

**MUST  
MEMORIZE  
THESE  
NOTES  
IN ORDER  
TO KNOW  
AMBIGUOUS  
CASE**

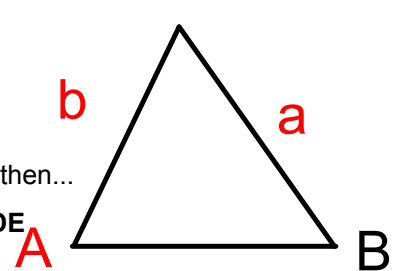
### Criteria for the Ambiguous Case...

- Must be given SSA
- Given angle is acute
- $a < b$

\*\*\* If ALL 3 criteria are met, then...

**CALCULATE THE ALTITUDE**

$alt = b \sin A$



**CASE 1:**  $a < alt$ ; there is NO SOLUTION

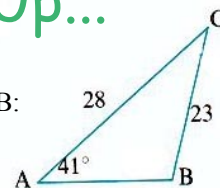
**CASE 2:**  $a = alt$ ; there is ONE SOLUTION [Right Triangle]

**CASE 3:**  $a > alt$ ; this is the 'AMBIGUOUS CASE'...TWO SOLUTIONS

- 1) Acute Triangle (angle,  $\theta$ , is found with Law of Sines)
- 2) Obtuse Triangle (angle is  $180^\circ - \theta$ )

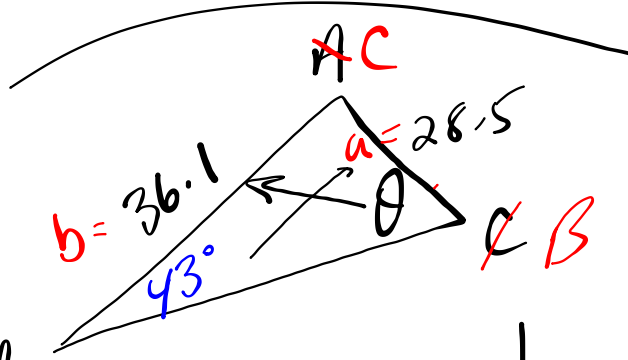
### Back to the Warm-Up...

Determine the measure of the obtuse angle B:



# Homework Questions

4a)



- ✓ \*SSA
- ✓ - angle acute
- ✓ -  $a < b$  ..

$$h = b \sin A$$

$$h = 36.1 \sin 43^\circ$$

$$h = 24.6$$

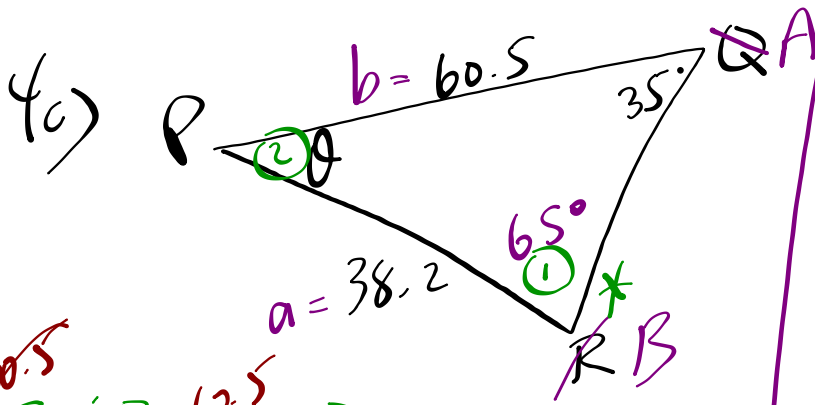
~~$$\frac{\sin C}{36.1} = \frac{\sin 43^\circ}{28.5}$$~~

~~$$\sin C = 0.8639$$~~

\*  $C = 60^\circ$  or

180-60  
 $C = 120^\circ$

$a \text{ vs } h$   
 $28.5 > 24.6$   
 \* Ambiguous (2 solutions)

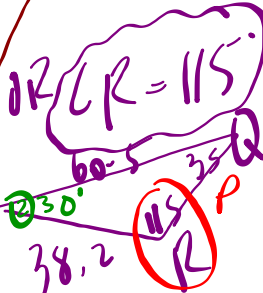
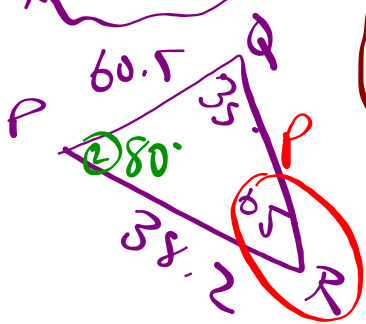


\* SSA  
 ✓ acute  
 ✓  $a < b$   
 $alt = 60.5 \sin 35^\circ$   
 $alt = 34.7$

①  $\frac{60.5 \sin R}{60.5} = \frac{38.2 \sin 35^\circ}{60.5}$

$\sin R = (0.9084)$

~~$R = 65^\circ$~~



$a > alt$   
 $38.2 > 34.7$   
 + Ambiguous  
 2 solutions

$LP = 180 - 115 - 35$

$LP = 30^\circ$

$LP = 180 - 65 - 35$   
 $LP = 80^\circ$

$\frac{p \sin 30^\circ}{\sin 30^\circ} = \frac{38.2 \sin 30^\circ}{\sin 35^\circ}$

$p = 33.3$

$\frac{p \sin 80^\circ}{\sin 80^\circ} = \frac{38.2 \sin 80^\circ}{\sin 35^\circ}$

$p = 65.6$

# The Ambiguous Case of the Law of Sines

Ambiguous Case Slide Show.ppt



**am·big·u·ous**  [am-big-yoo-uh s]  [Show IPA](#)

**adjective**

1. open to or having several possible meanings or interpretations; equivocal: *an ambiguous answer.*
2. *Linguistics* . (of an expression) exhibiting constructional homonymity; having two or more structural descriptions, as the sequence *Flying planes can be dangerous.*
3. of doubtful or uncertain nature; difficult to comprehend, distinguish, or classify: *a rock of ambiguous character.*
4. lacking clearness or definiteness; obscure; indistinct: *an ambiguous shape; an ambiguous future.*

# HOMEWORK...

Worksheet - Ambiguous Case.pdf

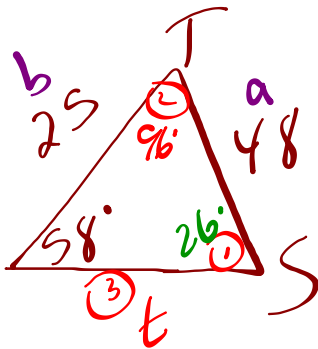


#5

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Warm Up

Given  $\triangle RST$  has angle  $R = 58^\circ$ ,  $r = 48$  and  $s = 25$ .  
Solve the triangle, if there is more than one possible, solve both!!



✓ SSA  
✓ given acute  
✗  $a < b$

①  $\frac{25}{\sin S} = \frac{48}{\sin 58}$

$\sin^{-1} \sin S = \sin^{-1} (0.4417)$   
 $\angle S = 26^\circ$

②  
 $\angle T = 180$   
 $- 26$   
 $- 58$

$\angle T = 96^\circ$

③  
 $\frac{t \sin 96}{\sin 96} = \frac{48 \sin 96}{\sin 58}$   
 $t = 56.3$

## Attachments

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Ambiguous Case Slide Show.ppt

Worksheet - Ambiguous Case.pdf