

Theorem B-14

If, in $\triangle ABC$, $AB = AC$, then $\angle ABC \cong \angle ACB$.

Proof. Apply III,5 (and the last part of III,4) with $A' = A$, $B' = C$, $C' = B$.

Definition B-15

Two triangles will be called *congruent* if there exists a one-to-one correspondence between their vertices relative to which corresponding sides are congruent and corresponding angles are congruent. In other words, the triangles are congruent if we can label the vertices A, B, C in one triangle and A', B', C' in the other in such a way that the congruences

$$AB = A'B', \quad AC = A'C', \quad BC = B'C'$$

$$\angle BAC \cong \angle B'A'C', \quad \angle ABC \cong \angle A'B'C', \quad \angle ACB \cong \angle A'C'B'$$

all hold.

Theorem B-16 (Side-Angle-Side, or SAS)

If, in $\triangle ABC$ and $\triangle A'B'C'$, $AB = A'B'$, $AC = A'C'$, and $\angle BAC \cong \angle B'A'C'$, then $\triangle ABC = \triangle A'B'C'$.

Proof. We already know, from III,5 and the note following it, that $\angle ABC \cong \angle A'B'C'$ and $\angle ACB \cong \angle A'C'B'$ (Fig. B-4). It remains to prove $BC = B'C'$. Suppose on the contrary, that this were false. By III,1, choose D' on $\overline{B'C'}$ such that $B'D' = BC$. Applying III,5 to $\triangle ABC$ and $\triangle A'B'D'$ (where $\angle ABC \cong \angle A'B'D'$), we deduce that $\angle BAC \cong \angle B'A'D'$. Since $\angle BAC \cong \angle B'A'C'$ is given, we then have a contradiction to the uniqueness asserted in III,4, since $\overrightarrow{A'D'}$ and $\overrightarrow{A'C'}$ are distinct rays (why?).

From the preceding postulates and theorems, it is possible to deduce the transitivity of angle congruence, the remaining triangle

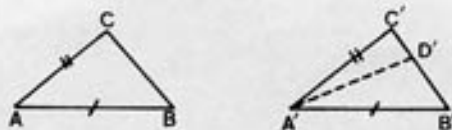


Figure B - 4.