

planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

lengths of angle bisectors

Canonical name LengthsOfAngleBisectors

Date of creation 2013-03-22 18:26:50 Last modified on 2013-03-22 18:26:50

Owner pahio (2872) Last modified by pahio (2872)

Numerical id 9

Author pahio (2872)
Entry type Corollary
Classification msc 51M05
Related topic Incenter

Related topic AngleBisectorAsLocus Related topic LengthsOfMedians In any triangle, the w_a , w_b , w_c of the angle bisectors opposing the sides a, b, c, respectively, are

$$w_a = \frac{\sqrt{bc \left[(b+c)^2 - a^2 \right]}}{b+c},\tag{1}$$

$$w_b = \frac{\sqrt{ca \left[(c+a)^2 - b^2 \right]}}{c+a},\tag{2}$$

$$w_c = \frac{\sqrt{ab \left[(a+b)^2 - c^2 \right]}}{a+b}.$$
 (3)

Proof. By the symmetry, it suffices to prove only (1).

According the angle bisector theorem, the bisector w_a divides the side a into the portions

$$\frac{b}{b+c} \cdot a = \frac{ab}{b+c}, \qquad \frac{c}{b+c} \cdot a = \frac{ca}{b+c}.$$

If the angle opposite to a is α , we apply the law of cosines to the half-triangles by w_a :

$$\begin{cases} 2w_a b \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} = w_a^2 + b^2 - \left(\frac{ab}{b+c}\right)^2 \\ 2w_a c \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} = w_a^2 + c^2 - \left(\frac{ca}{b+c}\right)^2 \end{cases}$$
(4)

For eliminating the angle α , the equations (4) are divided sidewise, when one gets

$$\frac{b}{c} = \frac{w_a^2 + b^2 - \left(\frac{ab}{b+c}\right)^2}{w_a^2 + c^2 - \left(\frac{ca}{b+c}\right)^2},$$

from which one can after some routine manipulations solve w_a , and this can be simplified to the form (1).