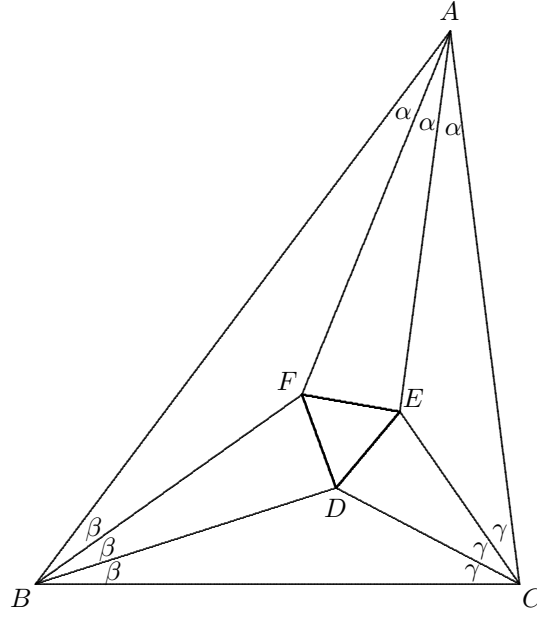


**Morley's Theorem:** *The three intersections of the trisectors of the angles of a triangle, lying near the three sides respectively, form an equilateral triangle.*



**Proof:** The result will be obvious when we compute the length of  $FE$  in terms of the angles  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  and the circumradius  $R$ . Using the sine law on triangle  $ABF$ , the fact that  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = \frac{\pi}{3}$ , and  $2R = \frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 AF &= \frac{c \sin \beta}{\sin(\alpha + \beta)} \\
 &= \frac{2R \sin \beta \sin 3\gamma}{\sin(\frac{\pi}{3} - \gamma)} \\
 &= \frac{2R \sin \beta \sin \gamma (3 \cos^2 \gamma - \sin^2 \gamma)}{\sin(\frac{\pi}{3} - \gamma)} \\
 &= \frac{8R \sin \beta \sin \gamma \sin(\frac{\pi}{3} + \gamma) \sin(\frac{\pi}{3} - \gamma)}{\sin(\frac{\pi}{3} - \gamma)} \\
 &= 8R \sin \beta \sin \gamma \sin(\frac{\pi}{3} + \gamma).
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,  $AE = 8R \sin \beta \sin \gamma \sin(\frac{\pi}{3} + \beta)$ . Then from the cosine law we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
 FE^2 &= AE^2 + AF^2 - 2AE \cdot AF \cos \alpha \\
 &= 64R^2 \sin^2 \beta \sin^2 \gamma \left[ \sin^2(\frac{\pi}{3} + \gamma) + \sin^2(\frac{\pi}{3} + \beta) - 2 \sin(\frac{\pi}{3} + \gamma) \sin(\frac{\pi}{3} + \beta) \cos \alpha \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

What is truly amazing is that the expression within square brackets is equal to  $\sin^2 \alpha$ . This can be computed by showing that  $\sin^2 \gamma^* + \sin^2 \beta^* - 2 \sin \gamma^* \sin \beta^* \cos \alpha = \sin^2 \alpha$ , where  $\beta^* = \frac{\pi}{3} + \beta$  and  $\gamma^* = \frac{\pi}{3} + \gamma$  and hence  $\alpha + \beta^* + \gamma^* = \pi$ . This follows with minimal effort using the substitution  $\sin \gamma^* = \sin(\alpha + \beta^*)$ . (Or, note that the cosine law holds if the side lengths are replaced by the sines of the corresponding angles.) Hence

$$FE^2 = 64R^2 \sin^2 \beta \sin^2 \gamma \sin^2 \alpha.$$

From the symmetry, it follows that triangle  $DEF$  is equilateral.  $\square$