



planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

Möbius transformation cross-ratio preservation theorem

Canonical name	MobiusTransformationCrossratioPreservationTheorem
Date of creation	2013-03-22 13:35:50
Last modified on	2013-03-22 13:35:50
Owner	rspuzio (6075)
Last modified by	rspuzio (6075)
Numerical id	9
Author	rspuzio (6075)
Entry type	Theorem
Classification	msc 30E20
Related topic	CrossRatio

A Möbius transformation $f : z \mapsto w$ preserves the cross-ratios, i.e.

$$\frac{(w_1 - w_2)(w_3 - w_4)}{(w_1 - w_4)(w_3 - w_2)} = \frac{(z_1 - z_2)(z_3 - z_4)}{(z_1 - z_4)(z_3 - z_2)}$$

Conversely, given two quadruplets which have the same cross-ratio, there exists a Möbius transformation which maps one quadruplet to the other.

A consequence of this result is that the cross-ratio of (a, b, c, d) is the value at a of the Möbius transformation that takes b, c, d , to $1, 0, \infty$ respectively.