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**Van Sickle, Jenna**

**The history of one definition: Teaching trigonometry in the US before 1900.**

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Summary: This paper discusses the history of the definition of trigonometric functions in United States colleges and universities from 1776 to 1900. During this time period, the way in which trigonometric functions were defined changed drastically, as did the scope and focus of the trigonometry. The paper analyzes textbooks from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, reviews in contemporary periodicals, course catalogs, and secondary sources.

*Classification:* A30 G60 U20

*Keywords:* history of mathematics education (18th, 19th century); trigonometry; textbook analyses