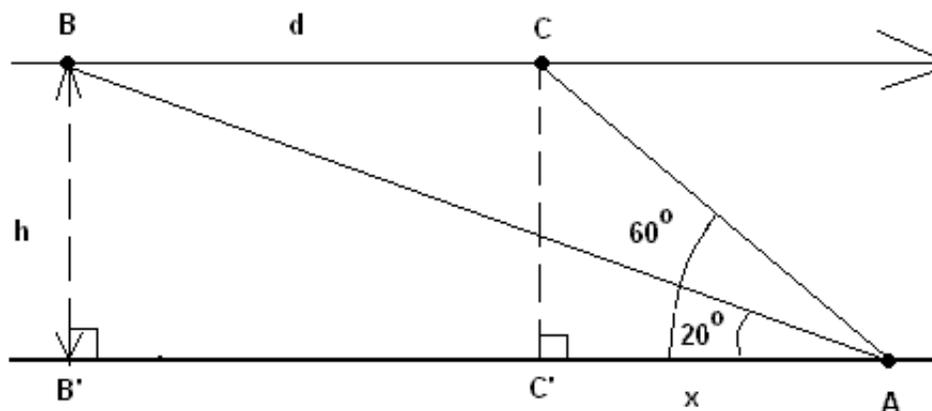
$$x' = x \cos a - y \sin a$$

$$y' = x \sin a + y \cos a$$

- The above relationships between  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $x'$  and  $y'$  may be written in matrix form as follows

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos a & -\sin a \\ \sin a & \cos a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

**Problem 4:** An airplane is approaching point A along a straight line and at a constant altitude  $h$ . At 10:00 am, the angle of elevation of the airplane is  $20^\circ$  and at 10:01 it is  $60^\circ$ . What is the altitude  $h$  of the airplane if the speed of the airplane is constant and equal to 600 miles/hour? (round answer to 2 decimal places).



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**Solution to Problem 4:**

- We first calculate distance  $d$  using the time and speed (1 minute =  $1/60$  hour)

$$d = 600 * (1 / 60) = 10 \text{ miles}$$

- We next express the tangent of the given angles of elevation as follows

$$\tan(20^\circ) = h / (d + x)$$

and

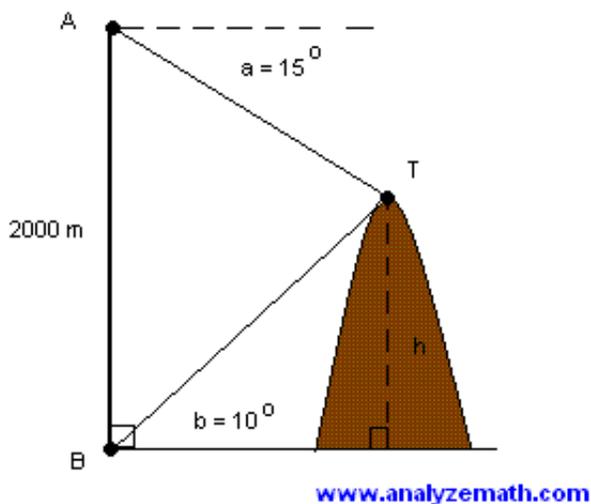
$$\tan(60^\circ) = h / x$$

- Eliminate  $x$  in the two equations above to find a relationship between  $h$  and  $d$

$$h = d / [ 1 / \tan(20^\circ) - 1 / \tan(60^\circ) ]$$

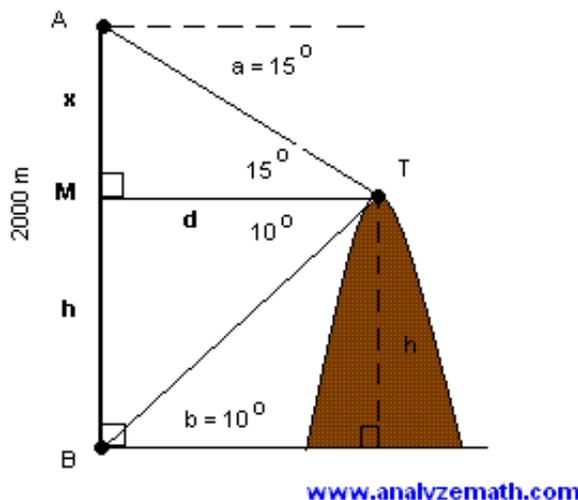
$$= 4.6 \text{ miles (rounded to 2 decimal places)}$$

**Problem 5:** When the top  $T$  of a mountain is viewed from point  $A$ , 2000 m from ground, the angle of depression  $a$  is equal to  $15^\circ$  and when it is viewed from point  $B$  on the ground the angle of elevation  $b$  is equal to  $10^\circ$ . If points  $A$  and  $B$  are on the same vertical line, find the height  $h$  of the mountain. (round answer to one decimal place).



**Solution to Problem 5:**

- Let  $h$  be the height of the mountain as shown in the figure below. Use the right triangles  $MTB$  and  $MTA$  to write



$$\tan(10^\circ) = h / d$$

$$\tan(15^\circ) = (2000 - h) / d$$

- Solve for d the last 2 equations as follows

$$d = h / \tan(10^\circ) \text{ and } d = (2000 - h) / \tan(15^\circ)$$

- and eliminate d as follows

$$h / \tan(10^\circ) = (2000 - h) / \tan(15^\circ)$$

- Solve the above for h

$$h = 2000 \tan(10^\circ) / [\tan(15^\circ) + \tan(10^\circ)]$$

$$= 793.8 \text{ m (rounded to 1 decimal place)}$$

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