

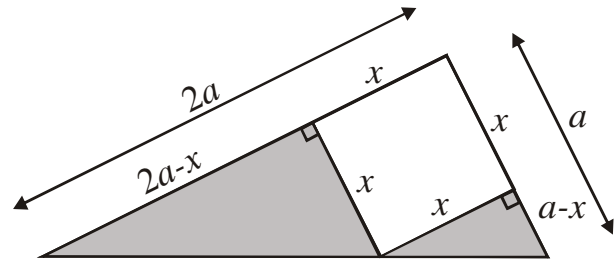
SOLUTION

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Infinitely-many squares are drawn in a triangle, where $|AC|=2$ and $|BC|=1$. What is the ratio of the area of the triangle to the sum of the areas of all squares?

A) 49/40
B) 63/55
C) 70/59
D) 81/70
E) 90/77

When a square with sides x is cut off from a right-angled triangle with sides a and $2a$ (also similar to triangle ABC), then the remaining triangles are also similar to triangle ABC (same angles).



- For the right grey triangle:

$$\frac{x}{a-x} = \frac{2}{1} \rightarrow 2(a-x) = x \rightarrow x = \frac{2}{3}a. \text{ And for the triangle the side: } a-x = a - \frac{2}{3}a = \frac{1}{3}a.$$

So the right grey triangle is a multiple of the original triangle with factor $\frac{1}{3}$.

- For the side of the left grey triangle: $2a-x = 2a - \frac{2}{3}a = \frac{4}{3}a = \frac{2}{3} \cdot 2a$.
So the left grey triangle is a multiple of the original triangle with factor $\frac{2}{3}$.

We distinguish between the left and right side:

- Right side:

For the first square the above gives $x = \frac{2}{3}$. In every step the triangle gets smaller with factor $\frac{1}{3}$, so also every square gets smaller with factor $\frac{1}{3}$.

The sides of the squares on the right side give the following geometric sequence:

$$\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2, \frac{2}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^3, \dots, \text{ or } x_n = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^n \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \dots)$$

The area of these squares are $(x_n)^2 = \frac{4}{9} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{2n} = \frac{4}{9} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{9}\right)^n \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \dots)$.

The *total area of the squares on the right side* is equal to

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (x_n)^2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{4}{9} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{9}\right)^n = \frac{4}{9} \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{9}\right)^n = \frac{4}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{1-\frac{1}{9}} = \frac{4}{9} \cdot \frac{9}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$$

- Left side:

In every step the triangle, and also the square, is multiplied with factor $\frac{2}{3}$.

The sides of the squares on the left side give the following geometric sequence:

$$\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2, \frac{2}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^3, \dots, \text{ or } y_n = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \dots)$$

The *total area of the squares on the left side* is equal to

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (y_n)^2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{4}{9} \cdot \left(\frac{4}{9}\right)^n = \frac{4}{9} \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{4}{9}\right)^n = \frac{4}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{1-\frac{4}{9}} = \frac{4}{9} \cdot \frac{9}{5} = \frac{4}{5}$$

- But the first square with sides $\frac{2}{3}$ (and area $\frac{4}{9}$) is counted on both sides!
- The total sum of the areas of all squares = $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{4}{5} - \frac{4}{9} = \frac{77}{90}$
- The area of triangle ABC is equal to 1, so the ratio of the area of the triangle to the sum of all squares is $1 : \frac{77}{90} = \frac{90}{77}$
- The answer is **E**