Euclid's Elements

Book I

If Euclid did not kindle your youthful enthusiasm, you were not born to be a scientific thinker.

Albert Einstein

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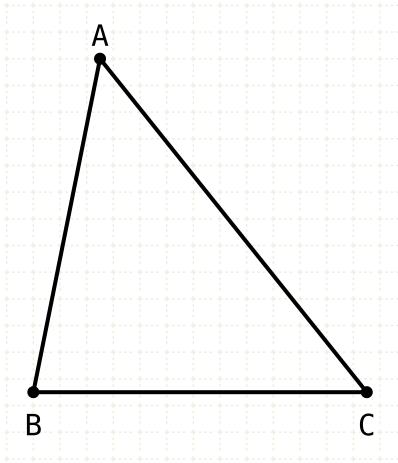
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Proposition 16 of Book I
In any triangle, if one of the sides is produced, then the exterior angle is greater than either of the interior and opposite angles.



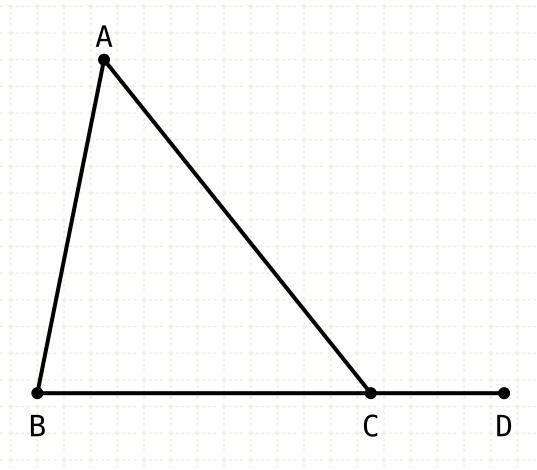
In any triangle, if one of the sides is produced, then the exterior angle is greater than either of the interior and opposite angles.



In other words

Start with a triangle ABC

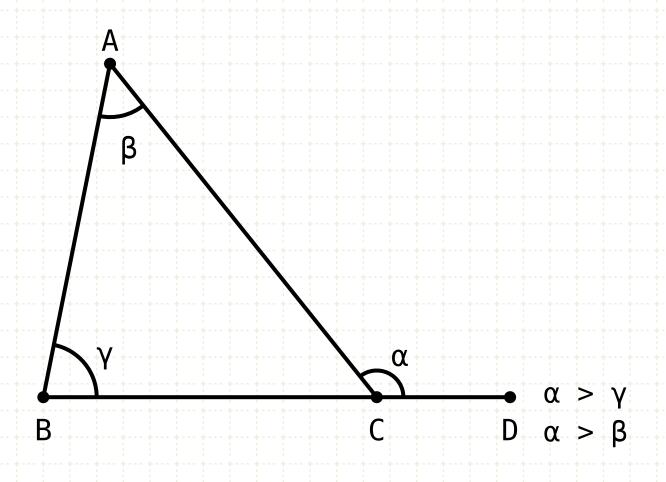
In any triangle, if one of the sides is produced, then the exterior angle is greater than either of the interior and opposite angles.



In other words

Start with a triangle ABC Extend line BC to point D

In any triangle, if one of the sides is produced, then the exterior angle is greater than either of the interior and opposite angles.



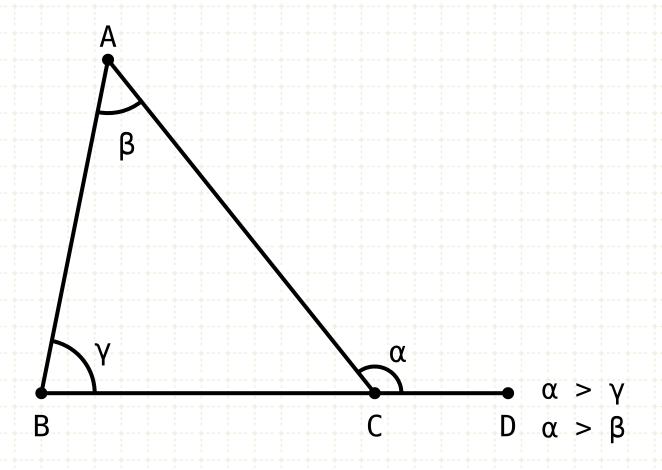
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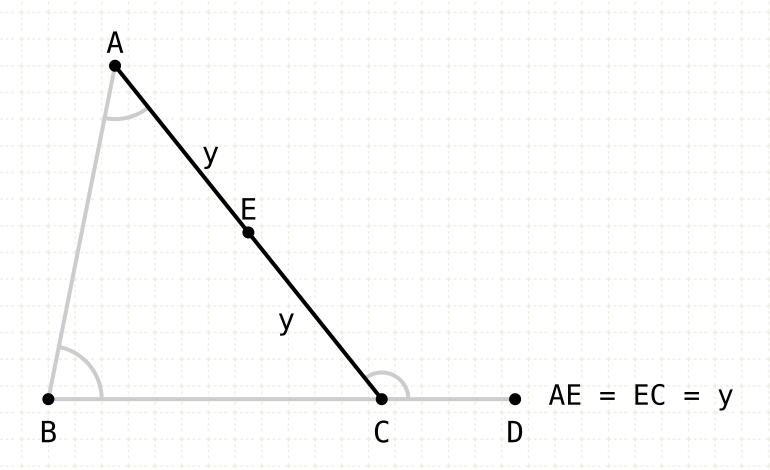
The angle ACD is larger than either ABC or CAB

In any triangle, if one of the sides is produced, then the exterior angle is greater than either of the interior and opposite angles.





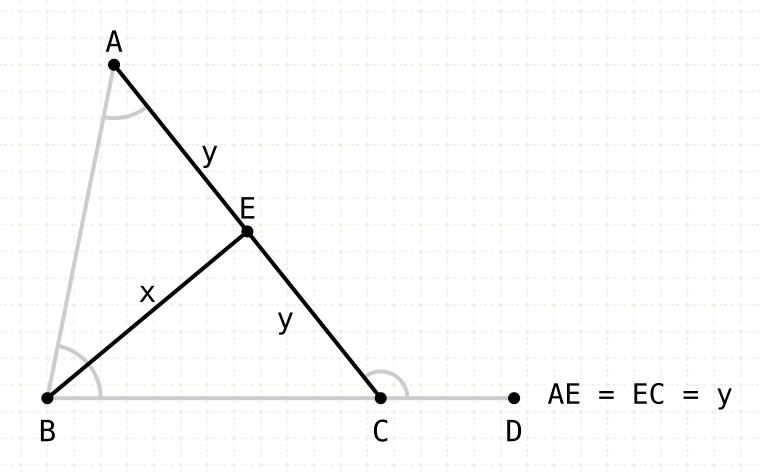
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Proof

Bisect line AC at point E (I·10)

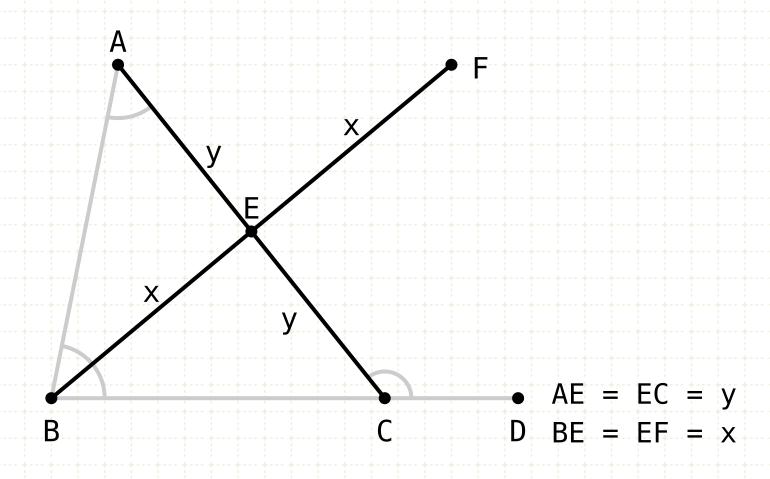
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Bisect line AC at point E (I·10)
Create line segment BE

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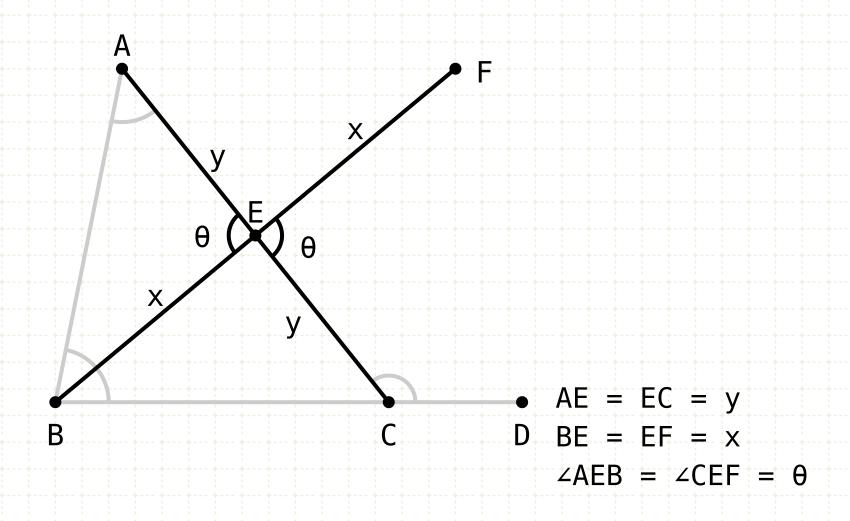
Proof

Bisect line AC at point E (I·10)

Create line segment BE

Extend line BE to line F, where EF equals BE

In any triangle, if one of the sides is produced, then the exterior angle is greater than either of the interior and opposite angles.



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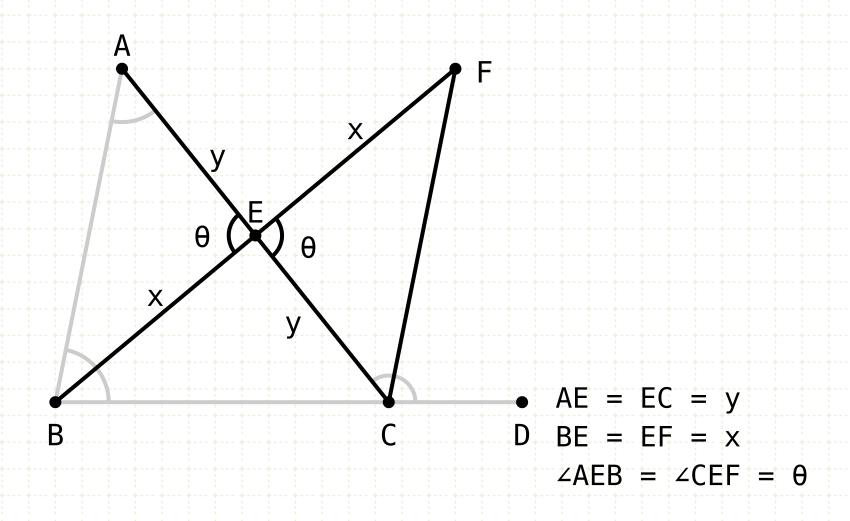
Bisect line AC at point E (I·10)

Create line segment BE

Extend line BE to line F, where EF equals BE

Angles AEB and CEF are vertical to each other, hence they are equal (I·15)

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Proof

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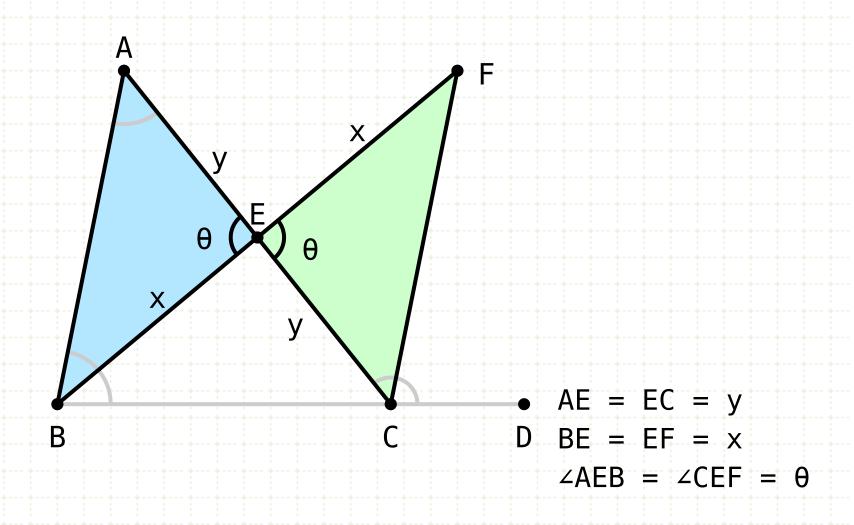
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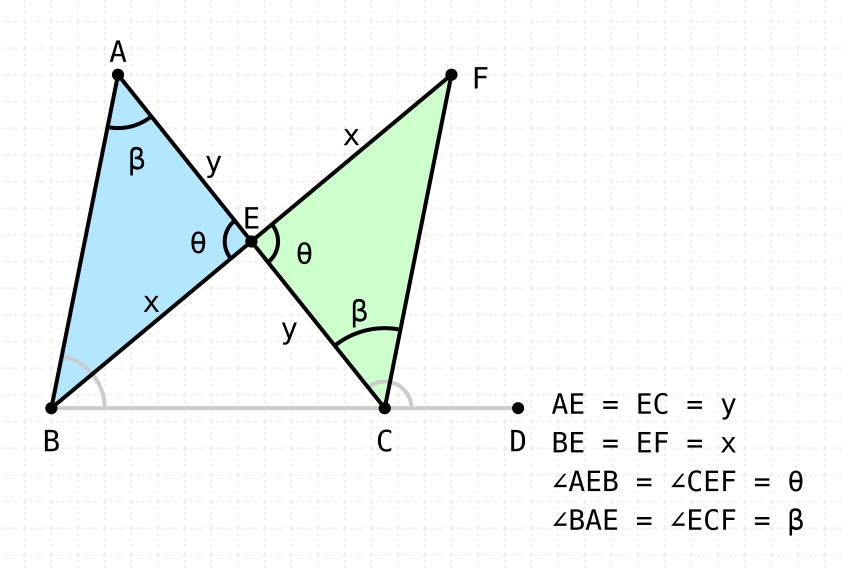
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Triangles ABE and FEC are equivalent since they have two equal sides, with an equal angle AEB and FEC

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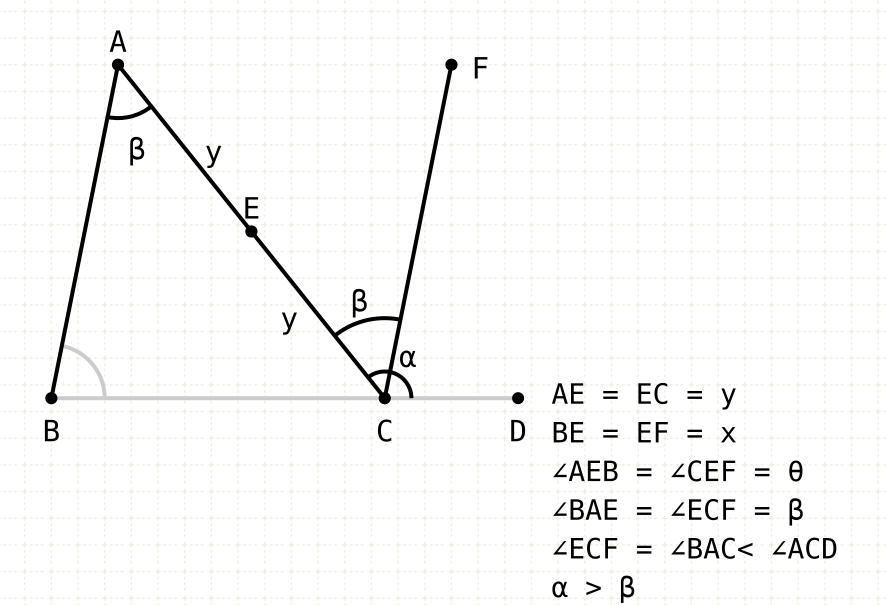
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Thus, angles BAE and ECF are equal (I·4)

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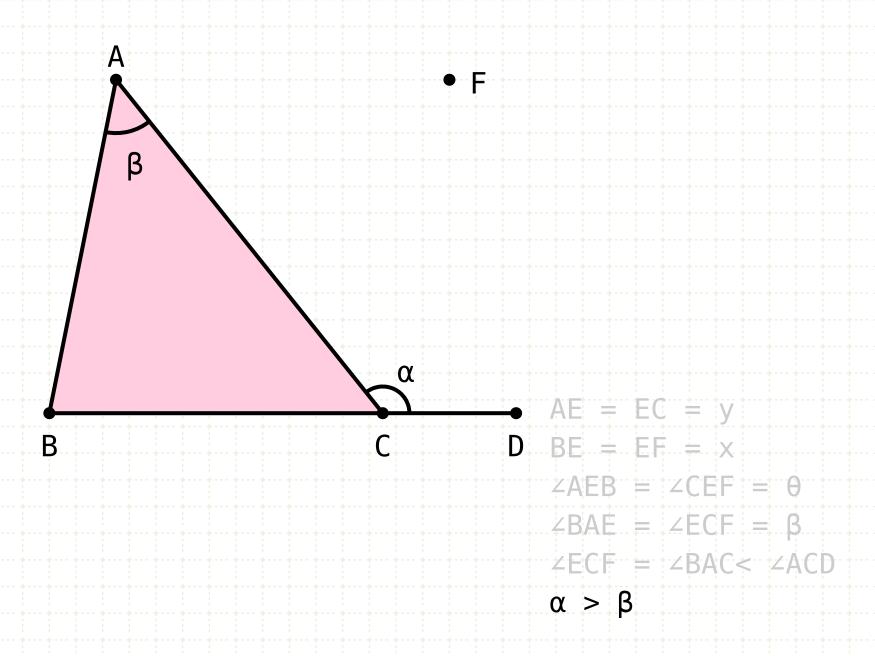
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As can be seen angle ECF, which is equals to angle BAC, is less than angle ACD

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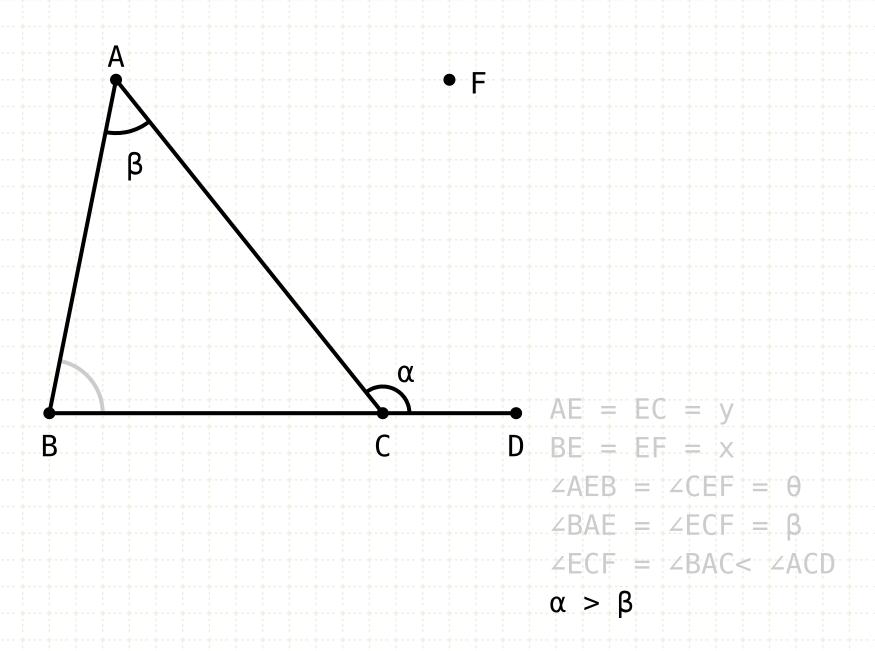
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Thus it has been shown that the exterior angle ACD is larger than the interior angle BAC

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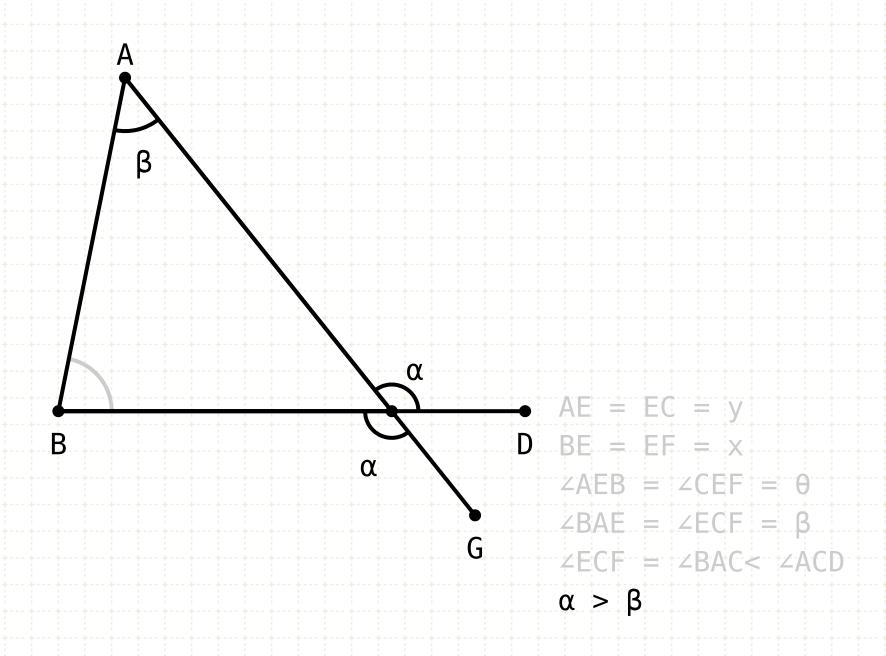
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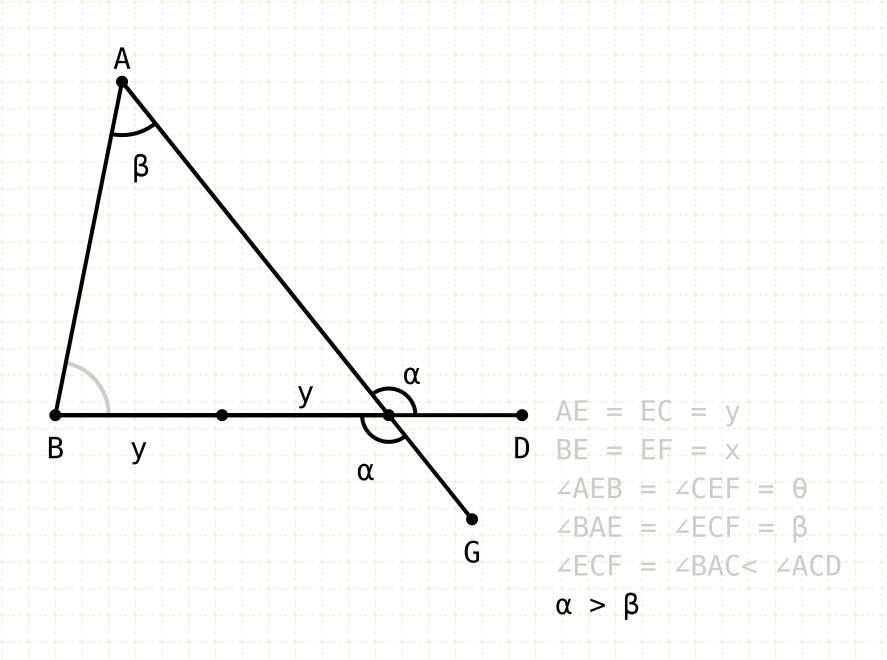
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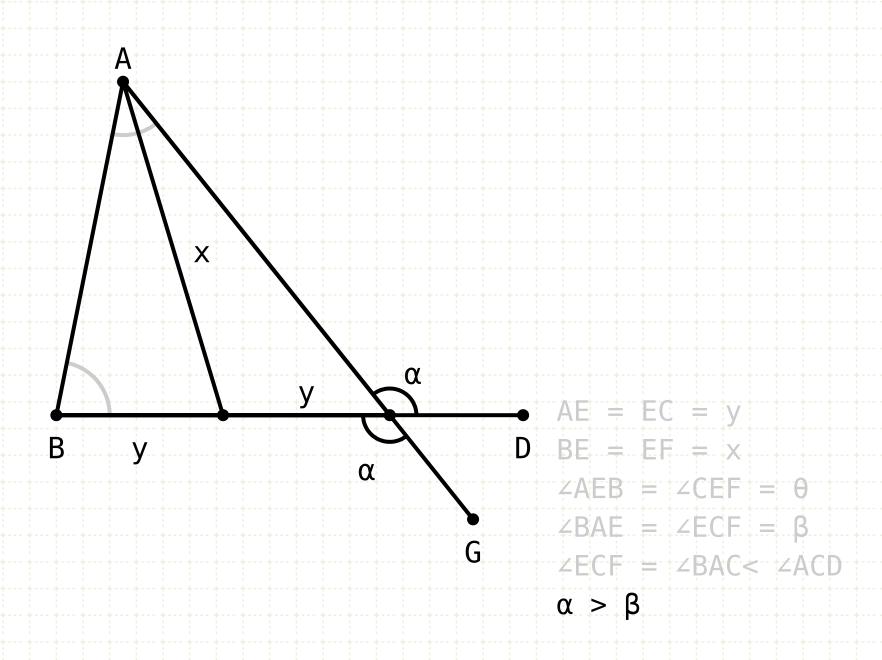
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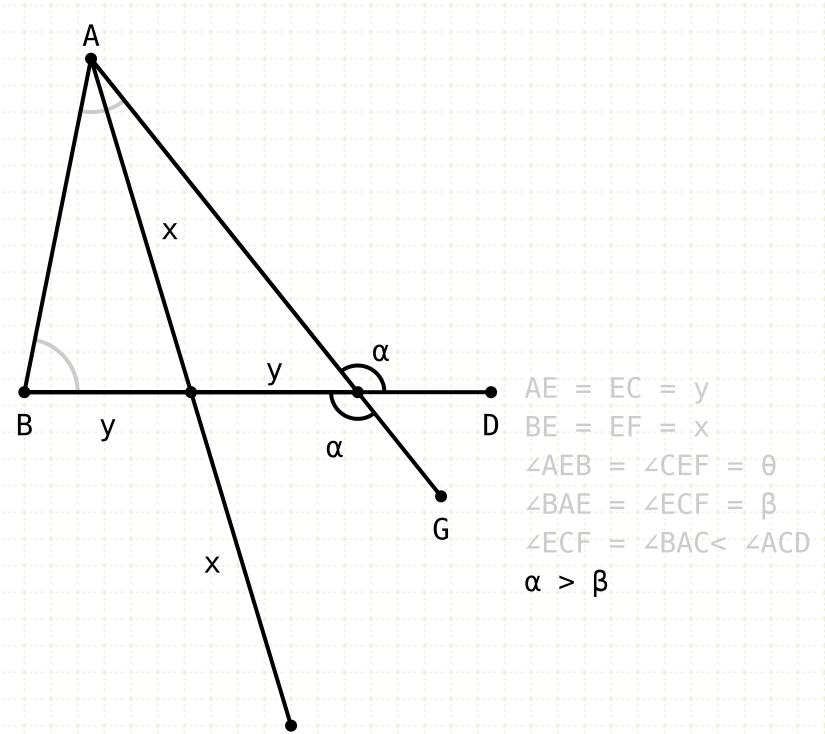
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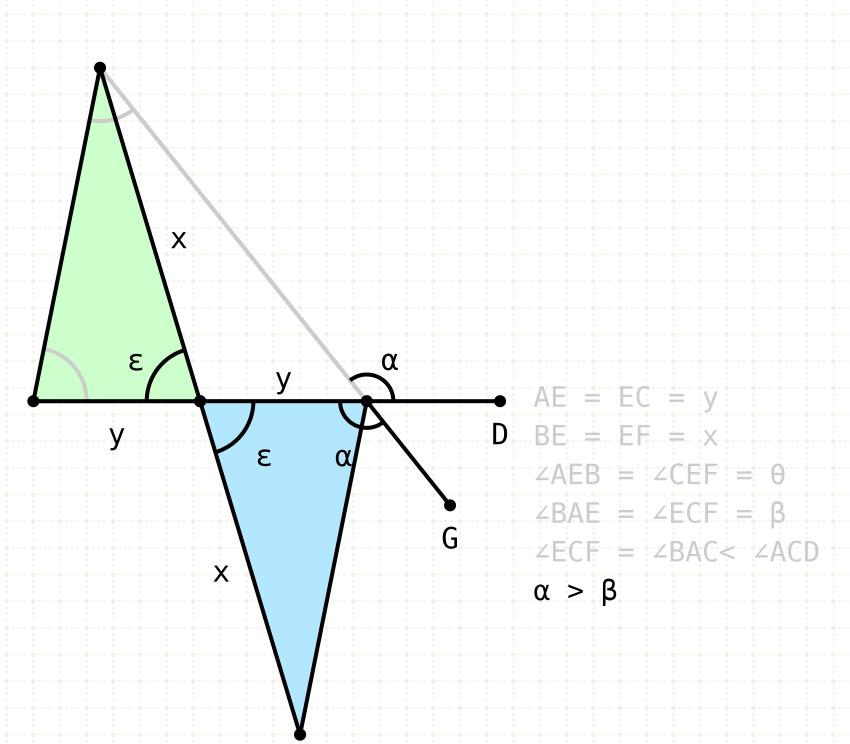
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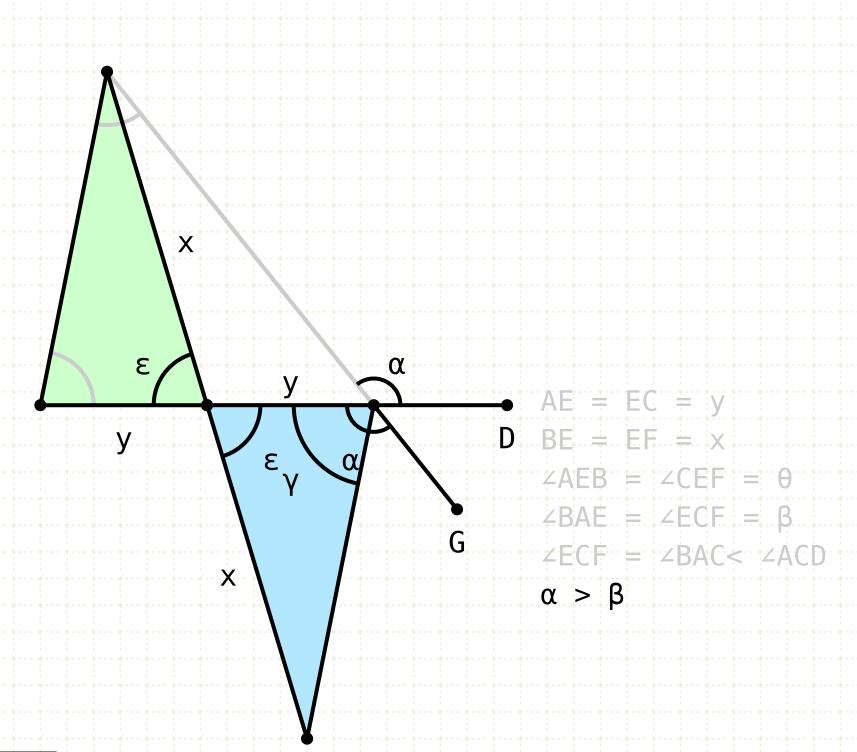
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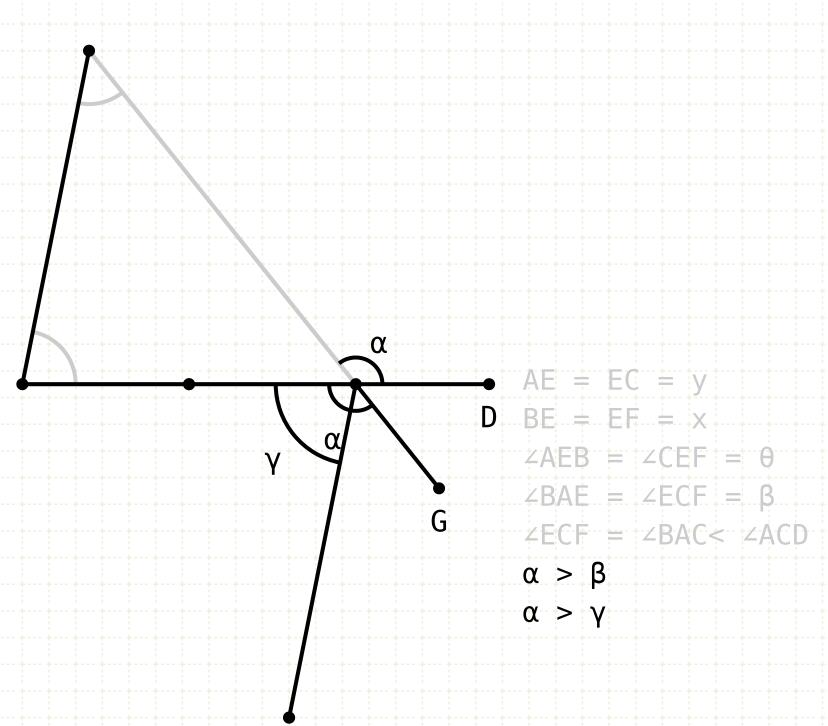
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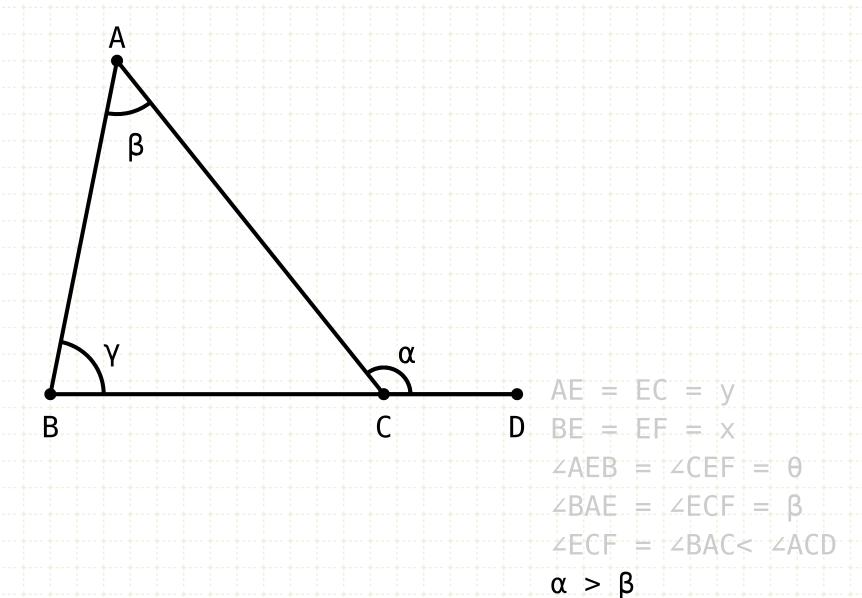
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 $\alpha > \gamma$

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