

Re: History of trigonometry

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Ross A. Finlayson wrote:

Narasimham wrote:

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Basically my question here is: what's 4-gonometry.

May be the tetrahedronometry. It should include dihedrals and trihedral "solid" angles. Unfortunately, this 3D counterpart did not develop so well or used so much like plane trigonometry. It could have involved quaternions.

Why is trigonometry called trigonometry?

Very clear from its Sanskrit roots: Tria (three, sounds are similar in English, German and French), Kona (gonio is angle), Matra (size, measure or unit). These three currently used Indian words are common parlance.

Narasimham

Hello Narasimhan,

Thank you, yes, the word roots maintain their generally understood meaning. I didn't know Sanskrit was that close to Greek, only ever having heard of Sanskrit as being a dead language, i.e., no longer spoken, with a fixed vocabulary and grammar, like Latin or ancient Greek, although somebody added "windsurfing" to Latin some years ago, I thought it was more insular.

Hi Ross__ Almost all Indian languages are rooted in Sanskrit, used in auspicious/priestly functions, and so it may live on for all time.. Once at tea-time my friend and I were preparing a sort of oral compendium of Greek/Latin/Sanskrit words and were pleasantly surprised at so many

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commonalities. Apart from quite similar common first relatives' names (father,mother,brother) = (pitha,maatha,braatha),the first person "I" is like German "Ich" and "Ishtam" in Sanskrit means "Free–self–will, Liking volition", and also e.g.,"Bandha" of Sanskrit and Bund/Band (meaning tie) of German/English they are all almost same words and sense...But my pitch won't go out of certain bounds like . :)..