

## Trisect a Line Segment (5)

Method:

- 1) Construct a segment AB
- 2) Draw an arbitrary segment AI on point A but not-coincident with AB
- 3) Take an arbitrary point C on segment AI
- 4) Construct segment AC, then segment AD on segment AI such that  $AC = CD$
- 5) Construct segment BJ on point B that is parallel to segment AI
- 6) Construct segments BE and EF on segment BJ such that  $BE = EF = AC = CD$
- 7) Connect points C and F and call it segment CF
- 8) Connect points D and E and call it segment DE
- 9) Segments CF and DE intersect segment AB at G and H respectively.

*Claim: Points G and H trisect segment AB.*

Proof:

Consider  $\triangle ACG$  and  $\triangle ADH$ ,

$$\angle CAG = \angle DAH \quad (\text{Same angles})$$

$$AC = CD \quad (\text{By construction})$$

$$\angle ACG = \angle ADH \quad (\text{CF and DE are transversals to parallel lines AI and BJ})$$

So,  $\triangle ACG$  and  $\triangle ADH$  are similar triangles.

Since,  $AC = CD$ , hence  $AG = GH$

By similar argument we can show that  $\triangle BEH$  and  $\triangle BGF$  are similar triangles. Hence,  $BH = HG$  (as  $BE = EF$ )

Now for,  $\triangle ACG$  and  $\triangle BEH$

- $\angle A = \angle B$  (AB is transversal to parallel lines AI and BJ)
- $AC = BE$  (by construction)
- $\angle ACG = \angle BEH$  (CF and DE are transversals to parallel lines AI and BJ)

Hence,  $\triangle ACG = \triangle BEH$  (A-A-S rule). So,  $AG = BH$

Putting it all together, we have  $AG = GH = BH$

Hence points G and H trisect segment AB.

