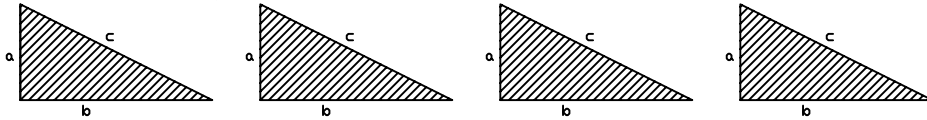
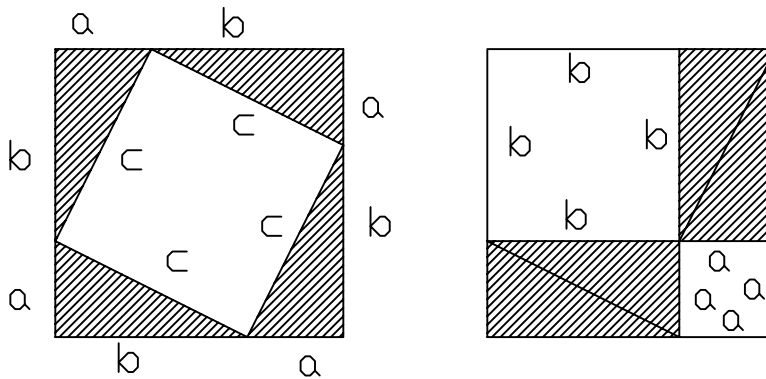


Alex Bellos in Here's Looking at Euclid mentions a Chinese proof of the Pythagorean Theorem that predates Pythagoras by centuries. It could be presented thus: Take any right triangle with dimensions as shown, form three more copies.



Form two squares each with sides $a+b$. Position the four triangles in each square as shown.



Since the two large squares are the same and the total areas of the four triangles are the same the total white areas must be the same. So, the sum of the squares of the two sides of a triangle equals the square of the hypotenuse as Pythagoras is given credit for first stating and proving.