

6.4 PYTHAGOREOUS THEOREM

Statement : In a right triangle, the square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the square of the other two sides.

Given : A right triangle ABC, right angled at B.

To prove : $AC^2 = AB^2 + BC^2$

Construction : $BD \perp AC$

Proof : $\triangle ADB$ & $\triangle ABC$

$$\angle DAB = \angle CAB$$

[Common]

$$\angle BDA = \angle CBA$$

[90° each]

$$\text{So, } \triangle ADB \sim \triangle ABC$$

[By AA similarity]

$$\frac{AD}{AB} = \frac{AB}{AC}$$

[Sides are proportional]

$$\text{or, } AD \cdot AC = AB^2$$

.....(i)

$$\text{Similarly } \triangle BDC \sim \triangle ABC$$

$$\text{So, } \frac{CD}{BC} = \frac{BC}{AC}$$

$$\text{or } CD \cdot AC = BC^2$$

.....(ii)

Adding (i) and (ii),

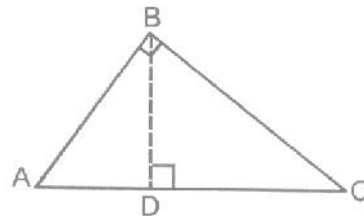
$$AD \cdot AC + CD \cdot AC = AB^2 + BC^2$$

$$\text{or, } AC(AD + CD) = AB^2 + BC^2$$

$$\text{or } AC \cdot AC = AB^2 + BC^2$$

$$\text{or, } AC^2 = AB^2 + BC^2$$

Hence Proved.



(a) Converse of Pythagoreans Theorem:

Statement: In a triangle, if the square of one side is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides, then the angle opposite to the first side is a right angle.

Given: A triangle ABC such that $AC^2 = AB^2 + BC^2$

Construction: Construct a triangle DEF such that $DE = AB$, $EF = BC$ and $\angle E = 90^\circ$

Proof: In order to prove that $\angle B = 90^\circ$, it is sufficient to show $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$. For this we proceed as follows Since $\triangle DEF$ is a right - angled triangle with right angle at E. Therefore, by Pythagoras theorem, we have

$$DF^2 = DE^2 + EF^2$$

$$\Rightarrow DF^2 = AB^2 + BC^2$$

[$\because DE = AB$ and $EF = BC$ (By construction)]

$$\Rightarrow DF^2 = AC^2$$

[$\because AB^2 + BC^2 = AC^2$ (Given)]

$$\Rightarrow DF = AC$$

.....(i)

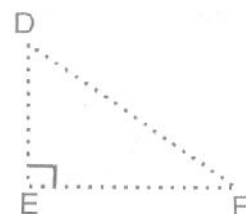
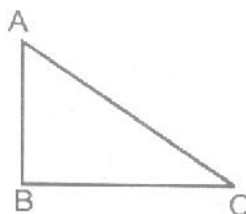
Thus, in $\triangle ABC$ and $\triangle DEF$, we have

$$AB = DE, BC = EF$$

[By construction]

$$\text{And } AC = DF$$

[From equation (i)]



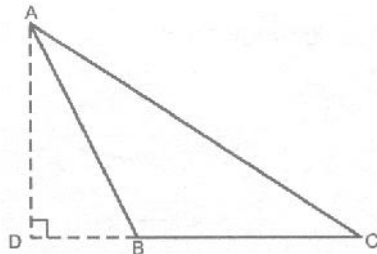
$\therefore \triangle ABC \cong \triangle DEF$ [By SSS criteria of congruency]

$$\Rightarrow \angle B = \angle E = 90^\circ$$

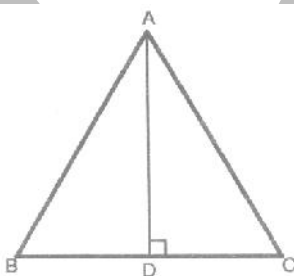
Hence, $\triangle ABC$ is a right triangle, right angled at B.

(b) Some Results Deduced From Pythagoreans Theorem :

(i) In the given figure $\triangle ABC$ is an obtuse triangle, obtuse angled at B. If $AD \perp CD$, then $AC^2 = AB^2 + BC^2 + 2BC \cdot BD$



(ii) In the given figure, if $\angle B$ of $\triangle ABC$ is an acute angle and $AD \perp BC$, then $AC^2 = AB^2 + BC^2 - 2BC \cdot BD$



(iii) In any triangle, the sum of the squares of any two sides is equal to twice the square of half of the third side together with twice the square of the median which bisects the third side.

(iv) Three times the sum of the squares of the sides of a triangle is equal to four times the sum of the squares of the medians of the triangle.

Ex.9 In a $\triangle ABC$, $AB = BC = CA = 2a$ and $AD \perp BC$. Prove that

[CBSE - 2002]

(i) $AD = a\sqrt{3}$ (ii) $\text{area}(\triangle ABC) = \sqrt{3}a^2$

Sol. (i) Here, $AD \perp BC$.

Clearly, $\triangle ABC$ is an equilateral triangle.

Thus, in $\triangle ABD$ and $\triangle ACD$

$$AD = AD$$

[Common]

$$\angle ADB = \angle ADC$$

[90° each]

And $AB = AC$

\therefore by RHS congruency condition

$$\triangle ABD \cong \triangle ACD$$

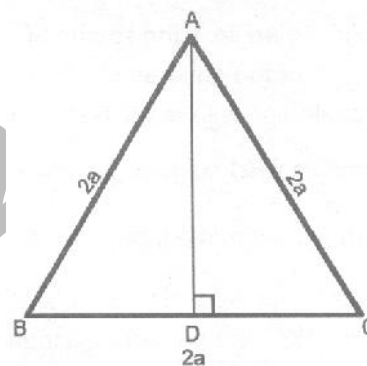
$$\Rightarrow BD = DC = a$$

Now, $\triangle ABD$ is a right angled triangle

$$\therefore AD = \sqrt{AB^2 - BD^2}$$

[Using Pythagoreans Theorem]

$$AD = \sqrt{4a^2 - a^2} = \sqrt{3}a \text{ or } a\sqrt{3}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(ii)} \quad \text{Area } (\triangle ABC) &= \frac{1}{2} \times BC \times AD \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \times 2a \times a\sqrt{3} \\
 &= a^2 \sqrt{3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Ex.10 BL and CM are medians of $\triangle ABC$ right angled at A. Prove that $4(BL^2 + CM^2) = 5 BC^2$

[CBSE-2006]

Sol. In $\triangle BAL$

$$BL^2 = AL^2 + AB^2 \quad \dots(i) \quad [\text{Using Pythagoreans theorem}]$$

and In $\triangle CAM$

$$CM^2 = AM^2 + AC^2 \quad \dots(ii) \quad [\text{Using Pythagoreans theorem}]$$

Adding (1) and (2) and then multiplying by 4, we get

$$4(BL^2 + CM^2) = 4(AL^2 + AB^2 + AM^2 + AC^2)$$

$$= 4\{AL^2 + AM^2 + (AB^2 + AC^2)\} \quad [\because \triangle ABC \text{ is a right triangle}]$$

$$= 4(AL^2 + AM^2 + BC^2)$$

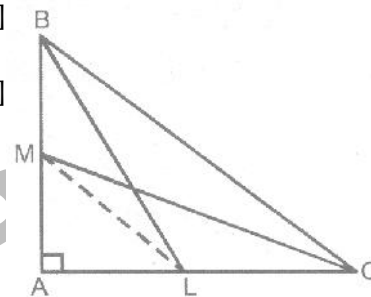
$$= 4(ML^2 + BC^2) \quad [\because \triangle LAM \text{ is a right triangle}]$$

$$= 4ML^2 + 4BC^2$$

[A line joining mid-points of two sides is parallel to third side and is equal to half of it, $ML = BC/2$]

$$= BC^2 + 4BC^2 = 5BC^2$$

Hence proved.



Ex.11 In the given figure, $BC \perp AB$, $AE \perp AB$ and $DE \perp AC$. Prove that $DE \cdot BC = AD \cdot AB$.

Sol. In $\triangle ABC$ and $\triangle EDA$,

We have

$$\angle ABC = \angle ADE \quad [\text{Each equal to } 90^\circ]$$

$$\angle ACB = \angle EAD \quad [\text{Alternate angles}]$$

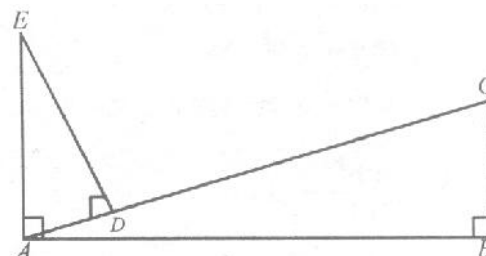
\therefore By AA Similarity

$$\triangle ABC \sim \triangle EDA$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{BC}{AB} = \frac{AD}{DE}$$

$$\Rightarrow DE \cdot BC = AD \cdot AB.$$

Hence Proved.



Ex.12 O is any point inside a rectangle ABCD (shown in the figure). Prove that $OB^2 + OD^2 = OA^2 + OC^2$

Sol. Through O, draw $PQ \parallel BC$ so that P lies on AB and Q lies on DC.

[CBSE - 2006]

Now, $PQ \parallel BC$

Therefore, $PQ \perp AB$ and $PQ \perp DC$ [$\angle B = 90^\circ$ and $\angle C = 90^\circ$]

So, $\angle BPQ = 90^\circ$ and $\angle CQP = 90^\circ$

Therefore, BPQC and APQD are both rectangles.

Now, from $\triangle OPB$,

$$OB^2 = BP^2 + OP^2 \quad \dots(i)$$

Similarly, from $\triangle ODQ$,

$$OD^2 = OQ^2 + DQ^2 \quad \dots(ii)$$

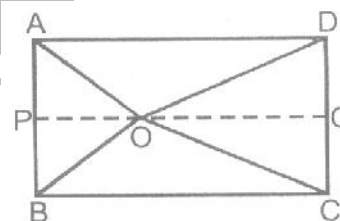
From $\triangle OQC$, we have

$$OC^2 = OQ^2 + CQ^2 \quad \dots(iii)$$

And from $\triangle OAP$, we have

$$OA^2 = AP^2 + OP^2 \quad \dots(iv)$$

Adding (i) and (ii)



$$\begin{aligned}
 OB^2 + OD^2 &= BP^2 + OP^2 + OQ^2 + DQ^2 \\
 &= CQ^2 + OP^2 + OQ^2 + AP^2 \\
 &\quad [\text{As } BP = CQ \text{ and } DQ = AP] \\
 &= CQ^2 + OQ^2 + OP^2 + AP^2 \\
 &= OC^2 + OA^2 \quad [\text{From (iii) and (iv)}]
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence Proved.

Ex.13 ABC is a right triangle, right-angled at C. Let BC = a, CA = b, AB = c and let p be the length of perpendicular from C on AB, prove that

(i) $cp = ab$ (ii) $\frac{1}{p^2} = \frac{1}{a^2} + \frac{1}{b^2}$

Sol. Let $CD \perp AB$. Then $CD = p$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore \text{Area of } \triangle ABC &= \frac{1}{2} (\text{Base} \times \text{height}) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} (AB \times CD) = \frac{1}{2} cp
 \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$\text{Area of } \triangle ABC = \frac{1}{2} (BC \times AC) = \frac{1}{2} ab$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{2} cp = \frac{1}{2} ab$$

$$\Rightarrow CP = AB.$$

(ii) Since $\triangle ABC$ is a right triangle, right angled at C.

$$\therefore AB^2 = BC^2 + AC^2$$

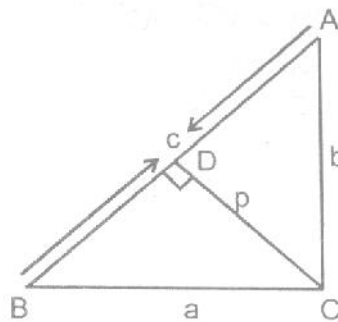
$$\Rightarrow c^2 = a^2 + b^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{ab}{p}\right)^2 = a^2 + b^2 \quad \left[\because cp = ab \Rightarrow c = \frac{ab}{p}\right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{a^2 b^2}{p^2} = a^2 + b^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{p^2} = \frac{1}{b^2} + \frac{1}{a^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{p^2} = \frac{1}{a^2} + \frac{1}{b^2}$$



Ex.14 In an equilateral triangle ABC, the side BC is trisected at D. Prove that $9 AD^2 = 7 AB^2$.

Sol. ABC is an equilateral triangle and D is point on BC such that

[CBSE - 2005]

$$BC = \frac{1}{3} BC \quad (\text{Given})$$

Draw $AE \perp BC$, Join AD.

$BE = EC$ (Altitude drawn from any vertex of an equilateral triangle bisects the opposite side)

$$\text{So, } BE = EC = \frac{BC}{2}$$

In $\triangle ABC$

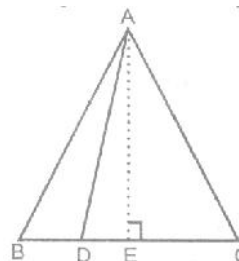
$$AB^2 = AE^2 + EB^2 \quad \dots (i)$$

$$AD^2 = AE^2 + ED^2 \quad \dots (ii)$$

From (i) and (ii)

$$AB^2 = AD^2 - ED^2 + EB^2$$

$$AB^2 = AD^2 - \frac{BC^2}{36} + \frac{BC^2}{4} \quad (\because BD + DE = \frac{BC}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{BC}{3} + DE = \frac{BC}{2} \Rightarrow DE = \frac{BC}{6})$$



$$AB^2 + \frac{BC^2}{36} - \frac{BC^2}{4} = AD^2 \quad (\because EB = \frac{BC}{2})$$

$$AB^2 + \frac{AB^2}{36} - \frac{AB^2}{4} = AD^2 \quad (\because AB = BC)$$

$$\frac{36AB^2 + AB^2 - 9AB^2}{36} = AD^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{28AB^2}{36} = AD^2$$

$$7AB^2 = 9AD^2$$

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