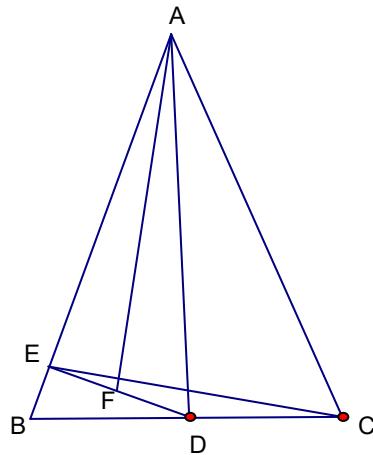


Geometry question

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In triangle ABC , $AB = AC$ and D is the midpoint of side BC . Point E lies on side AB with $DE \perp AB$, and F be the midpoint of segment DE . Prove that $AF \perp EC$.



Solution by Arkady Alt , San Jose, California, USA.

WLOG we can assume that $\|\overrightarrow{AB}\| = \|\overrightarrow{AC}\| = 1$. Then $\overrightarrow{AD} = \frac{1}{2}(\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{AC})$, $\overrightarrow{AD} = \cos \frac{A}{2}$, $\overrightarrow{AE} = \overrightarrow{AB} \cos^2 \frac{A}{2} = \frac{1}{2}\overrightarrow{AB}(1 + \cos A)$, $\overrightarrow{AF} = \frac{1}{2}(\overrightarrow{AE} + \overrightarrow{AD}) = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\overrightarrow{AB}(1 + \cos A) + \frac{1}{2}(\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{AC})\right) = \frac{1}{4}(\overrightarrow{AB}(2 + \cos A) + \overrightarrow{AC})$, $\overrightarrow{EC} = \overrightarrow{AC} - \overrightarrow{AE} = \overrightarrow{AC} - \frac{1}{2}\overrightarrow{AB}(1 + \cos A) = \frac{1}{2}(2\overrightarrow{AC} - \overrightarrow{AB}(1 + \cos A))$.

Hence and since $\overrightarrow{AC} \cdot \overrightarrow{AB} = \cos A$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 8\overrightarrow{AF} \cdot \overrightarrow{EC} &= (\overrightarrow{AC} + \overrightarrow{AB}(2 + \cos A)) \cdot (2\overrightarrow{AC} - \overrightarrow{AB}(1 + \cos A)) = \\ &2\overrightarrow{AC} \cdot \overrightarrow{AC} + \overrightarrow{AB} \cdot \overrightarrow{AC}(3 + \cos A) - \overrightarrow{AB} \cdot \overrightarrow{AB}(2 + \cos A)(1 + \cos A) = \\ &2 + (3 + \cos A)\cos A - (2 + \cos A)(1 + \cos A) = 0 \end{aligned}$$