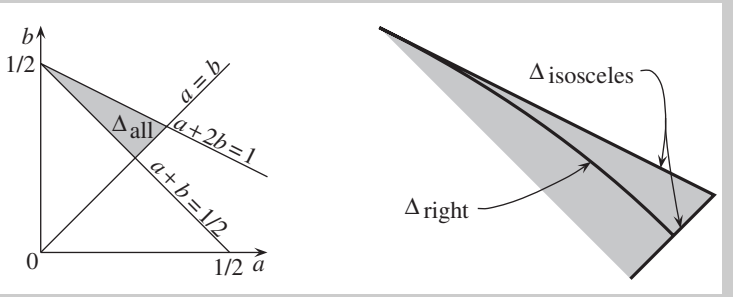
All Triangles at Once

A triangle is determined modulo similarity. This is done by reordering the sides a, b, and c so that $a \le b \le c$ and rescaling so that the perimeter $a + b + c$ is 1, where $(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that

$$\left.\begin{aligned} 0 \le a \le b \le c \\ a + b + c = 1 \\ a \le b + c,\ b \le a + c,\ c \le a + b \end{aligned}\right\} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad (*) \begin{cases} 0 \le a \le b \\ a + 2b \le 1 \\ 1/2 \le a + b \\ c = 1 - a - b \end{cases}.$$

The set $\Delta_{\text{all}} = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (*)\}$ of all "triangles" is itself a triangle. We invite the reader to find Δ_{acute}, Δ_{obtuse}, and $\Delta_{\text{equilateral}}$. We see below where the following classes of triangles lie in Δ_{all}:

$$\Delta_{\text{right}} = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : a^2 + b^2 = c^2\} \quad = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : a + b - ab = 1/2\},$$
$$\Delta_{\text{isosceles}} = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : a = b \vee b = c\} = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : a = b \vee a + 2b = 1\}.$$



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT. Financially supported by a research postgraduate scholarship from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council / School of Computing, University of Kent.

http://dx.doi.org/10.4169/amer.math.monthly.122.10.982
MSC: Primary 51N20