

2016 G4

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January 19, 2022

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Let ABC be a triangle with $AB = AC \neq BC$ and let I be its incenter. The line BI meets AC at D , and the line through D perpendicular to AC meets AI at E . Prove that the reflection of I in AC lies on the circumcircle of triangle BDE .

We use barycentric coordinates with reference triangle ABC . Furthermore, let $BC = a, CA = AB = b$. Let I' be the reflection of I in \overline{AC} and N the midpoint of $\overline{II'}$. Since $D = \left(\frac{a}{a+b}, 0, \frac{b}{a+b}\right)$ and $\overline{DE} \perp \overline{CA}$, setting $E = (1 - 2t, t, t)$ we find

$$t = \frac{2b^3}{(a+b)(4b^2 - a^2)},$$

so

$$E = (4ab^2 - a^3 - a^2b : 2b^3 : 2b^3).$$

It is clear that $N = \left(\frac{a}{2b}, 0, 1 - \frac{a}{2b}\right)$. Then,

$$I' = 2N - I = (a(a+b) : -b^2 : 3b^2 - a^2).$$

Now, let the equation of (BDI') be

$$-a^2yz - b^2zx - c^2xy + (x+y+z)(x\alpha + y\beta + z\gamma) = 0.$$

Since B lies on the circle, $\beta = 0$. From D on the circle, we find

$$a(a+b)\alpha + b(a+b)\gamma = ab^2(b).$$

From I' on the circle and a bunch of simplification, we have

$$a(a+b)\alpha + (3b^2 - a^2)\gamma = ab^2(b-a).$$

Thus, we find

$$\alpha = \frac{2b^5}{(a+b)(a+2b)(b-a)}, \gamma = -\frac{a^2b^2}{(a+2b)(b-a)}.$$

Plugging in E we see

$$\begin{aligned} & -4a^2b^6 - 4b^5(4ab^2 - a^3 - a^2b) + \frac{2b^5(4ab^3 - a^3 - a^2b)(2b-a)}{b-a} - \frac{2a^2b^5(2b-a)(a+b)}{b-a} \\ &= 2b^5 \left(2a^3 - 8ab^2 + \frac{8ab^3 - 2a^3b - 8a^2b^2 + 2a^4}{b-a} \right) \\ &= 2b^5(2a^3 - 8ab^2 - 2a^3 + 8ab^2) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

so E lies on the circle as desired. ■