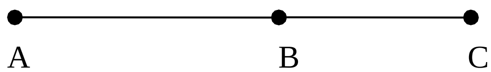
Inequalities in a Triangle

Definition: Let a and b be real numbers a > b if and only if there is a positive number p for which a = b + p

Example 1: 7 > 2 and 5 is a positive number so 7 = 2 + 5. 7 > 2 and 7 > 5

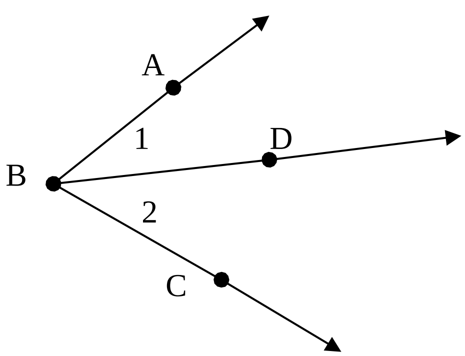
Lemma 3.5.1: If B is between A and C on $\overline{AC}$, then AC > AB and AC > BC. (The measure of a line segment is greater than the measure of any its parts.)

Example 1: According to the segment addition property AC = AB + BC

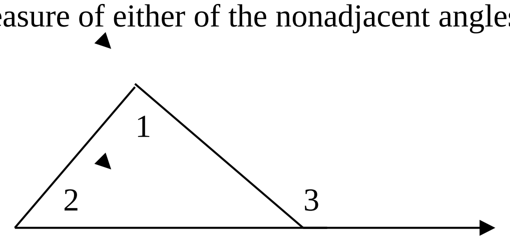


Lemma 3.5.2: If $\overrightarrow{BD}$ separates $\angle ABC$ into two parts ($\angle 1$ and $\angle 2$),then the measure of $m\angle ABC$ > $\angle 1$ and $m\angle ABC$ > $\angle 2$. (The measure of an angle is greater than the measure of any its parts.)

Example 2: According to the angle addition postulate $\angle ABC = \angle 1 + \angle 2$



Lemma 3.5.3: If $\angle 3$ is an exterior angle of a triangle and $\angle 1$ and $\angle 2$ are non adjacent interior angles, then, $m\angle 3$ > $m\angle 1$ and $m\angle 3$ > $m\angle 2$. The measure of an exterior angle is greater than the measure of either of the nonadjacent angles.)



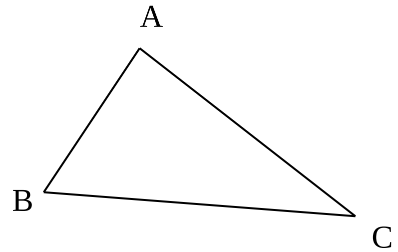
Lemma 3.5.4: In ΔABC, if $\angle C$ is aright angle or an obtuse angle , then the measure of $m\angle C > m\angle B$ and $m\angle C > m\angle A$.

Proof:
In ΔABC, $m\angle A + m\angle B + m\angle C = 180°$. With the $m\angle C \geq 90°$, it follows the $m\angle A + m\angle B \leq 90°$, and each angle ($m\angle A$ and $m\angle B$) must be acute. Thus $m\angle C > m\angle B$ and $m\angle C > m\angle A$.

Lemma 3.5.5: (Addition Property of Inequality) If a > b and c > d, then a + c > b + d.

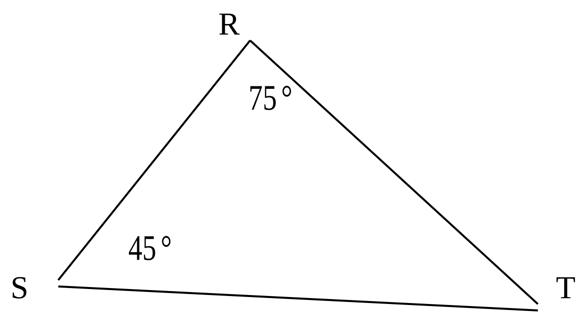
Theorem 3.5.6: If one side of a triangle is longer than a second side then the measure of the angle opposite the longer side is greater than the measure of the angle opposite the shorter side.

Example 3: Given the ΔABC with sides of the following lengths AB =4, AC = 7 and BC = 5.5. Arrange the angles by size.



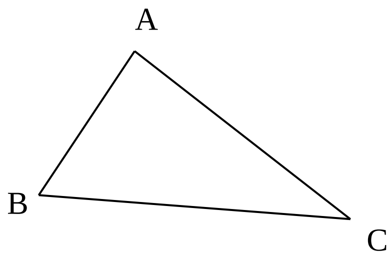
Theorem 3.5.7: If the measure of one angle of a triangle is greater than the measure of a second angle, then the side opposite the larger angle is longer than the side opposite the smaller angle.

Example 4: Given ΔRST with angles that have the following measures. Arrange the sides in order of size.



Theorem 3.5.10: (Triangle Inequality) The sum of the lengths of any two sides of a triangle is greater than the length of the third side.

Given: ΔABC



BA + CA > BC

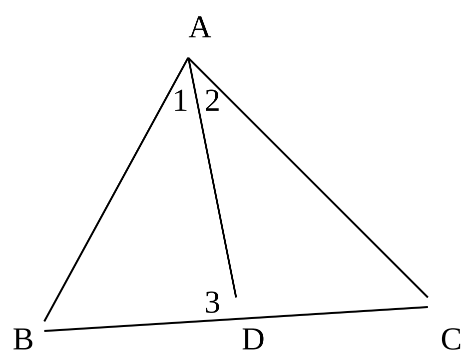
Theorem 3.5.10: (Triangle Inequality) The length of any side of a triangle must be between the sum and difference of the other two sides.

Example 5: Which of the following sets of numbers cannot represent the sides of a triangle?

a. 7, 7, 3

b. 4, 5, 1

Example 6:

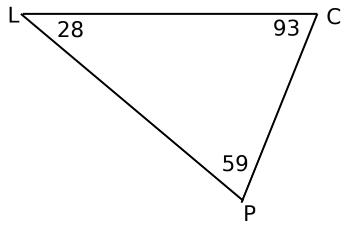


Given: $\overline{BD}$ bisects $\angle ABC$
Prove: AB > AD

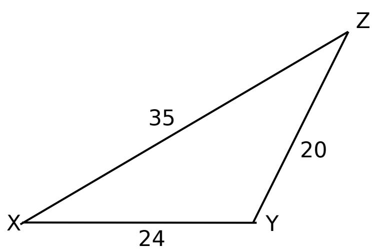
Statements	Reasons
1. $\overline{BD}$ bisects $\angle ABC$	1.
2. $m\angle 1 = m\angle 2$	2.
3. $m\angle 3 > m\angle 2$	3
4. $m\angle 3 > m\angle 1$	4.
5. AB > AD	5.

Example 7:

A. Arrange sides from smallest to largest



B. Arrange angles from smallest to largest.



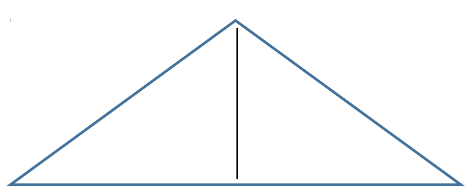
Example8:

List the sides of ΔABC in order from longest to shortest.

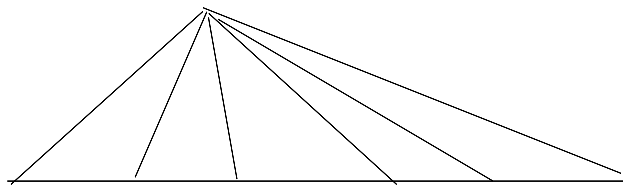
m∠A = 4x + 20
m∠B = 2x + 10
m∠C = 4x – 20

Determined, Underdetermine and Overdetermined:

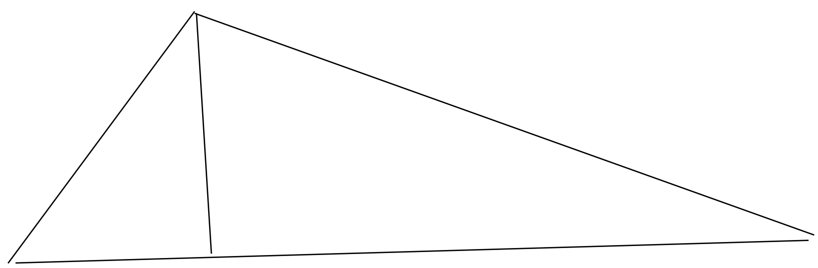
Determined: Draw a line segment from A perpendicular to $\overline{BC}$ so that the terminal point is on $\overline{BC}$. (Determined because the line from A perpendicular to $\overline{BC}$ is unique.



Underdetermine: Draw a line segment from A to $\overline{BC}$ so that the terminal point is on $\overline{BC}$. (Undetermined because many line segments are possible.



Overdetermined: Draw a line segment from A to $\overline{BC}$ so that it bisects $\overline{BC}$. (Overdetermined because the line segment from A drawn perpendicular to $\overline{BC}$ will not contain the midpoint M of $\overline{BC}$.



Example 9:

a. Draw a line segment from *A* perpendicular to *m*. Describe the segment as determined, underdetermined, or overdetermined.

b. Draw a segment $\overline{AB}$ parallel to line *m*. Describe the segment as determined, underdetermined, or overdetermined.