

BRUCE SHAWYER
 Department of Mathematics and Statistics
 Memorial University of Newfoundland
 St. John's, Newfoundland
 CANADA. A1C 5S7

Problem 2441. Suppose that D, E, F are the mid-points of the sides BC, CA, AB of $\triangle ABC$. The incircle of $\triangle AEF$ touches EF at X , the incircle of $\triangle BFD$ touches FD at Y , and the incircle of $\triangle CDE$ touches DE at Z . Show that DX, EY, FZ are collinear. What is the intersection point?

Solution 2441. Let $AB = c, BC = a, AC = b$. Then

$$AE = EC = FD = \frac{b}{2}; AF = FB = ED = \frac{c}{2}; BD = DC = EF = \frac{a}{2}.$$

The incircles of the triangles AEF, BFD, CDE touch EF, FD, ED at X, Y, Z respectively. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} FY &= P_{FBD} - BD = \frac{-a+b+c}{4}; YD = P_{FBD} - FB = \frac{a+b-c}{4}; \\ DZ &= P_{EDC} - EC = \frac{a+c-b}{4}; ZE = P_{EDC} - CD = \frac{b+c-a}{4}; \\ EX &= P_{AFE} - AF = \frac{a+b-c}{4}; XF = P_{AFE} - AE = \frac{a+c-b}{4}. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

We calculate an expression

$$\frac{FY}{YD} \frac{DZ}{ZE} \frac{EX}{XF} = \frac{-a+b+c}{a+b-c} \frac{a+c-b}{b+c-a} \frac{a+b-c}{a+c-b} = 1.$$

According to Ceva's theorem we get that DX, EY, FZ are collinear.

From (1) it follows that the excircles of $\triangle FDE$ touch its sides at the points X, Y, Z , i. e. the intersection point N is the point of Nagel for $\triangle FDE$.

