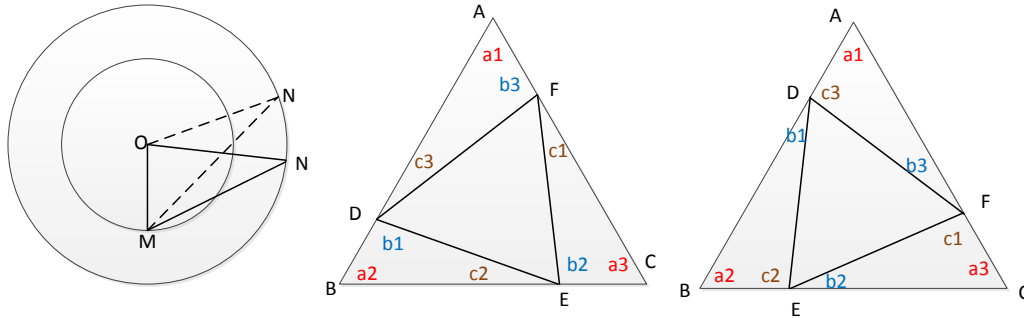


IBM research

The challenge: August 1998

[http://domino.research.ibm.com/Comm/wwwr\\_ponder.nsf/challenges/August1998.html](http://domino.research.ibm.com/Comm/wwwr_ponder.nsf/challenges/August1998.html)

My Solution:



1. We can prove :  $\angle MON \uparrow, \angle OMN \downarrow, MN \uparrow$  , suppose  $OM \leq ON$  .(Left Figure)

2. Suppose that  $\angle A \leq \angle B \leq \angle C$  ,

Case 1:  $DE \geq DB$  , (Middle Figure)

$\angle a_1 \leq \angle a_2 \leq \angle a_3$  , so  $BE \leq CF \leq AD$

We can also get  $\angle a_2 \geq \angle a_3$  by the relationship of  $\angle OMN$  and  $MN$  in Step1.

So  $\angle a_2 = \angle a_3, AB = AC, AD = CF$  ,  $\triangle ADF \cong \triangle BFE$  ,

$\angle a_1 = \angle a_2 = \angle a_3 = 60^\circ$

Case 2:  $DE \leq DB$  (Right Figure), we also get  $BE \leq CF \leq AD$  .

We can get  $\angle b_1 \leq \angle b_2 \leq \angle b_3$  by the relationship of  $\angle MON$  and  $MN$  in Step1.

Then  $\angle c_1 \leq \angle c_2 \leq \angle c_3$  .

We can also get  $\angle c_2 \geq \angle c_1 \geq \angle c_3$  by the relationship of  $\angle OMN$  and  $MN$  in Step1.

So  $\angle c_1 = \angle c_2 = \angle c_3 \Rightarrow \angle b_1 = \angle b_2 = \angle b_3$  ,

Then  $\angle a_1 = \angle a_2 = \angle a_3 = 60^\circ$