

# Solution 254

Let AB=a, BC=x, CD=b, angle AEB=P, angle AEC=Q and angle AED=R

$\frac{BE}{\sin A} = \frac{a}{\sin P}$  and  $\frac{CE}{\sin A} = \frac{a+x}{\sin Q}$ , or  $\frac{BE}{a} = \frac{\sin A}{\sin P}$  and  $\frac{CE}{a+x} = \frac{\sin A}{\sin Q}$   
dividing the first by the second, term for term,

by David Lindell, LS

$$\frac{\frac{BE}{CE}}{\frac{a}{a+x}} = \frac{\frac{\sin A}{\sin P}}{\frac{\sin A}{\sin Q}} \text{ so } \frac{BC}{CE} = \frac{\frac{a}{\sin P}}{\frac{a+x}{\sin Q}} = \frac{a \cdot \sin Q}{(a+x) \cdot \sin P} \dots [1]$$

$$\frac{BE}{\sin(A+R)} = \frac{x+b}{\sin(R-P)} \text{ and } \frac{CE}{\sin(A+R)} = \frac{b}{\sin(R-Q)}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{BE}{x+b} = \frac{\sin(A+R)}{\sin(R-P)} \text{ and } \frac{CE}{b} = \frac{\sin(A+R)}{\sin(R-Q)}$$

$$\text{again dividing and rearranging, } \frac{BC}{CE} = \frac{(x+b) \cdot \sin(R-Q)}{b \cdot \sin(R-P)} \dots [2]$$

equating [1] and [2]:

$$\frac{a \cdot \sin Q}{(a+x) \cdot \sin P} = \frac{(x+b) \cdot \sin(R-Q)}{b \cdot \sin(R-P)} \text{ and}$$

$$\frac{a \cdot b \cdot \sin Q \cdot \sin(R-P)}{\sin P \cdot \sin(R-Q)} = (a+x)(b+x) = ab + (a+b)x + x^2$$

All of the terms on the left are known values:

$$\begin{aligned} & (505.677)(644.493)(\sin 69^\circ 35' 30")(\sin 84^\circ 53' 34") \\ & \quad (\sin 17^\circ 23' 04")(\sin 32^\circ 41' 08") \\ & = (505.677)(644.493) + (505.677 + 644.493) \cdot x + x^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{from which } x^2 + 1,150.17x - 1,559,653.71 = 0$$

$$\text{and by the quadratic equation, } x = \frac{-1,150.17 \pm \sqrt{1,150.17^2 - 4(-1,559,653.71)}}{2}$$

$$x = 799.825$$

