



(NOT TO SCALE)

Straight Out of Argentina

My solution was to set up an Excel file that computed the following:

At point "A" the interior angle was first set to be 90°. This was to be the variable.

(The angle could be converted to radians at this step or at the end.)

With a given angle at "A" the diagonal BD was computed by the Law of Cosines:

$$BD^2 = AB^2 + AD^2 - 2 \cdot AB \cdot AD \cdot \cos A$$

The computed diagonal length and sides AB and AD were used to compute area ABD by

Heron's formula:

$$\sqrt{(s)(s - AB)(s - AD)(s - BD)}, \text{ where } s = \frac{AB + AD + BD}{2}$$

Area BCD was then computed using sides BC, CD, and the calculated diagonal, BD.

The sum of the areas was compared to the known area and noted as over/under.

Angle A was varied, first by increments of 5° to determine a range, and then by

increments of 1° to narrow the range. It converged rapidly to obtain 80°39'10.7"

Angles ABD, ADB, CBD, and CDB were computed from the triangle sides to get the interior angles.

(As a check, the same was done at corner "C" and corner "B" to check the data and see if the solution was unique. It appears to be.)