

## Derivation of a key angle for a convex pentagon

The main body of the blog post said that angle  $A$  could be deduced from the following equation:

$$\cos \frac{3A}{2} = \frac{\sin \frac{A}{2}}{\sin A}.$$

Express  $\frac{3A}{2}$  as  $A + \frac{A}{2}$  and apply the formula for  $\cos(A + B)$  on the left. On the right, use  $\sin A = 2 \sin \frac{A}{2} \cos \frac{A}{2}$ . Rearrange:

$$2(\cos A \cos \frac{A}{2} - \sin A \sin \frac{A}{2}) \cos \frac{A}{2} = 1$$

$$2 \cos^2 \frac{A}{2} \cos A - 2 \sin A \sin \frac{A}{2} \cos \frac{A}{2} = 1$$

Use the fact that  $\cos A = 2 \cos^2 \frac{A}{2} - 1$  in the first term, and regroup  $2 \sin \frac{A}{2} \cos \frac{A}{2}$  into  $\sin A$  in the second.

$$(1 + \cos A) \cos A - \sin^2 A = 1$$

$$\cos A + \cos^2 A - (1 - \cos^2 A) - 1 = 0$$

$$2 \cos^2 A + \cos A - 2 = 0$$

Now we simply apply the quadratic formula and discard the negative root:

$$\cos A = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 16}}{4} = \frac{\sqrt{17} - 1}{4}$$

$$A \approx 38.6682824925^\circ.$$