

Proposition 3.3 Given  $A * B * C$  and  $A * C * D$ . Then  $B * C * D$  and  $A * B * D$  (see Figure 3.9).

*PROOF:*

PART 1:: Proof of  $B * C * D$

(Note: This is copied from Greenberg, but has a clarification on the justification of step 3.)

- (1)  $A, B, C,$  and  $D$  are four distinct collinear points (see Exercise 1).
- (2) There exists a point  $E$  not on the line through  $A, B, C, D$  (Proposition 2.3).
- (3) Consider line  $EC$ . Since (by PART 1 step (1))  $AD$  meets this line in point  $C$ , points  $A$  and  $D$  are on opposite sides of  $EC$ .
- (4) We claim  $A$  and  $B$  are on the same side of  $EC$ . Assume on the contrary that  $A$  and  $B$  are on opposite sides of  $EC$  (RAA hypotheses).
- (5) Then  $EC$  meets  $AB$  in a point between  $A$  and  $B$  (definition of “opposite sides”).
- (6) That point must be  $C$  (Proposition 2.1).
- (7) Thus,  $A * C * B$  but we are given  $A * B * C$ , which contradicts Betweenness Axiom 3.
- (8) Hence,  $A$  and  $B$  are on the same side of  $EC$  (RAA conclusion).
- (9)  $B$  and  $D$  are on opposite sides of  $EC$  (steps 3 and 8 and the corollary to Betweenness Axiom 4).
- (10) Hence, the point  $C$  of intersection of lines  $EC$  and  $CD$  lies between  $B$  and  $D$  (definition of “opposite sides”; Proposition 2.1, i.e., that the point of intersection is unique).
- (11) Therefore,  $B * C * D$ .

PART 2:: Proof of  $A * B * D$

- (1)  $A, B, C,$  and  $D$  are four distinct collinear points (see Exercise 1).
- (2) There exists a point  $E$  not on the line through  $A, B, C, D$  (Proposition 2.3).
- (3) Consider line  $EB$ . Since (by PART 2 step (1))  $AC$  meets this line in point  $B$ , points  $A$  and  $C$  are on opposite sides of  $EB$ .
- (4) We claim  $C$  and  $D$  are on the same side of  $EB$ . Assume on the contrary that  $C$  and  $D$  are on opposite sides of  $EB$  (RAA hypotheses).
- (5) Then  $EB$  meets  $CD$  in a point between  $C$  and  $D$  (definition of “opposite sides”).
- (6) That point must be  $B$  (Proposition 2.1).
- (7) Thus,  $C * B * D$  but from PART 1 we have  $B * C * D$ , which contradicts Betweenness Axiom 3.
- (8) Hence,  $C$  and  $D$  are on the same side of  $EB$  (RAA conclusion).
- (9)  $A$  and  $D$  are on opposite sides of  $EB$  (steps 3 and 8 and the corollary to Betweenness Axiom 4).
- (10) Hence, the point  $B$  of intersection of lines  $EB$  and  $AC$  lies between  $A$  and  $D$  (definition of “opposite sides”; Proposition 2.1, i.e., that the point of intersection is unique).
- (11) Therefore,  $A * B * D$ .

COROLLARY. Given  $A * B * C$  and  $B * C * D$ . Then  $A * B * D$  and  $A * C * D$ .

*PROOF:*

PART 3:: Proof of  $A * C * D$

- (1) By Betweenness Axiom 1, if  $A * B * C$ , then A, B, and C are three distinct collinear points, and if  $B * C * D$ , then B, C, and D are distinct collinear points.
- (2) Assume  $A=D$ .
- (3) Thus,  $D * B * C$  but we are given  $B * C * D$ , which contradicts Betweenness Axiom 3.
- (4) Hence,  $A \neq D$ , and A, B, C, and D are four distinct points.
- (5) By Incidence Axiom 1, B and C uniquely determine a line, let's say  $l$ .
- (6) By PART 3 step (1), A lies on the same line  $l$  as B and C, and D lies on the same line as B and C. So A, B, C, and D are distinct collinear points.
- (7) There exists a point E not on the line through A, B, C, D (Proposition 2.3).
- (8) Consider line EC. Since (by PART 4 step (1)) BD meets this line in point C, points B and D are on opposite sides of EC.
- (9) We claim A and B are on the same side of EC. Assume on the contrary that A and B are on opposite sides of EC (RAA hypotheses).
- (10) Then EC meets AB in a point between A and B (definition of "opposite sides").
- (11) That point must be C (Proposition 2.1).
- (12) Thus,  $A * C * B$  but we are given  $A * B * C$ , which contradicts Betweenness Axiom 3.
- (13) Hence, A and B are on the same side of EC (RAA conclusion).
- (14) A and D are on opposite sides of EC (steps 3 and 8 and the corollary to Betweenness Axiom 4).
- (15) Hence, the point C of intersection of lines EC and AD lies between A and D (definition of "opposite sides"; Proposition 2.1, i.e., that the point of intersection is unique).
- (16) Therefore,  $A * C * D$ .

PART 4:: Proof of  $A * B * D$

- (1) By PART 3 step (4 and 6), A, B, C, and D are distinct collinear points.
- (2) Since  $A * B * C$  is given and Part 3 proves  $A * C * D$ , then by Proposition 3.3,  $A * B * D$ .