

Overview



All length and angle standards are arbitrary human inventions—even the light wave standard (2.99796x10⁸ m/s or 186,284 mi/s)—because even though light is a natural phenomenon, man created a length standard out of it. One standard, however, is not an arbitrary creation of man: it actually exists in nature—the **circle**.

The circle can be the path of an electron around the nucleus of its atom or the circumference of a planet, but its geometry is always the same. The parts of the circle always have the same relationships to each other; therefore, the circle is a universal standard that we can re-create anywhere at any time to measure angles. Angular measurement is inescapable in all technical endeavors, used in every phase of life, from botany and carpentry to billiards and marbles. Squares, in all of their diverse forms, are the most basic of the angle-measurement instruments

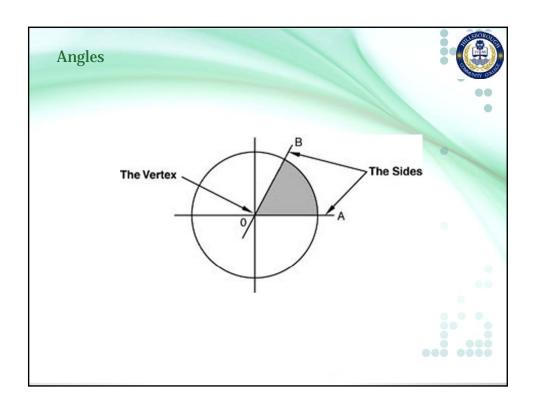
Background

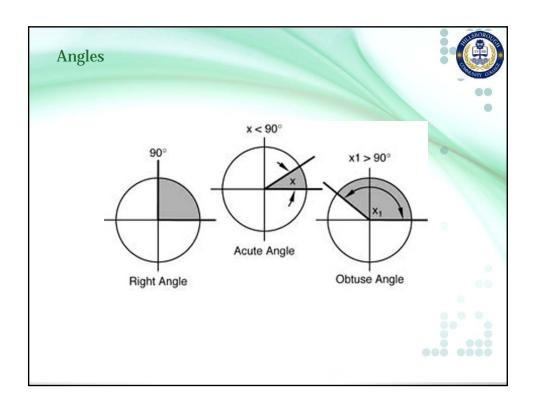


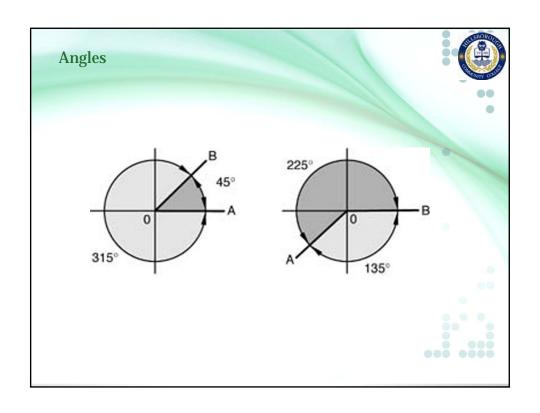
The Circle

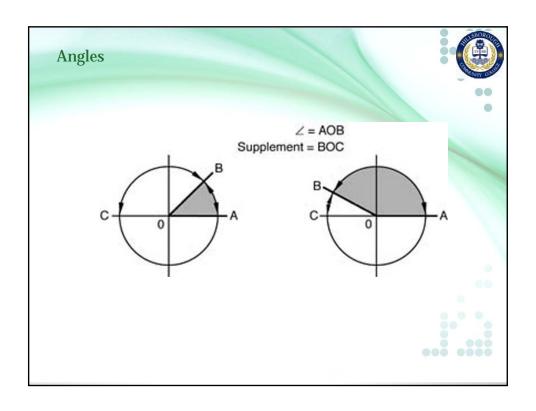
A circle is a curve consisting of points in a plane all equally distant from a center point. It is different from all other curves because it is the same at all points. If we turn a circle around its center in the same plane, the circle appears exactly the same as it did before we turned it: all new positions are exactly like the original position, which is a characteristic of circles called roundness.

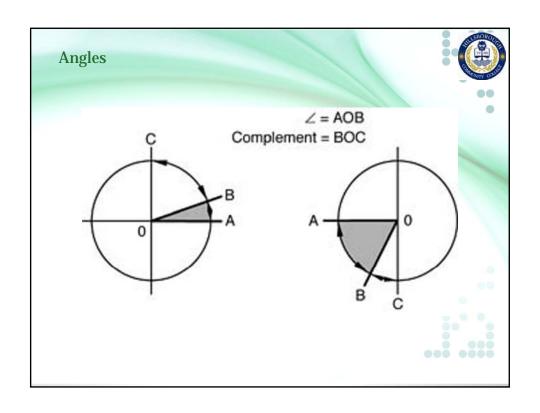
We form a circle by continuous motion of fixed length around a point; therefore, the perfection of the circle is independent of the instrument we use to scribe it. In contrast, when we use a straightedge to create a line, we duplicate all the errors of the straightedge in the line.

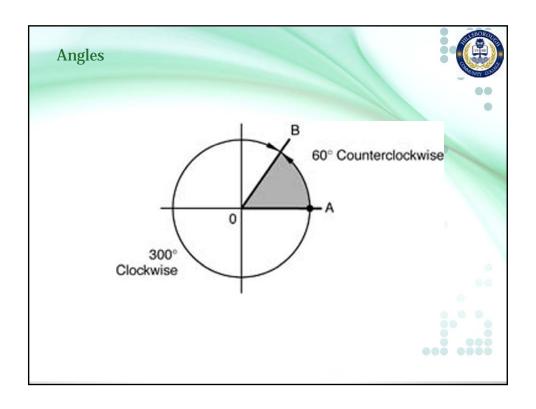


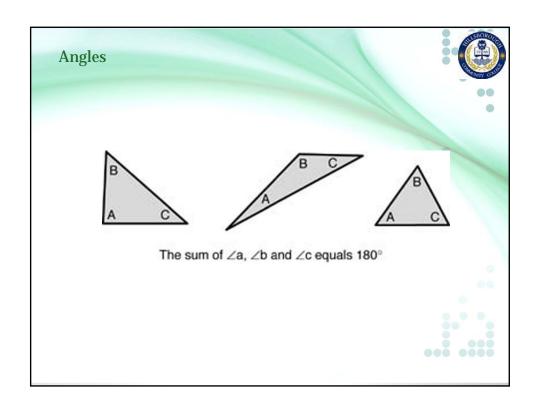


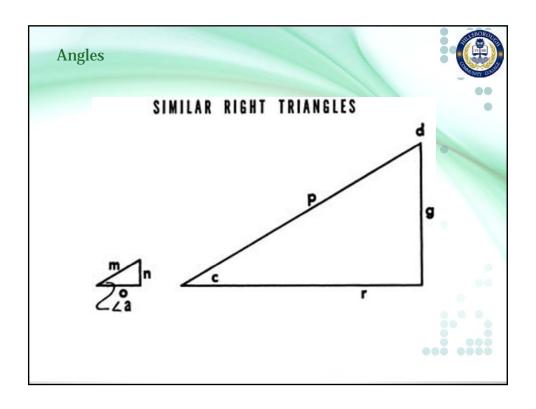


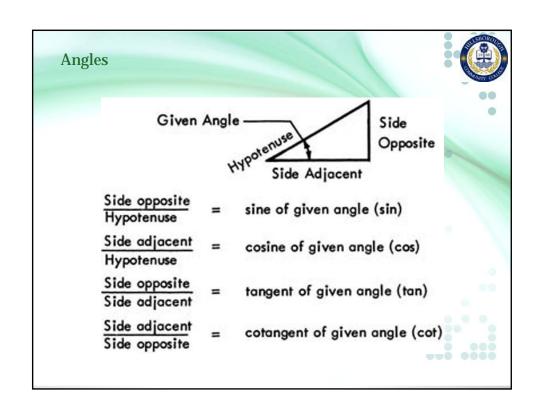




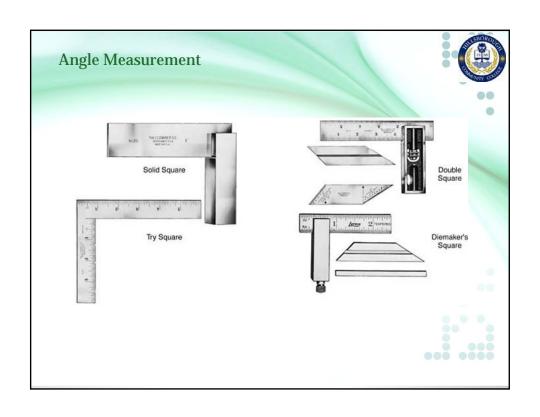


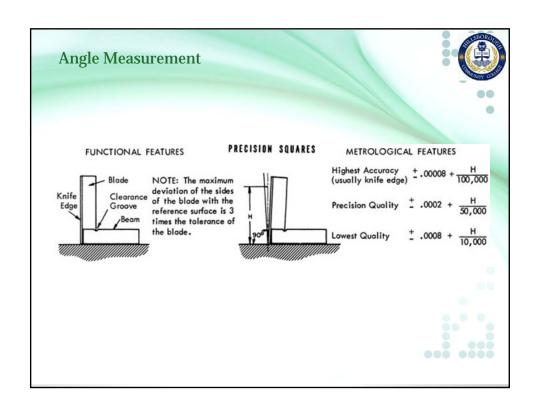


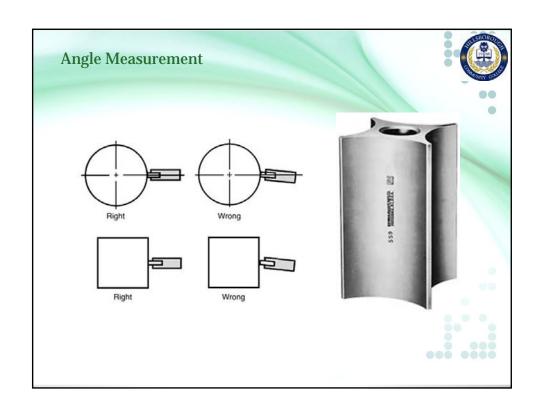


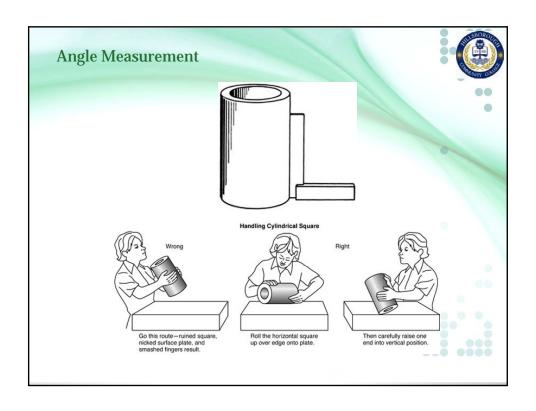


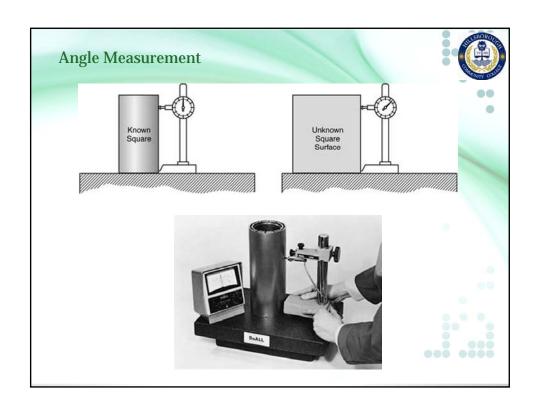
	Equivalent Instrum	MENTS
inear Measurement	Туре	Angular Measurement
teel Rule	scaled	Plain Protractor
ombination Square	scaled	Protractor Head of combination se
ernier Caliper	vernier	Vernier Protractor
Micrometer	mechanical	Index Heads
Gage Blocks	standards	Angle Blocks
omparators	comparison	Sine Devices with comparators
Measuring Microscopes	optical	Autocollimators
age Blocks Comparators	standards comparison	Angle Blocks Sine Devices with comparator

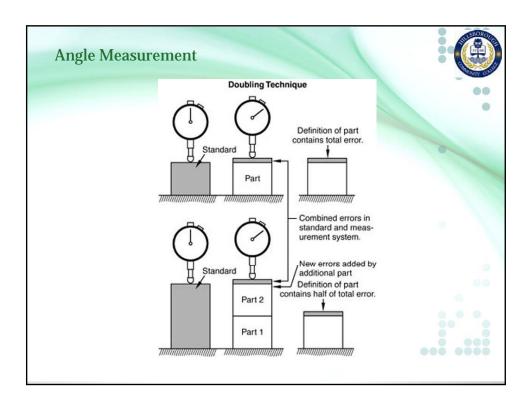












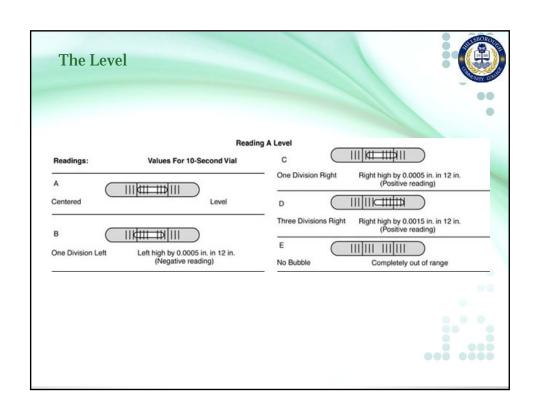


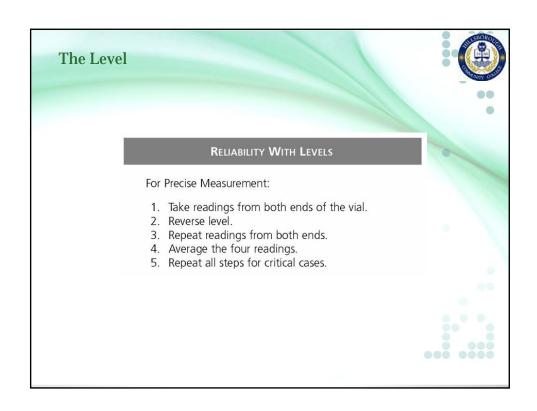


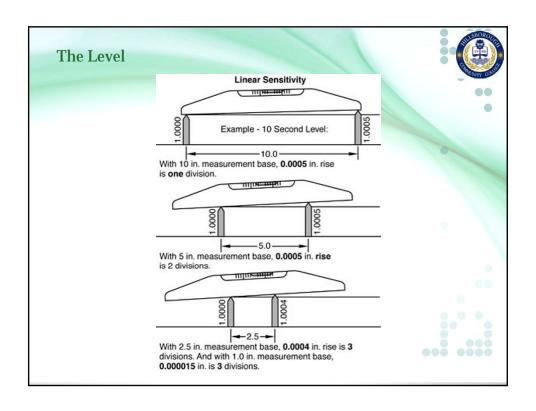












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		M	RELIABILITY						
Instrument	Type of Measurement	Normal Range	Designated Precision	Discrimination	Sensitivity	Linearity	Practical Tolerance for Skilled Measurement	Practical Manufacturing Tolerance	
Combination square	comparison	none	none	not applicable	beyond accuracy	not applicable	30'	1°	
Precision square	comparison	none	none	not applicable	beyond accuracy	not applicable	30"	1′	
Surface plate square	comparison	none	none	not applicable	beyond accuracy	not applicable	10"	30"	
Cylindrical square	comparison	none	none	not applicable	beyond accuracy	not applicable	5"	30"	
Graduated cylindrical square	comparison	0. to 0.0012"	0.0001" in 6"	0.0002" in 6"	beyond accuracy	50 mike within 6"	0.0002" in 6"	0.0004" in 6"	
Square and transfer stand	All factors limited by metrological data of transfer instrument								
Mechanic's level	direct	6°	1°	1°	30'	30'	1°	2°	
Precision level	direct	1'20"	10"	10"	5"	5"	10"	30"	
Clinometer (average)	direct	0° to 360°	10"	10"	2"	2"	5"	15"	



