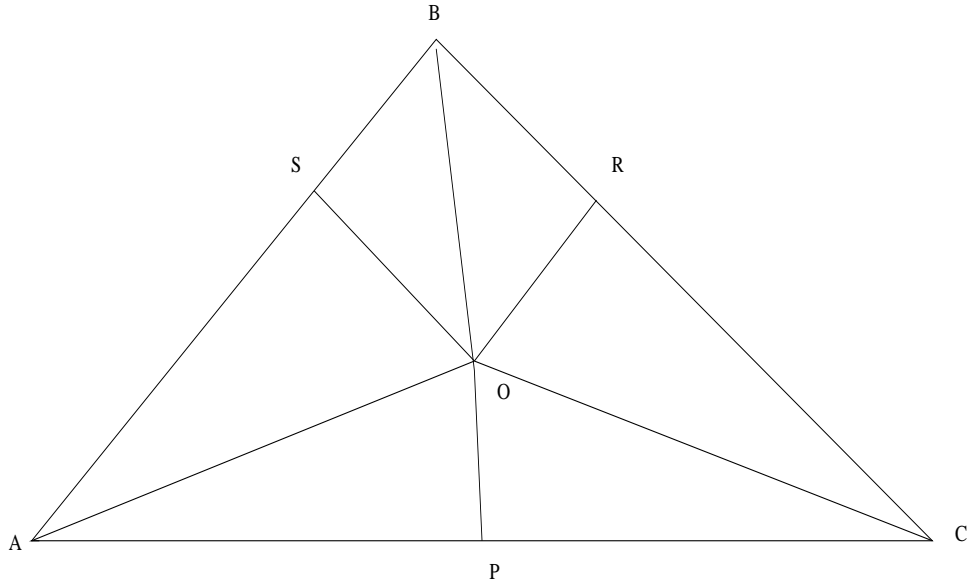


### All Triangles are Isosceles

What is wrong with the following proof that all triangles  $\triangle ABC$  are isosceles?



Draw the bisector of  $\angle ABC$  and the perpendicular bisector of side  $AC$ . These meet at  $O$ . Construct  $OS$  and  $OR$  perpendicular to  $AB$  and  $BC$ , respectively. Draw  $OA$  and  $OC$ .

Since  $|AP| = |PC|$  and  $\angle OPA, \angle OPC$  are right angles,  $\triangle APO \cong \triangle CPO$  are congruent by SAS. Thus  $|AO| = |CO|$ .

$\triangle BOS$  and  $\triangle BOR$  are right triangles with the same hypotenuse and  $\angle OBS = \angle OBR$ . Call this angle  $\theta$ . Then  $|SB| = |BO| \sin(\theta) = |RB|$ . By the Pythagorean theorem,  $|OS| = |OR|$ . (Alternatively, to skip the trig, these two triangles have corresponding angles equal and hence are similar. Since they share a side, they are congruent, so  $|OS| = |OR|$ .)

$\triangle AOS$  and  $\triangle COR$  are right triangles with hypotenuses  $AO$  and  $CO$  of the same length, and with sides  $OS$  and  $OR$  of the same length. Again by the Pythagorean theorem,  $|AS| = |CR|$ .

Therefore,  $|AB| = |AS| + |SB| = |CR| + |RB| = |BC|$ , and  $\triangle ABC$  is isosceles.

Adapted from [euler.slu.edu/Dept/Faculty/clair/math/puzzlers.html](http://euler.slu.edu/Dept/Faculty/clair/math/puzzlers.html)