

# Geometry

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**Problem.** A triangle  $\triangle ABC$  is given.  $M$  is the midpoint of segment  $BC$ . Let circle with diameter  $BC$  ( $\omega$ ) intersect  $AB, AC$  at  $F, E$  other than  $B, C$  respectively. The median  $AM$  meets  $\omega$  at  $K, L$  where  $K$  is closer to  $A$  than  $L$ .  $P, Q$  are intersections of line  $EF$  with tangents to  $\omega$  at  $L, K$  respectively,  $AQ, AP$  intersect  $BC$  at  $X, Y$  respectively. If the perpendicular line passing through  $B$  to  $BC$  met the median at  $Z$ , show that  $\angle XZY = 90^\circ$ .

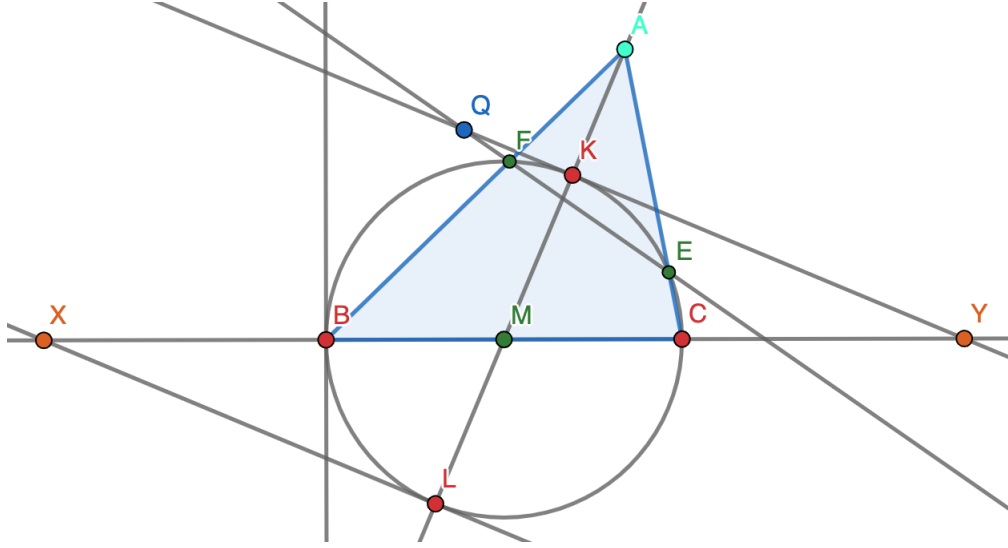


Figure 1: A is moving on the fixed median WOW!

**My Solution.** Fix segment  $BC$ . The circle  $\odot(M, MC)$  is fixed, so let us also fix the whole median  $AM$ , thus fixing points  $K$  and  $L$ . Now we suppose that  $A$  is moving along the median with degree  $\deg A = 1$ , and projecting  $A$  through  $C$  gives us  $E$  and since  $C$  is fixed and  $\deg A = 1$  then  $\deg E$  is at most  $2 \times \deg A = 2$ . Similarly with  $F$ , then  $\deg EF$  is at most  $\deg E + \deg F - 1 = 3$ , thus  $\deg Q$  is at most  $\deg EF + \deg l_k - 1 = 2$  (where  $l_k$  is the tangent from  $K$  which is fixed). We will prove that  $X, Q$  and  $A$  are collinear (supposing that  $X$  is the fixed intersection of tangent at  $L$  with  $BC$ ), it suffices to check  $\deg X + \deg Q + \deg A + 1$  which is at most 4 placements of  $A$  which is the easiest when:

- $A = K$
- $A = L$
- $A = M$
- $A = \text{infinity point of direction } KL$

Left to check by the reader.

Now we have a better definition of  $X$  and  $Y$ ; they are not other than the intersections of tangents from  $K$  and  $L$  to our circle centered at  $M$ . By the butterfly theorem on chords  $KL$ ,  $KL$  and  $BC$  of midpoint  $M$ ,  $M$  is also the midpoint of  $XY$ , and now it is trivial to show that  $\triangle MLX$  and  $\triangle MBZ$  are congruent and thus  $MX = MY = MZ$  and then the result of  $\angle XZY = 90$  is obtained.  $\square$