

Computing data with spreadsheets

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Enter the following into the corresponding cells:

A1: n	B1: triangle	C1: sqrt
A2: 1	B2: =A2*(A2+1)/2	C2: =SQRT(B2)
A2: =A2+1	B2: =A3*(A3+1)/2	C3: =SQRT(B3)

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The result should look like

	A	B	C
1	n	triangle	sqrt
2	1	1	1
3	2	3	1.73205081
4			

Computing data with spreadsheets

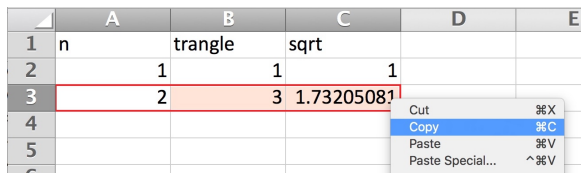
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	A	B	C	D	E
1	n	triangle	sqrt		
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3	2	3	1.73205081		
4					
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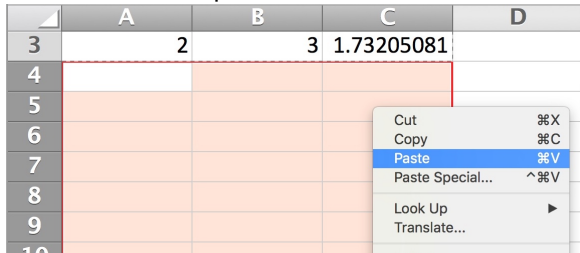
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Finally, select cells in as many rows as you want below that, in the columns A, B, and C, and paste.



The screenshot shows a spreadsheet with columns A, B, and C. Row 3 contains the values 2, 3, and 1.73205081. Rows 4 through 10 are selected, indicated by a red dashed border and a light orange background. A context menu is open over the selected area, with the 'Paste' option highlighted in blue. The menu items are: Cut (⌘X), Copy (⌘C), Paste (⌘V), Paste Special... (^⌘V), Look Up (▶), and Translate...

	A	B	C	D
3	2	3	1.73205081	
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

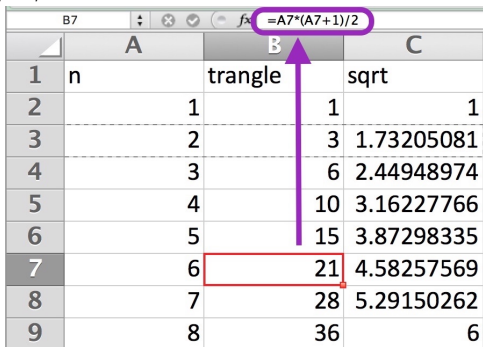
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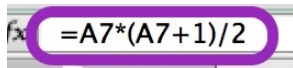
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3		2	1.73205081
4		3	2.44948974
5		4	3.16227766
6		5	3.87298335
7		6	4.58257569
8		7	5.29150262
9		8	6



=A7*(A7+1)/2

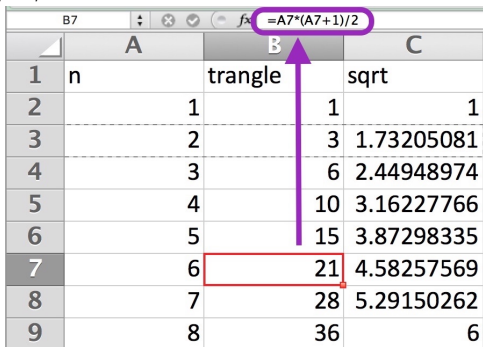
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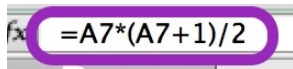
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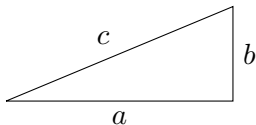
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If you *don't* want it to adjust part of a formula with shifts, add a \$ in front of the row number, cell number, or both: A\$2, \$A2, or \$A\$2.

Pythagorean Triples

The Pythagorean theorem says the lengths of the sides of a right triangle satisfy the following:

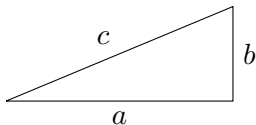
$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$



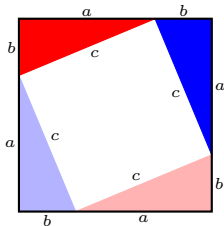
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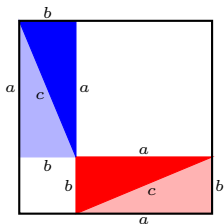
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Geometric proof: Compare the area of the white spaces in



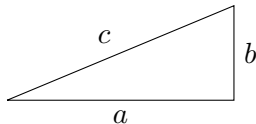
versus



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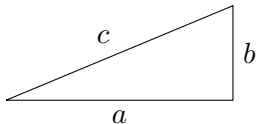


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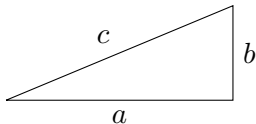


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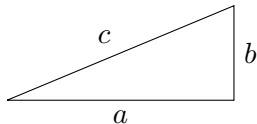


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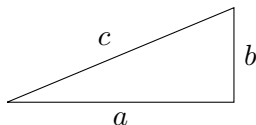
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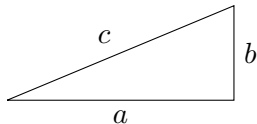
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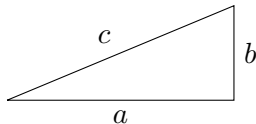
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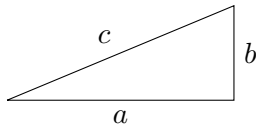
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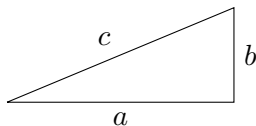
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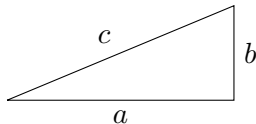
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Ex: (3,4,5)

Non-ex: (6,8,10).

Primitive Pythagorean triples (PPTs)

More examples:

$(3, 4, 5)$	$(20, 21, 29)$	$(28, 45, 53)$	$(5, 12, 13)$
$(9, 40, 41)$	$(33, 56, 65)$	$(8, 15, 17)$	$(7, 24, 25)$
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$$(2k + 1)^2 = 4k^2 + 4k + 1 = 2 \underbrace{(2k^2 + 2k)}_{\text{integer}} + 1 \quad \text{Odd!}$$

Similarly, you can show that sum of evens and odds follows the pattern

+		even		odd
even		even		odd
odd		odd		even

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You try: For solutions $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ to $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$, complete the following table.

a	b	c
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Which could possibly be primitive?

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Without loss of generality (WLOG), assume a is odd and b is even. (WLOG here means that since a and b are interchangeable, we don't need to also consider the cases where the reverse is true)

Looking for more primitive Pythagorean triples (PPTs)

Without loss of generality (WLOG), assume a is odd and b is even, so c is odd. (WLOG here means that since a and b are interchangeable, we don't need to also consider the cases where the reverse is true)

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Claims: Assume $a, b, c > 0$.

1. Both $c - b$ and $c + b$ are positive odd integers.

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2. There are no divisors common to $c - b$ and $c + b$.
3. Both $c - b$ and $c + b$ are perfect squares.

Later we will talk about the uniqueness of prime factorizations. For today, assume that if

$$n = ab \quad \text{for positive integers } n, a, \text{ and } b,$$

then there is a one-to-one correspondence between

{prime divisors of n , counting multiplicity} \quad \text{and}

{prime divs of a , counting mult} \sqcup {prime divs of b , counting mult}.

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Let (a, b, c) be a PPT with $a, b, c > 0$. We've shown that $c - b$ and $c + b$ are positive perfect squares with no common divisors.

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Theorem

Primitive Pythagorean triples are classified by positive integers s , t , and c such that

$$a = st, \quad b = \frac{s^2 - t^2}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad c = \frac{s^2 + t^2}{2},$$

for odd integers $s > t \geq 1$ with no common factors.

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You try: Exercise 5, parts (c), (d), and/or (e).

