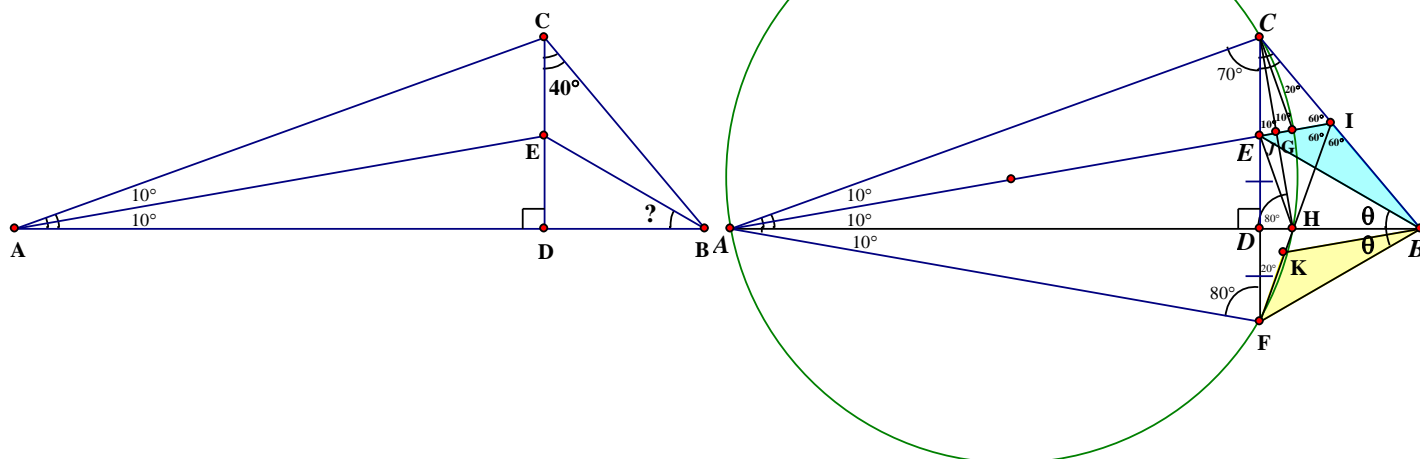


Problem on a 10°, 10°, 40° triangle

Created by Mr. Frasnics Hung on 20230620. Last updated: 2023-07-18.



In the figure, ADB is a straight line. The line segment $CED \perp AB$. $\angle DAE = \angle CAE = 10^\circ$. $\angle BCD = 40^\circ$. Find $\angle DBE$.

Solution: Let $\angle ABE = \theta$. Reflect $\triangle AEB$ along AB to $\triangle AFB$.

$$\triangle AEB \cong \triangle AFB$$

(by definition)

$$BE = BF$$

(corr. sides, $\cong \Delta$ s)

$$\angle ABE = \angle ABF = \theta$$

(corr. \angle s, $\cong \Delta$ s)

$$\angle BAF = \angle BAE = 10^\circ$$

(corr. \angle s, $\cong \Delta$ s)

$$AF = AE$$

(corr. sides, $\cong \Delta$ s)

$$AD = AD$$

(common sides)

$$\triangle ADE \cong \triangle ADF$$

(S.A.S.)

$$DE = DF$$

(corr. sides, $\cong \Delta$ s)

$$\angle ACD = 70^\circ, \angle AFD = 80^\circ$$

(\angle sum of $\triangle ACD$ and $\triangle ADF$)

Construct the circumscribed circle passing through ACF

(by using perpendicular bisectors)

AB cuts the circle again at H . Join CH and FH .

$$\angle CAF + \angle CHF = 180^\circ$$

(opp. \angle s, cyclic quad.)

$$\angle CHF = 180^\circ - 30^\circ = 150^\circ \dots\dots (1)$$

Extend AE to cut the circle at G and BC at I . Suppose CH intersects AI at J .

$$\angle FCH = \angle FAH = 10^\circ$$

(\angle s in the same segment)

$$\angle GCH = \angle GAH = 10^\circ$$

(\angle s in the same segment)

$$\angle GCI = \angle BCD - \angle DCH - \angle GCH = 40^\circ - 10^\circ - 10^\circ = 20^\circ$$

$$\angle CAH + \angle ACH + \angle AHC = 180^\circ$$

(\angle sum of $\triangle ACH$)

$$\angle AHC = 180^\circ - (10^\circ + 10^\circ) - (70^\circ + 10^\circ) = 80^\circ$$

$$\therefore \angle ACJ = \angle AHJ = 80^\circ$$

$$\angle CAJ = \angle BAJ = 10^\circ$$

(given)

$$AJ = AJ$$

(common side)

$$\therefore \triangle ACJ \cong \triangle ABJ$$

(A.A.S.)

$$\angle AJC = \angle AJH$$

(corr. \angle s, $\cong \Delta$ s)

$$\angle AJC + \angle AJH = 180^\circ$$

(adj. \angle s on st. line)

$$\therefore \angle AJC = \angle AJH = 90^\circ$$

$$CJ = HJ$$

(corr. sides, $\cong \Delta$ s)

$$IJ = IJ$$

(common side)

$$\therefore \triangle CIJ \cong \triangle HIJ$$

(S.A.S.)

$$\angle IHJ = \angle ICJ = 30^\circ \dots\dots (2)$$

(corr. \angle s, $\cong \Delta$ s)

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$$\angle CHF + \angle IHJ = 150^\circ + 30^\circ = 180^\circ$$

(by (1) and (2))

$\therefore I, H, F$ are collinear

$$\angle CBD = 180^\circ - 90^\circ - 40^\circ = 50^\circ$$

(\angle sum of $\triangle BCD$)

$$\angle AIC = 180^\circ - 10^\circ - (70^\circ + 40^\circ) = 60^\circ$$

(\angle sum of $\triangle AIC$)

$$\angle CFI = \angle CFH = \angle CAH = 20^\circ$$

(\angle s in the same segment)

$$\angle CIF = 180^\circ - 20^\circ - 40^\circ = 120^\circ$$

(\angle sum of $\triangle CFI$)

$$\angle EIF = \angle CIF - \angle AIC = 120^\circ - 60^\circ = 60^\circ$$

$$\angle BIE = 180^\circ - 60^\circ = 120^\circ$$

(adj. \angle s on st. line)

$$\angle BIF = 180^\circ - 120^\circ = 60^\circ$$

(adj. \angle s on st. line)

Locate a point K on IF such that $IK = IB$. Then, by definition, $\triangle IKB$ is an isosceles \triangle .

$$\angle IKB = \angle IBK$$

(base \angle s, isos. \triangle)

$$= \frac{180^\circ - 60^\circ}{2}$$

(\angle sum of $\triangle BIK$)

$$= 60^\circ$$

$\therefore \triangle BIK$ is an equilateral triangle

$$BI = BK \dots\dots (3)$$

(property of equilateral triangle)

$$BE = BF \dots\dots (4)$$

(proved, $\triangle AFB$ is the reflected image of $\triangle AEB$)

$$\angle BKF = 180^\circ - 60^\circ = 120^\circ$$

(adj. \angle s on st. line)

$$\frac{BF}{\sin \angle BKF} = \frac{BK}{\sin \angle BFK} \Rightarrow \frac{BF}{\sin 120^\circ} = \frac{BK}{\sin \angle BFK} \dots\dots (5)$$

(sine rule on $\triangle BFK$)

$$\frac{BE}{\sin \angle BIE} = \frac{BI}{\sin \angle BEI} \Rightarrow \frac{BE}{\sin 120^\circ} = \frac{BI}{\sin \angle BEI} \dots\dots (6)$$

(sine rule on $\triangle BEI$)

$$(5) \div (6): 1 = \frac{\sin \angle BFK}{\sin \angle BEI}$$

(by (3) and (4))

$$\therefore \angle BFK = \angle BEI$$

($\because \angle BIE = \angle BKF = 120^\circ > 90^\circ$)

$\therefore B, I, E, F$ are concyclic

(converse, \angle s in the same segment)

$$\angle EBF = \angle EIF$$

(\angle s in the same segment)

$$2\theta = 60^\circ$$

$$\theta = 30^\circ$$

Method 2 (provided by Maths De Mon in Facebook)

Let $AD = x$, $\angle DBE = \theta$

In $\triangle ACD$, $CD = x \tan 20^\circ$; in $\triangle ADE$, $DE = x \tan 10^\circ$

In $\triangle BCD$, $BD = CD \tan 40^\circ = x \tan 20^\circ \tan 40^\circ$

$$\text{In } \triangle BDE, \tan \theta = \frac{DE}{BD} = \frac{x \tan 10^\circ}{x \tan 20^\circ \tan 40^\circ} = \frac{\tan 10^\circ}{\tan(30^\circ - 10^\circ) \tan(30^\circ + 10^\circ)}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\tan 10^\circ}{\frac{\tan 30^\circ - \tan 10^\circ}{1 + \tan 30^\circ \tan 10^\circ} \cdot \frac{\tan 30^\circ + \tan 10^\circ}{1 - \tan 30^\circ \tan 10^\circ}} = \frac{\tan 10^\circ}{\frac{\tan^2 30^\circ - \tan^2 10^\circ}{1 - \tan^2 30^\circ \tan^2 10^\circ}} = \frac{\tan 10^\circ}{\frac{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2 - \tan^2 10^\circ}{1 - \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2 \tan^2 10^\circ}}$$

$$= \frac{\tan 10^\circ \left(1 - \frac{1}{3} \tan^2 10^\circ\right)}{\frac{1}{3} - \tan^2 10^\circ} = \frac{\tan 10^\circ (3 - \tan^2 10^\circ)}{1 - 3 \tan^2 10^\circ} = \frac{3 \tan 10^\circ - \tan^3 10^\circ}{1 - 3 \tan^2 10^\circ} = \tan 30^\circ$$

$$\theta = 30^\circ$$