



Pythagoras similarity proof

<http://topdrawer.aamt.edu.au/Geometry/Good-teaching/Writing-a-proof/Proving-Pythagoras-theorem/Dissected-proof>

Aim: To prove $c^2 = a^2 + b^2$

Proof: In $\triangle ABC$ and $\triangle ADC$
 $\angle A$ is common
 $\angle ACB = \angle ADC$ (both 90° given)
 $\therefore \triangle ABC \sim \triangle ACD$ (AAA)
 $\therefore \frac{AB}{AC} = \frac{BC}{CD} = \frac{AC}{AD}$ (matching sides of similar triangles)
 $\frac{c}{b} = \frac{a}{CD} = \frac{b}{y}$
 $\therefore \frac{c}{b} = \frac{b}{y}$
 $\therefore b^2 = cy$

In $\triangle ABC$ and $\triangle BDC$
 $\angle B$ is common
 $\angle ACB = \angle BDC$ (both 90° given)
 $\therefore \triangle ABC \sim \triangle CBD$ (AAA)
 $\therefore \frac{AB}{CB} = \frac{BC}{BD} = \frac{AC}{CD}$ (matching sides of similar triangles)
 $\frac{c}{a} = \frac{a}{x} = \frac{b}{CD}$
 $\therefore a^2 = cx$

Now $a^2 + b^2 = cx + cy$
 $= c(x + y)$
 $= c(c)$
 $= c^2$
 $\therefore c^2 = a^2 + b^2$

