

2003 G2

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Three distinct points A , B , and C are fixed on a line in this order. Let Γ be a circle passing through A and C whose center does not lie on the line AC . Denote by P the intersection of the tangents to Γ at A and C . Suppose Γ meets the segment PB at Q . Prove that the intersection of the bisector of $\angle AQC$ and the line AC does not depend on the choice of Γ .

By properties of harmonic quads we find \overline{BQ} is the Q -symmedian of $\triangle AQC$. Therefore,

$$\frac{AB}{BC} = \left(\frac{AQ}{QC} \right)^2.$$

Thus, if the bisector of $\angle AQC$ meets \overline{AC} at T , then

$$\frac{AT}{TC} = \frac{AQ}{QC} = \sqrt{\frac{AB}{BC}},$$

which does not depend on the choice of Γ , as we wanted to show. ■