Problem 1 (Netherlands). Find all triples (a,b,c) of real numbers such that $ab+bc+ca=1$ and

$$a^2b+c=b^2c+a=c^2a+b.$$

Solution 1. First suppose that $a=0$. Then we have $bc=1$ and $c=b^2c=b$. So $b=c$, which implies $b^2=1$ and hence $b=\pm1$. This leads to the solutions $(a,b,c)=(0,1,1)$ and $(a,b,c)=(0,-1,-1)$. Similarly, $b=0$ gives the solutions $(a,b,c)=(1,0,1)$ and $(a,b,c)=(-1,0,-1)$, while $c=0$ gives $(a,b,c)=(1,1,0)$ and $(a,b,c)=(-1,-1,0)$.

Now we may assume that $a,b,c\neq=0$. We multiply $ab+bc+ca=1$ by a to find $a^2b+abc+ca^2=a$, hence $a^2b=a-abc-a^2c$. Substituting this in $a^2b+c=b^2c+a$ yields $a-abc-a^2c+c=b^2c+a$, so $b^2c+abc+a^2c=c$. As $c\neq=0$, we find $b^2+ab+a^2=1$.

Analogously we have $b^2+bc+c^2=1$ and $a^2+ac+c^2=1$. Adding these three equations yields $2\left(a^2+b^2+c^2\right)+ab+bc+ca=3$, which implies $a^2+b^2+c^2=1$. Combining this result with $b^2+ab+a^2=1$, we get $1-ab=1-c^2$, so $c^2=ab$.

Analogously we also have $b^2=ac$ and $a^2=bc$. In particular we now have that ab, bc and ca are all positive. This means that a, b and c must all be positive or all be negative. Now assume that $|c|$ is the largest among $|a|$, $|b|$ and $|c|$, then $c^2\geq|ab|=ab=c^2$, so we must have equality. This means that $|c|=|a|$ and $|c|=|b|$. Since (a,b,c) must all have the same sign, we find $a=b=c$. Now we have $3a^2=1$, hence $a=\pm\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3}$. We find the solutions $(a,b,c)=\left(\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3},\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3},\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3}\right)$ and $(a,b,c)=\left(-\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3},-\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3},-\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3}\right)$.

We conclude that all possible triples (a,b,c) are $(0,1,1)$, $(0,-1,-1)$, $(1,0,1)$, $(-1,0,-1)$, $(1,1,0)$, $(-1,-1,0)$, $\left(\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3},\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3},\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3}\right)$ and $\left(-\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3},-\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3},-\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3}\right)$.

Solution 2. From the problem statement $ab=1-bc-ca$ and thus $b^2c+a=a^2b+c=a-abc-a^2c+c$, $c\left(b^2+a^2+ab-1\right)=0$. If $c=0$ then $ab=1$ and $a^2b=b$, which implies $a=b=\pm1$. Otherwise $b^2+a^2+ab=1$. Cases $a=0$ and $b=0$ are completely analogous to $c=0$, so we may suppose that $a,b,c\neq0$. In this case we end up with

$$\begin{cases} a^2+b^2+ab=1,\\ b^2+c^2+bc=1,\\ c^2+a^2+ca=1,\\ ab+bc+ca=1.\end{cases}$$

Adding first three equations and subtracting the fourth yields $2(a^2+b^2+c^2)=2=2(ab+bc+ca)$. Consequently, $(a-b)^2+(b-c)^2+(c-a)^2=0$. Now we can easily conclude that $a=b=c=\pm\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$.

Solution by Achilleas Sinefakopoulos, Greece. We have

$$c(1-b^2)=a(1-ab)=a(bc+ca)=c(ab+a^2),$$

and so

$$c(a^2+ab+b^2-1)=0.$$

Similarly, we have

$$b(a^2+ac+c^2-1)=0 \quad\text{and}\quad a(b^2+bc+c^2-1)=0.$$

If $c = 0$, then we get $ab = 1$ and $a^2b = a = b$, which give us $a = b = 1$, or $a = b = -1$. Similarly, if $a = 0$, then $b = c = 1$, or $b = c = -1$, while if $b = 0$, then $a = c = 1$, or $a = c = -1$.

So assume that $abc \neq 0$. Then

$$a^2 + ab + b^2 = b^2 + bc + c^2 = c^2 + ca + a^2 = 1.$$

Adding these gives us

$$2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) + ab + bc + ca = 3,$$

and using the fact that $ab + bc + ca = 1$, we get

$$a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = 1 = ab + bc + ca.$$

Hence

$$(a - b)^2 + (b - c)^2 + (c - a)^2 = 2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) - 2(ab + bc + ca) = 0$$

and so $a = b = c = \pm\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$.

Therefore, the solutions (a, b, c) are $(0, 1, 1)$, $(0, -1, -1)$, $(1, 0, 1)$, $(-1, 0, -1)$, $(1, 1, 0)$, $(-1, -1, 0)$, $(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}})$, $(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}})$

Solution by Eirini Miliori (HEL2). It is $ab + bc + ca = 1$ and

$$a^2b + c = b^2c + a = c^2a + b. \tag{1}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} a^2b + c = b^2c + a &\iff a^2b - a = b^2c - c \\ &\iff a(ab - 1) = c(b^2 - 1) \\ &\iff a(-bc - ac) = c(b^2 - 1) \\ &\iff -ac(a + b) = c(b^2 - 1) \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

First, consider the case where one of a, b, c is equal to 0. Without loss of generality, assume that $a = 0$. Then $bc = 1$ and $b = c$ from (1), and so $b^2 = 1$ giving us $b = 1$ or -1. Hence $b = c = 1$ or $b = c = -1$.

Therefore, (a, b, c) equals one of the triples $(0, 1, 1)$, $(0, -1, -1)$, as well as their rearrangements $(1, 0, 1)$ and $(-1, 0, -1)$ when $b = 0$, or $(1, 1, 0)$ and $(-1, -1, 0)$ when $c = 0$.

Now consider the case where $a \neq 0$, $b \neq 0$ and $c \neq 0$. Then (2) gives us

$$-a(a + b) = b^2 - 1 \iff -a^2 - ab = b^2 - 1 \iff a^2 + ab + b^2 - 1 = 0.$$

The quadratic $P(x) = x^2 + bx + b^2 - 1$ has $x = a$ as a root. Let x_1 be its second root (which could be equal to a in the case where the discriminant is 0). From Vieta's formulas we get

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + a = -b & \iff x_1 = -b - a, \text{ and} \\ x_1 a = b^2 - 1 & \iff x_1 = \frac{b^2-1}{a}. \end{cases}$$

Using $a^2b + c = c^2a + b$ we obtain $b(a^2 - 1) = c(ac - 1)$ yielding $a^2 + ac + c^2 - 1 = 0$ in a similar way. The quadratic $Q(x) = x^2 + cx + c^2 - 1$ has $x = a$ as a root. Let x_2 be its second root (which could be equal to a in the case where the discriminant is 0). From Vieta's formulas we get

$$\begin{cases} x_2 + a = -c & \iff x_2 = -c - a, \text{ and} \\ x_2 a = c^2 - 1 & \iff x_2 = \frac{c^2-1}{a}. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 = -b - a - c - a, \text{ and} \\ x_1 + x_2 = \frac{b^2-1}{a} + \frac{c^2-1}{a}, \end{cases}$$

which give us

$$\begin{aligned} -(2a + b + c) = \frac{b^2 - 1}{a} + \frac{c^2 - 1}{a} &\iff -2a^2 - ba - ca = b^2 + c^2 - 2 \\ &\iff bc - 1 - 2a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2 \\ &\iff 2a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = 1 + bc. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

By symmetry, we get

$$2b^2 + a^2 + c^2 = 1 + ac, \text{ and} \tag{4}$$

$$2c^2 + a^2 + b^2 = 1 + bc \tag{5}$$

Adding equations (3), (4), and (5), we get

$$4(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) = 3 + ab + bc + ca \iff 4(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) = 4 \iff a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = 1.$$

From this and (3), since $ab + bc + ca = 1$, we get

$$a^2 = bc = 1 - ab - ac \iff a(a + b + c) = 1.$$

Similarly, from (4) we get

$$b(a + b + c) = 1,$$

and from (4),

$$c(a + b + c) = 1.$$

Clearly, it is $a + b + c \neq 0$ (for otherwise it would be $0 = 1$, a contradiction). Therefore,

$$a = b = c = \frac{1}{a + b + c},$$

and so $3a^2 = 1$ giving us $a = b = c = \pm\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$.

In conclusion, the solutions (a, b, c) are $(0, 1, 1)$, $(0, -1, -1)$, $(1, 0, 1)$, $(-1, 0, -1)$, $(1, 1, 0)$, $(-1, -1, 0)$, $(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}})$, and $(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}})$.

Solution by ISR5. First, homogenize the condition $a^2b + c = b^2c + a = c^2a + b$ by replacing c by $c(ab + bc + ca)$ (etc.), yielding

$$a^2b + c = a^2b + abc + bc^2 + c^2a = abc + \sum_{cyc} a^2b + (c^2b - b^2c) = abc + \sum_{cyc} a^2b + bc(c - b).$$

Thus, after substracting the cyclicly symmetric part $abc + \sum_{cyc} a^2b$ we find the condition is eqivalent to

$$D := bc(c-b) = ca(a-c) = ab(b-a).$$

Ending 1. It is easy to see that if e.g. $a = 0$ then $b = c = \pm 1$, and if e.g. $a = b$ then either $a = b = c = \pm\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ or $a = b = \pm 1, c = 0$, and these are indeed solutions. So, to show that these are *all* solutions (up to symmetries), we may assume by contradiction that a, b, c are pairwise different and non-zero. All conditions are preserved under cyclic shifts and under simultaenously switching signs on all a, b, c, and by applying these operations as necessary we may assume $a < b < c$. It follows that $D^3 = a^2b^2c^2(c-b)(a-c)(b-a)$ must be negative (the only negative term is $a - c$, hence D is negative, i.e. $bc, ab < 0 < ac$. But this means that a, c have the same sign and b has a different one, which clearly contradicts $a < b < c$! So, such configurations are impossible.

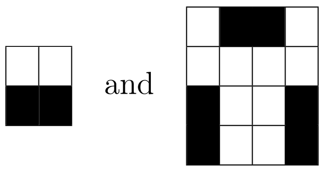
Ending 2. Note that $3D = \sum c^2b - \sum b^2c = (c-b)(c-a)(b-a)$ and $D^3 = a^2b^2c^2(c-b)(a-c)(b-a) = -3a^2b^2c^2D$. Since $3D$ and D^3 must have the same sign, and $-3a^2b^2c^2$ is non-positive, necessarily $D = 0$. Thus (up to cyclic permutation) $a = b$ and from there we immediately find either $a = b = \pm 1, c = 0$ or $a = b = c = \pm\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$.

Problem 2 (Luxembourg). Let n be a positive integer. Dominoes are placed on a $2n \times 2n$ board in such a way that every cell of the board is adjacent to exactly one cell covered by a domino. For each n, determine the largest number of dominoes that can be placed in this way.

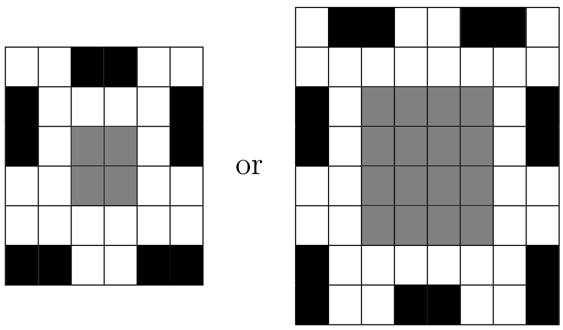
(A *domino* is a tile of size 2×1 or 1×2. Dominoes are placed on the board in such a way that each domino covers exactly two cells of the board, and dominoes do not overlap. Two cells are said to be *adjacent* if they are different and share a common side.)

Solution 1. Let M denote the maximal number of dominoes that can be placed on the chessboard. We claim that $M = n(n+1)/2$. The proof naturally splits into two parts: we first prove that $n(n+1)/2$ dominoes can be placed on the board, and then show that $M \le n(n+1)/2$ to complete the proof.

We construct placings of the dominoes by induction. The base cases $n = 1$ and $n = 2$ correspond to the placings



Next, we add dominoes to the border of a $2n \times 2n$ chessboard to obtain a placing of dominoes for the $2(n+2) \times 2(n+2)$ board,



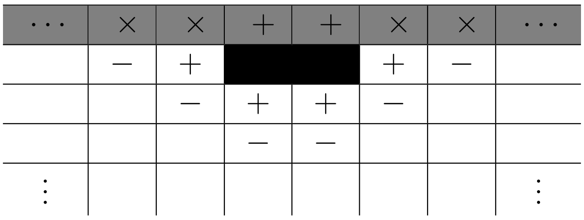
depending on whether n is odd or even. In these constructions, the interior square is filled with the placing for the $2n \times 2n$ board. This construction adds $2n+3$ dominoes, and therefore places, in total,

$$\frac{n(n+1)}{2} + (2n+3) = \frac{(n+2)(n+3)}{2}$$

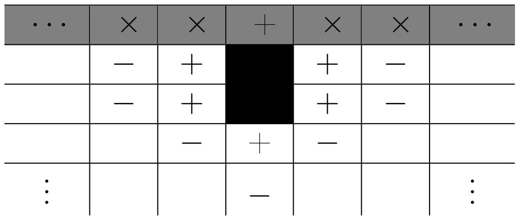
dominoes on the board. Noticing that the contour and the interior mesh together appropriately, this proves, by induction, that $n(n+1)/2$ dominoes can be placed on the $2nn$ board.

To prove that $M \le n(n+1)/2$, we border the $2n \times 2n$ square board up to a $(2n+2) \times (2n+2)$ square board; this adds $8n+4$ cells to the $4n^2$ cells that we have started with. Calling a cell covered if it belongs to a domino or is adjacent to a domino, each domino on the $2n \times 2n$ board is seen to cover exactly 8 cells of the $(2n+2) \times (2n+2)$ board (some of which may belong to the border). By construction, each of the $4n^2$ cells of the $2n \times 2n$ board is covered by precisely one domino.

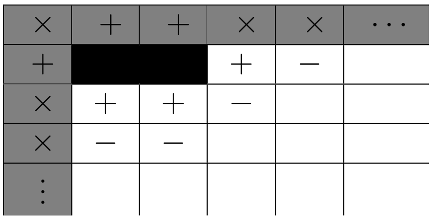
If two adjacent cells on the border, away from a corner, are covered, then there will be at least two uncovered cells on both sides of them; if one covered cell lies between uncovered cells, then again, on both sides of it there will be at least two uncovered cells; three or more adjacent cells cannot be all covered. The following diagrams, in which the borders are shaded, $\times$ marks an uncovered cell on the border, $+$ marks a covered cell not belonging to a domino, and $-$ marks a cell which cannot belong to a domino, summarize the two possible situations,



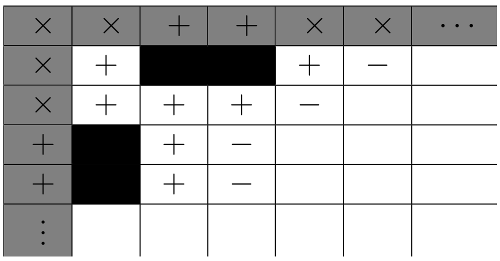
or



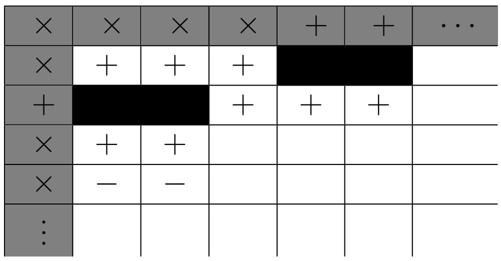
Close to a corner of the board, either the corner belongs to some domino,



or one of the following situations, in which the corner cell of the original board is not covered by a domino, may occur:



or

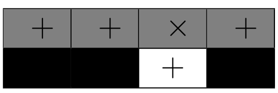


It is thus seen that at most half of the cells on the border, i.e. $4n+2$ cells, may be covered, and hence

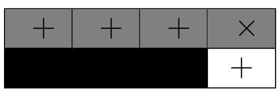
$$M \leq \left[\frac{4n^2 + (4n+2)}{8}\right] = \left[\frac{n(n+1)}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\right] = \frac{n(n+1)}{2},$$

which completes the proof of our claim.

Solution 2. We use the same example as in Solution 1. Let M denote the maximum number of dominoes which satisfy the condition of the problem. To prove that $M \leq n(n+1)/2$, we again border the $2n \times 2n$ square board up to a $(2n+2) \times (2n+2)$ square board. In fact, we shall ignore the corner border cells as they cannot be covered anyway and consider only the $2n$ border cells along each side. We prove that out of each four border cells next to each other at most two can be covered. Suppose three out of four cells A, B, C, D are covered. Then there are two possibilities below:



or



The first option is that A, B and D are covered (marked with + in top row). Then the cells inside the starting square next to A, B and D are covered by the dominoes, but the cell in between them has now two adjacent cells with dominoes, contradiction. The second option is that A, B and C are covered. Then the cells inside the given square next to A, B and C are covered by the dominoes. But then the cell next to B has two adjacent cells with dominoes, contradiction.

Now we can split the border cells along one side in groups of 4 (leaving one group of 2 if n is odd). So when n is even, at most n of the $2n$ border cells along one side can be covered, and when n is odd, at most $n+1$ out of the $2n$ border cells can be covered. For all four borders together, this gives a contribution of $4n$ when n is even and $4n+4$ when n is odd. Adding $4n^2$ and dividing by 8 we get the desired result.

Solution (upper bound) by ISR5. Consider the number of pairs of adjacent cells, such that one of them is covered by a domino. Since each cell is adjacent to one covered cell, the number of such pairs is exactly $4n^2$. On the other hand, let n_2 be the number of covered corner cells, n_3 the number of covered edge cells (cells with 3 neighbours), and n_4 be the number of covered interior cells (cells with 4 neighbours). Thus the number of pairs is $2n_2 + 3n_3 + 4n_4 = 4n^2$, whereas the number of dominoes is $m = \frac{n_2+n_3+n_4}{2}$.

Considering only the outer frame (of corner and edge cells), observe that every covered cell dominates two others, so at most half of the cells are ccovered. The frame has a total of $4(2n-1)$ cells, i.e. $n_2+n_3 \leq 4n-2$. Additionally $n_2 \leq 4$ since there are only 4 corners, thus

$$8m = 4n_2+4n_3+4n_4 = (2n_2+3n_3+4n_4)+(n_2+n_3)+n_2 \leq 4n^2+(4n-2)+4 = 4n(n+1)+2$$

Thus $m \leq \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$, so in fact $m \leq \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$.

Solution (upper and lower bound) by ISR5. We prove that this is the upper bound (and also the lower bound!) by proving that any two configurations, say A and B, must contain exactly the same number of dominoes.

Colour the board in a black and white checkboard colouring. Let W be the set of white cells covered by dominoes of tiling A. For each cell $w \in W$ let N_w be the set of its adjacent (necessarily black) cells. Since each black cell has exactly one neighbour (necessarily white) covered by a domino of tiling A, it follows that each black cell is contained in exactly one N_w, i.e. the N_w form a partition of the black cells. Since each white cell has exactly one (necessarily black) neighbour covered by a tile of B, each B_w contains exactly one black tile covered by a domino of B. But, since each domino covers exactly one white and one black cell, we have

$$|A| = |W| = |\{N_w : w \in W\}| = |B|$$

as claimed.

Problem 3 (Poland). Let ABC be a triangle such that $\angle CAB > \angle ABC$, and let I be its incentre. Let D be the point on segment BC such that $\angle CAD = \angle ABC$. Let ω be the circle tangent to AC at A and passing through I. Let X be the second point of intersection of ω and the circumcircle of ABC. Prove that the angle bisectors of $\angle DAB$ and $\angle CXB$ intersect at a point on line BC.

Solution 1. Let S be the intersection point of BC and the angle bisector of $\angle BAD$, and let T be the intersection point of BC and the angle bisector of $\angle BXC$. We will prove that both quadruples A, I, B, S and A, I, B, T are concyclic, which yields $S = T$.

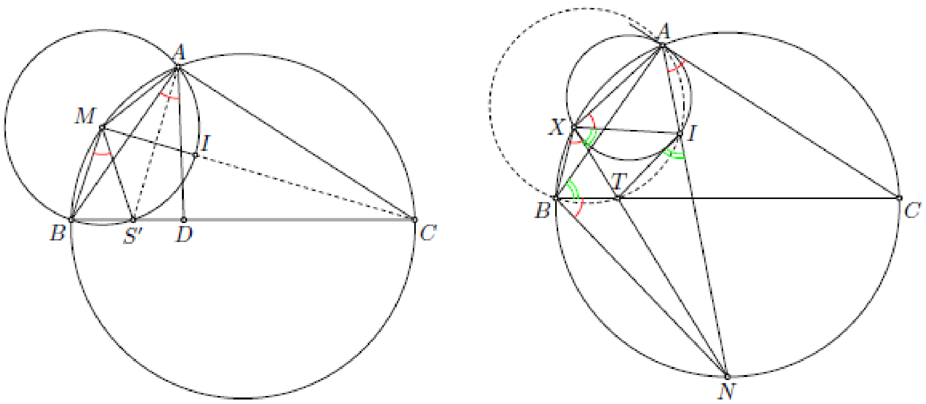
Firstly denote by M the middle of arc AB of the circumcenter of ABC which does not contain C. Consider the circle centered at M passing through A, I and B (it is well-known that $MA = MI = MB$); let it intersect BC at B and S'. Since $\angle BAC > \angle CBA$ it is easy to check that S' lies on side BC. Denoting the angles in ABC by α, β, γ we get

$$\angle BAD = \angle BAC - \angle DAC = \alpha - \beta.$$

Moreover since $\angle MBC = \angle MBA + \angle ABC = \frac{\gamma}{2} + \beta$, then

$$\angle BMS' = 180^\circ - 2\angle MBC = 180^\circ - \gamma - 2\beta = \alpha - \beta.$$

It follows that $\angle BAS' = 2\angle BMS' = 2\angle BAD$ which gives us $S = S'$.



Secondly let N be the middle of arc BC of the circumcenter of ABC which does not contain A. From $\angle BAC > \angle CBA$ we conclude that X lies on the arc AB of circumcircle of ABC not containing C. Obviously both AI and XT are passing through N. Since $\angle NBT = \frac{\alpha}{2} = \angle BXN$ we obtain $\triangle NBT \sim \triangle NXB$, therefore

$$NT \cdot NX = NB^2 = NI^2.$$

It follows that $\triangle NTI \sim \triangle NIX$. Keeping in mind that $\angle NBC = \angle NAC = \angle IXA$ we get

$$\angle TIN = \angle IXN = \angle NXA - \angle IXA = \angle NBA - \angle NBC = \angle TBA.$$

It means that A, I, B, T are concyclic which ends the proof.

Solution 2. Let $\angle BAC = \alpha$, $\angle ABC = \beta$, $\angle BCA = \gamma$ $\angle ACX = \phi$. Denote by W_1 and W_2 the intersections of segment BC with the angle bisectors of $\angle BXC$ and $\angle BAD$ respectively. Then $BW_1/W_1C = BX/XC$ and $BW_2/W_2D = BA/AD$. We shall show that $BW_1 = BW_2$.

Since $\angle DAC = \angle CBA$, triangles ADC and BAC are similar and therefore

$$\frac{DC}{AC} = \frac{AC}{BC}.$$

By the Law of sines

$$\frac{BW_2}{W_2D} = \frac{BA}{AD} = \frac{BC}{AC} = \frac{\sin\alpha}{\sin\beta}.$$

Consequently

$$\frac{BD}{BW_2} = \frac{W_2D}{BW_2} + 1 = \frac{\sin\beta}{\sin\alpha} + 1,$$

$$\frac{BC}{BW_2} = \frac{BC}{BD} \cdot \frac{BD}{BW_2} = \frac{1}{1 - DC/BC} \cdot \frac{BD}{BW_2} = \frac{1}{1 - AC^2/BC^2} \cdot \frac{BD}{BW_2} =$$

$$\frac{sin^2\alpha}{\sin^2\alpha - \sin^2\beta} \cdot \frac{\sin\beta + \sin\alpha}{\sin\alpha} = \frac{\sin\alpha}{\sin\alpha - \sin\beta}.$$

Note that $AXBC$ is cyclic and so $\angle BXC = \angle BAC = \alpha$. Hence, $\angle XBC = 180^\circ - \angle BXC - \angle BCX = 180^\circ - \alpha - \phi$. By the Law of sines for the triangle BXC, we have

$$\frac{BC}{W_1B} = \frac{W_1C}{W_1B} + 1 = \frac{CX}{BX} + 1 = \frac{\sin\angle CBX}{\sin\phi} + 1 =$$

$$\frac{\sin(\alpha+\phi)}{\sin\phi} + 1 = \sin\alpha\cot\phi + \cos\alpha + 1.$$

So, it's enough to prove that

$$\frac{\sin\alpha}{\sin\alpha - \sin\beta} = \sin\alpha\cot\phi + \cos\alpha.$$

Since AC is tangent to the circle AIX, we have $\angle AXI = \angle IAC = \alpha/2$. Moreover $\angle XAI = \angle XAB + \angle BAI = \phi + \alpha/2$ and $\angle XIA = 180^\circ - \angle XAI - \angle AXI = 180^\circ - \alpha - \phi$. Applying the Law of sines again XAC, XAI, IAC we obtain

$$\frac{AX}{\sin(\alpha+\phi)} = \frac{AI}{\sin\alpha/2},$$

$$\frac{AX}{\sin(\gamma-\phi)} = \frac{AC}{\sin\angle AXC} = \frac{AC}{\sin\beta},$$

$$\frac{AI}{\sin\gamma/2} = \frac{AC}{\sin(\alpha/2+\gamma/2)}.$$

Combining the last three equalities we end up with

$$\frac{\sin(\gamma-\phi)}{\sin(\alpha+\phi)} = \frac{AI}{AC} \cdot \frac{\sin\beta}{\sin\alpha/2} = \frac{\sin\beta}{\sin\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{\sin\gamma/2}{\sin(\alpha/2+\gamma/2)},$$

$$\frac{\sin(\gamma-\phi)}{\sin(\alpha+\phi)} = \frac{\sin\gamma\cot\phi - \cos\gamma}{\sin\alpha\cot\phi + \cos\alpha} = \frac{2\sin\beta/2\sin\gamma/2}{\sin\alpha/2},$$

$$\frac{\sin\alpha\sin\gamma\cot\phi-\sin\alpha\cos\gamma}{\sin\gamma\sin\alpha\cot\phi+\sin\gamma\cos\alpha}=\frac{2\sin\beta/2\cos\alpha/2}{\cos\gamma/2}$$

Subtracting 1 from both sides yields

$$\frac{-\sin\alpha\cos\gamma-\sin\gamma\cos\alpha}{\sin\gamma\sin\alpha\cot\phi+\sin\gamma\cos\alpha}=\frac{2\sin\beta/2\cos\alpha/2}{\cos\gamma/2}-1=$$

$$\frac{2\sin\beta/2\cos\alpha/2-\sin{(\alpha/2+\beta/2)}}{\cos\gamma/2}=\frac{\sin\beta/2\cos\alpha/2-\sin\alpha/2\cos\beta/2}{\cos\gamma/2},$$

$$\frac{-\sin(\alpha+\gamma)}{\sin\gamma\sin\alpha\cot\phi+\sin\gamma\cos\alpha}=\frac{\sin{(\beta/2-\alpha/2)}}{\cos\gamma/2},$$

$$\frac{-\sin\beta}{\sin\alpha\cot\phi+\cos\alpha}=2\sin\gamma/2\sin{(\beta/2-\alpha/2)}=$$

$$2\cos{(\beta/2+\alpha/2)}\sin{(\beta/2-\alpha/2)}=\sin\beta-\sin\alpha,$$

and the result follows. We are left to note that none of the denominators can vanish.

Solution by Achilleas Sinefakopoulos, Greece. We first note that

$$\angle BAD=\angle BAC-\angle DAC=\angle A-\angle B.$$

Let CX and AD meet at K. Then $\angle CXA=\angle ABC=\angle KAC$. Also, we have $\angle IXA=\angle A/2$, since ω is tangent to AC at A. Therefore,

$$\angle DAI=|\angle B-\angle A/2|=|\angle KXA-\angle IXA|=\angle KXI,$$

(the absolute value depends on whether $\angle B\geq\angle A/2$ or not) which means that $XKIA$ is cyclic, i.e. K lies also on ω.

Let IK meet BC at E. (If $\angle B=\angle A/2$, then IK degenerates to the tangent line to ω at I.) Note that $BEIA$ is cyclic, because

$$\angle EIA=180^\circ-\angle KXA=180^\circ-\angle ABE.$$

We have $\angle EKA=180^\circ-\angle AXI=180^\circ-\angle A/2$ and $\angle AEI=\angle ABI=\angle B/2$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned}\angle EAK&=180^\circ-\angle EKA-\angle AEI\\&=180^\circ-(180^\circ-\angle A/2)-\angle B/2\\&=(\angle A-\angle B)/2\\&=\angle BAD/2.\end{aligned}$$

This means that AE is the angle bisector of $\angle BAD$. Next, let M be the point of intersection of AE and BI. Then

$$\angle EMI=180^\circ-\angle B/2-\angle BAD/2=180^\circ-\angle A/2,$$

and so, its supplement is

$$\angle AMI = \angle A/2 = \angle AXI,$$

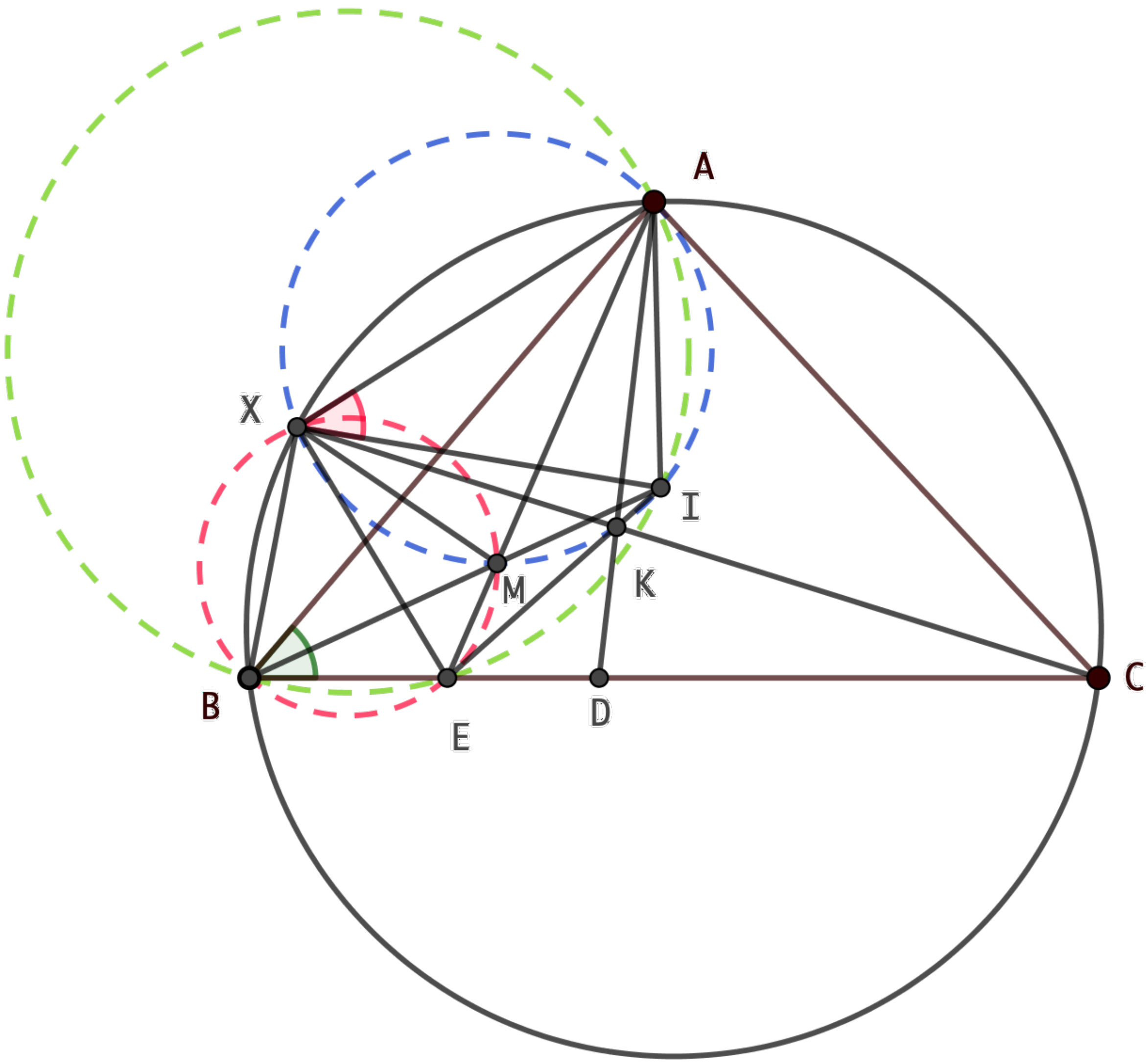
so X, M, K, I, A all lie on ω. Next, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\angle XMA &= \angle XKA \\
&= 180^\circ - \angle ADC - \angle XCB \\
&= 180^\circ - \angle A - \angle XCB \\
&= \angle B + \angle XCA \\
&= \angle B + \angle XBA \\
&= \angle XBE,
\end{aligned}$$

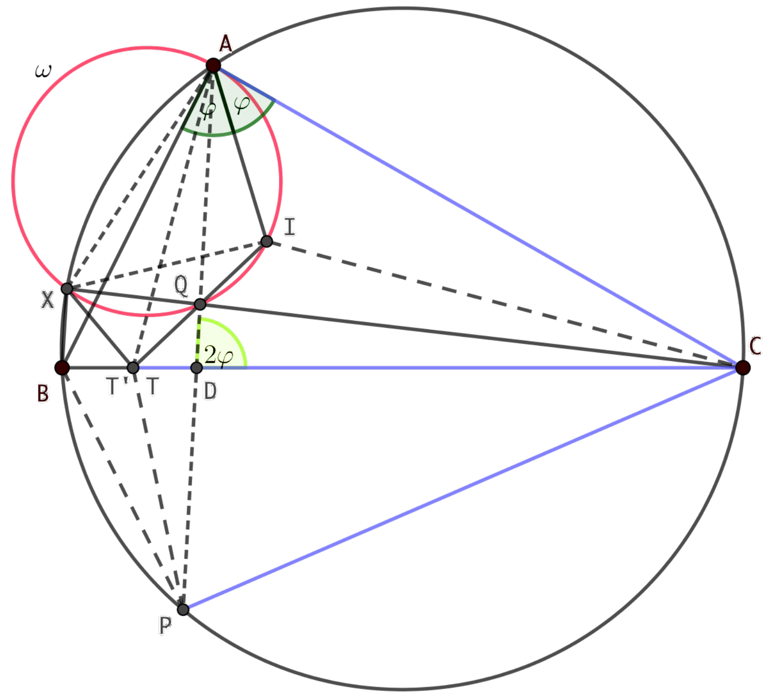
and so X, B, E, M are concyclic. Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
\angle EXC &= \angle EXM + \angle MXC \\
&= \angle MBE + \angle MAK \\
&= \angle B/2 + \angle BAD/2 \\
&= \angle A/2 \\
&= \angle BXC/2.
\end{aligned}$$

This means that XE is the angle bisector of $\angle BXC$ and so we are done!



Solution based on that by Eirini Miliori (HEL2), edited by A. Sinefakopoulos, Greece. It is $\angle ABD = \angle DAC$, and so $\overline{AC}$ is tangent to the circumcircle of $\triangle BAD$ at A. Hence $CA^2 = CD \cdot CB$.



Triangle $\triangle ABC$ is similar to triangle $\triangle CAD$, because $\angle C$ is a common angle and $\angle CAD = \angle ABC$, and so $\angle ADC = \angle BAC = 2\varphi$.

Let Q be the point of intersection of $\overline{AD}$ and $\overline{CX}$. Since $\angle BXC = \angle BAC = 2\varphi$, it follows that $BDQX$ is cyclic.Therefore, $CD \cdot CB = CQ \cdot CX = CA^2$ which implies that Q lies on ω.

Next let P be the point of intersection of $\overline{AD}$ with the circumcircle of triangle $\triangle ABC$. Then $\angle PBC = \angle PAC = \angle ABC = \angle APC$ yielding $CA = CP$. So, let T be on the side $\overline{BC}$ such that $CT = CA = CP$. Then

$$\angle TAD = \angle TAC - \angle DAC = \left(90^\circ - \frac{\angle C}{2}\right) - \angle B = \frac{\angle A - \angle B}{2} = \frac{\angle BAD}{2},$$

that is, line $\overline{AT}$ is the angle bisector of $\angle BAD$. We want to show that $\overline{XT}$ is the angle bisector of $\angle BXC$. To this end, it suffices to show that $\angle TXC = \varphi$.

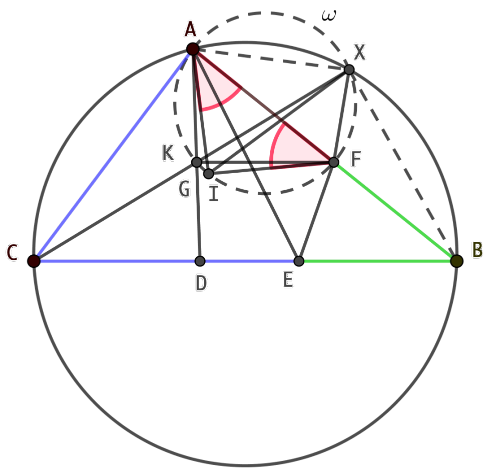
It is $CT^2 = CA^2 = CQ \cdot CX$, and so $\overline{CT}$ is tangent to the circumcircle of $\triangle XTQ$ at T. Since $\angle TXQ = \angle QTC$ and $\angle QDC = 2\varphi$, it suffices to show that $\angle TQD = \varphi$, or, in other words, that I, Q, and T are collinear.

Let T' is the point of intersection of $\overline{IQ}$ and $\overline{BC}$. Then $\triangle AIC$ is congruent to $\triangle T'IC$, since they share $\overline{CI}$ as a common side, $\angle ACI = \angle T'CI$, and

$$\angle IT'D = 2\varphi - \angle T'QD = 2\varphi - \angle IQA = 2\varphi - \angle IXA = \varphi = \angle IAC.$$

Therefore, $CT' = CA = CT$, which means that T coincides with T' and completes the proof.

Solution based on the work of Artemis-Chrysanthi Savva (HEL4), completed by A. Sinefakopoulos, Greece. Let G be the point of intersection of $\overline{AD}$ and $\overline{CX}$. Since the quadrilateral $AXBC$ is cyclic, it is $\angle AXC = \angle ABC$.



Let the line $\overline{AD}$ meet ω at K. Then it is $\angle AXK = \angle CAD = \angle ABC$, because the angle that is formed by a chord and a tangent to the circle at an endpoint of the chord equals the inscribed angle to that chord. Therefore, $\angle AXK = \angle AXC = \angle AXG$. This means that the point G coincides with the point K and so G belongs to the circle ω.

Let E be the point of intersection of the angle bisector of $\angle DAB$ with $\overline{BC}$. It suffices to show that

$$\frac{CE}{BE} = \frac{XC}{XB}.$$

Let F be the second point of intersection of ω with $\overline{AB}$. Then we have $\angle IAF = \frac{\angle CAB}{2} = \angle IXF$, where I is the incenter of $\triangle ABC$, because $\angle IAF$ and $\angle IXF$ are inscribed in the same arc of ω. Thus $\triangle AIF$ is isosceles with $AI = IF$. Since I is the incenter of $\triangle ABC$, we have $AF = 2(s-a)$, where $s = (a+b+c)/2$ is the semiperimeter of $\triangle ABC$. Also, it is $CE = AC = b$ because in triangle $\triangle ACE$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\angle AEC &= \angle ABC + \angle BAE \\
&= \angle ABC + \frac{\angle BAD}{2} \\
&= \angle ABC + \frac{\angle BAC - \angle ABC}{2} \\
&= 90^\circ - \frac{\angle ACE}{2},
\end{aligned}$$

and so $\angle CAE = 180^\circ - \angle AEC - \angle ACE = 90^\circ - \frac{\angle ACE}{2} = \angle AEC$. Hence

$$BF = BA - AF = c - 2(s-a) = a - b = CB - CE = BE.$$

Moreover, triangle $\triangle CAX$ is similar to triangle $\triangle BFX$, because $\angle ACX = \angle FBX$ and

$$\angle XFB = \angle XAF + \angle AXF = \angle XAF + \angle CAF = \angle CAX.$$

Therefore

$$\frac{CE}{BE} = \frac{AC}{BF} = \frac{XC}{XB},$$

as desired. The proof is complete.

Solution by IRL1 and IRL 5. Let ω denote the circle through A and I tangent to AC. Let Y be the second point of intersection of the circle ω with the line AD. Let L

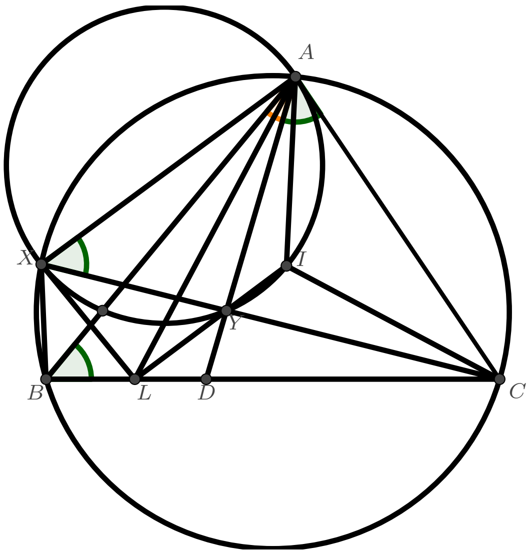
be the intersection of BC with the angle bisector of $\angle BAD$. We will prove $\angle LXC = 1/2\angle BAC = 1/2\angle BXC$.

We will refer to the angles of $\triangle ABC$ as $\angle A, \angle B, \angle C$. Thus $\angle BAD = \angle A - \angle B$.

On the circumcircle of $\triangle ABC$, we have $\angle AXC = \angle ABC = \angle CAD$, and since AC is tangent to ω, we have $\angle CAD = \angle CAY = \angle AXY$. Hence C, X, Y are collinear.

Also note that $\triangle CAL$ is isosceles with $\angle CAL = \angle CLA = \frac{1}{2}(\angle BAD) + \angle ABC = \frac{1}{2}(\angle A + \angle B)$ hence $AC = CL$. Moreover, CI is angle bisector to $\angle ACL$ so it's the symmetry axis for the triangle, hence $\angle ILC = \angle IAC = 1/2\angle A$ and $\angle ALI = \angle LIA = 1/2\angle B$. Since AC is tangent to ω, we have $\angle AYI = \angle IAC = 1/2\angle A = \angle LAY + \angle ALI$. Hence L, Y, I are collinear.

Since AC is tangent to ω, we have $\triangle CAY \sim \triangle CXA$ hence $CA^2 = CX \cdot CY$. However we proved $CA = CL$ hence $CL^2 = CX \cdot CY$. Hence $\triangle CLY \sim \triangle CXL$ and hence $\angle CXL = \angle CLY = \angle CAI = 1/2\angle A$.



Solution by IRL 5. Let M be the midpoint of the arc BC. Let ω denote the circle through A and I tangent to AC. Let N be the second point of intersection of ω with AB and L the intersection of BC with the angle bisector of $\angle BAD$. We know $\frac{DL}{LB} = \frac{AD}{AB}$ and want to prove $\frac{XB}{XC} = \frac{LB}{LC}$.

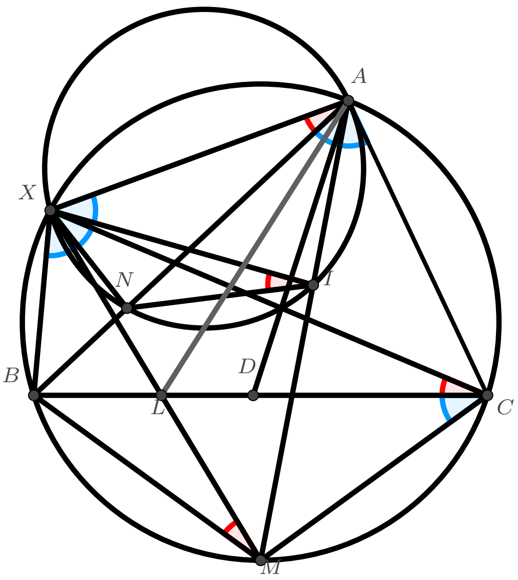
First note that $\triangle CAL$ is isosceles with $\angle CAL = \angle CLA = \frac{1}{2}(\angle BAD) + \angle ABC$ hence $AC = CL$ and $\frac{LB}{LC} = \frac{LB}{AC}$.

Now we calculate $\frac{XB}{XC}$:

Comparing angles on the circles ω and the circumcircle of $\triangle ABC$ we get $\triangle XIN \sim \triangle XMB$ and hence also $\triangle XIM \sim \triangle XNB$ (having equal angles at X and proportional adjoint sides). Hence $\frac{XB}{XM} = \frac{NB}{IM}$.

Also comparing angles on the circles ω and the circumcircle of $\triangle ABC$ and using the tangent AC we get $\triangle XAI \sim \triangle XCM$ and hence also $\triangle XAC \sim \triangle XIM$. Hence $\frac{XC}{XM} = \frac{AC}{IM}$.

Comparing the last two equations we get $\frac{XB}{XC} = \frac{NB}{AC}$. Comparing with $\frac{LB}{LC} = \frac{LB}{AC}$, it remains to prove $NB = LB$.



We prove $\triangle INB \equiv \triangle ILB$ as follows:

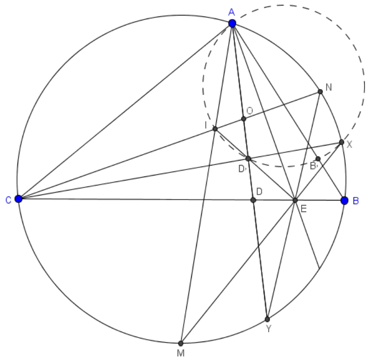
First, we note that I is the circumcentre of $\triangle ALN$. Indeed, CI is angle bisector in the isosceles triangle ACL so it's perpendicular bisector for AL. As well, $\triangle IAN$ is isosceles with $\angle INA = \angle CAI = \angle IAB$ hence I is also on the perpendicular bisector of AN.

Hence $IN = IL$ and also $\angle NIL = 2\angle NAL = \angle A - \angle B = 2\angle NIB$ (the last angle is calculated using that the exterior angle of $\triangle NIB$ is $\angle INA = \angle A/2$. Hence $\angle NIB = \angle LIB$ and $\triangle INB \equiv \triangle ILB$ by SAS.

Solution by ISR5 (with help from IRL5). Let M, N be the midpoints of arcs BC, BA of the circumcircle ABC, respectively. Let Y be the second intersection of AD and circle ABC. Let E be the incenter of triangle ABY and note that E lies on the angle bisectors of the triangle, which are the lines YN (immediate), BC (since $\angle CBY = \angle CAY = \angle CAD = \angle ABC$) and the angle bisector of $\angle DAB$; so the question reduces to showing that E is also on XM, which is the angle bisector of $\angle CXB$.

We claim that the three lines CX, ADY, IE are concurrent at a point D'. We will complete the proof using this fact, and the proof will appear at the end (and see the solution by HEL5 for an alternative proof of this fact).

To show that XEM are collinear, we construct a projective transformation which projects M to X through center E. We produce it as a composition of three other projections. Let O be the intersection of lines $AD'DY$ and CIN. Projecting the points $YNCM$ on the circle ABC through the (concyclic) point A to the line CN yields the points $ONCI$. Projecting these points through E to the line AY yields $OYDD'$ (here we use the facts that D' lies on IE and AY). Projecting these points to the circle ABC through C yields $NYBX$ (here we use the fact that D' lies on CX). Composing, we observe that we found a projection of the circle ABC to itself sending $YNCM$ to $NYBX$. Since the projection of the circle through E also sends YNC to NYB, and three points determine a projective transformation, the projection through E also sends M to X, as claimed.



Let B', D' be the intersections of AB, AD with the circle AXI, respectively. We wish to show that this D' is the concurrency point defined above, i.e. that $CD'X$ and $ID'E$ are collinear. Additionally, we will show that I is the circumcenter of $AB'E$.

Consider the inversion with center C and radius CA. The circles AXI and ABD are tangent to CA at A (the former by definition, the latter since $\angle CAD = \angle ABC$), so they are preserved under the inversion. In particular, the inversion transposes D and B and preserves A, so sends the circle CAB to the line AD. Thus X, which is the second intersection of circles ABC and AXI, is sent by the inversion to the second intersection of AD and circle AXI, which is D'. In particular $CD'X$ are collinear.

In the circle AIB', AI is the angle bisector of $B'A$ and the tangent at A, so I is the midpoint of the arc AB', and in particular $AI = IB'$. By angle chasing, we find that ACE is an isosceles triangle:

$$\angle CAE = \angle CAD + \angle DAE = \angle ABC + \angle EAB = \angle ABE + \angle EAB = \angle AEB = \angle AEC,$$

thus the angle bisector CI is the perpendicular bisector of AE and $AI = IE$. Thus I is the circumcenter of $AB'E$.

We can now show that $ID'E$ are collinear by angle chasing:

$$\angle EIB' = 2\angle EAB' = 2\angle EAB = \angle DAB = \angle D'AB' = \angle D'IB'.$$

Solution inspired by ISR2. Let W be the midpoint of arc BC, let D' be the second intersection point of AD and the circle ABC. Let P be the intersection of the angle bisector XW of $\angle CXB$ with BC; we wish to prove that AP is the angle bisector of DAB. Denote $\alpha = \frac{\angle CAB}{2}$, $\beta = \angle ABC$.

Let M be the intersection of AD and XC. Angle chasing finds:

$$\begin{aligned}\angle MXI &= \angle AXI - \angle AXM = \angle CAI - \angle AXC = \angle CAI - \angle ABC = \alpha - \beta \\ &= \angle CAI - \angle CAD = \angle DAI = \angle MAI\end{aligned}$$

And in particular M is on ω. By angle chasing we find

$$\angle XIA = \angle IXA + \angle XAI = \angle ICA + \angle XAI = \angle XAC = \angle XBC = \angle XBP$$

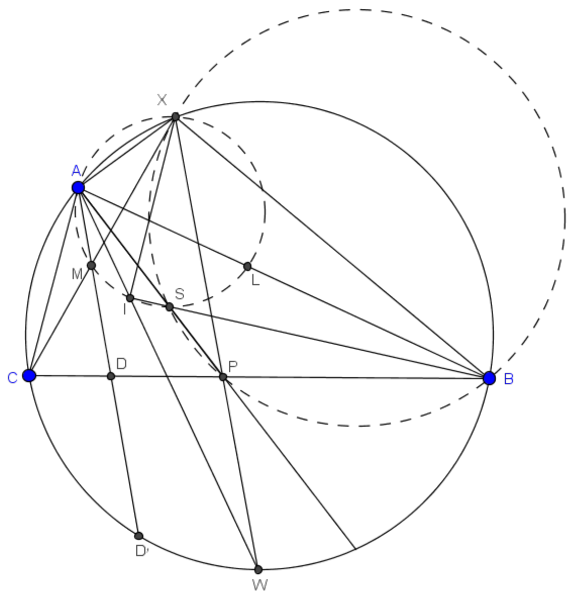
and $\angle PXB = \alpha = \angle CAI = \angle AXI$, and it follows that $\triangle XIA \sim \triangle XBP$. Let S be the second intersection point of the cirumcircles of XIA and XBP. Then by the spiral map lemma (or by the equivalent angle chasing) it follows that ISB and ASP are collinear.

Let L be the second intersection of ω and AB. We want to prove that ASP is the angle bisector of $\angle DAB = \angle MAL$, i.e. that S is the midpoint of the arc ML of ω. And this follows easily from chasing angular arc lengths in ω:

$$\widehat{AI} = \angle CAI = \alpha$$
$$\widehat{IL} = \angle IAL = \alpha$$
$$\widehat{MI} = \angle MXI = \alpha - \beta$$
$$\widehat{AI} - \widehat{SL} = \angle ABI = \tfrac{\beta}{2}$$

And thus

$$\widehat{ML} = \widehat{MI} + \widehat{IL} = 2\alpha - \beta = 2(\widehat{AI} - \tfrac{\beta}{2}) = 2\widehat{SL}.$$



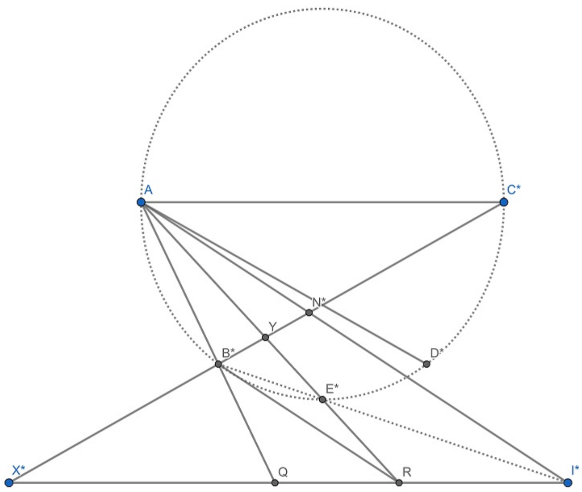
Solution by inversion, by JPN Observer A, Satoshi Hayakawa. Let E be the intersection of the bisector of $\angle BAD$ and BC, and N be the middle point of arc BC of the circumcircle of ABC. Then it suffices to show that E is on line XN.

We consider the inversion at A. Let P^* be the image of a point denoted by P. Then A, B^*, C^*, E^* are concyclic, X^*, B^*, C^* are colinear, and X^*I^* and AC^* are parallel. Now it suffices to show that A, X^*, E^*, N^* are concyclic. Let Y be the intersection of B^*C^* and AE^*. Then, by the power of a point, we get

$$\begin{aligned} A, X^*, E^*, N^* \text{ are concyclic} &\iff YX^* \cdot YN^* = YA \cdot YE^* \\ &\iff YX^* \cdot YN^* = YB^* \cdot YC^*. \\ &\qquad (A, B^*, C^*, E^* \text{ are concyclic}) \end{aligned}$$

Here, by the property of inversion, we have

$$\angle AI^*B^* = \angle ABI = \frac{1}{2}\angle ABC = \frac{1}{2}\angle C^*AD^*.$$



Define Q, R as described in the figure, and we get by simple angle chasing

$$\angle QAI^* = \angle QI^*A, \quad \angle RAI^* = \angle B^*I^*A.$$

Especially, B^*R and AI^* are parallel, so that we have

$$\frac{YB^*}{YN^*} = \frac{YR}{YA} = \frac{YX^*}{YC^*},$$

and the proof is completed.