

# 2017 TSTST #1

Tristan Shin

24 Jun 2017

Let  $ABC$  be a triangle with circumcircle  $\Gamma$ , circumcenter  $O$ , and orthocenter  $H$ . Assume that  $AB \neq AC$  and that  $\angle A \neq 90^\circ$ . Let  $M$  and  $N$  be the midpoints of sides  $AB$  and  $AC$ , respectively, and let  $E$  and  $F$  be the feet of the altitudes from  $B$  and  $C$  in  $\triangle ABC$ , respectively. Let  $P$  be the intersection of line  $MN$  with the tangent line to  $\Gamma$  at  $A$ . Let  $Q$  be the intersection point, other than  $A$ , of  $\Gamma$  with the circumcircle of  $\triangle AEF$ . Let  $R$  be the intersection of lines  $AQ$  and  $EF$ . Prove that  $PR \perp OH$ .

Let  $D$  be the foot of the altitude from  $A$  in  $\triangle ABC$ .

I claim that  $D$  and  $R$  are harmonic conjugates with respect to  $B$  and  $C$ .

Since  $\angle BFC = \frac{\pi}{2} = \angle BEC$ , we have that  $BFEC$  is cyclic. Then by the existence of the radical center on  $\Gamma$ ,  $(AEF)$ , and  $(BFEC)$ , we see that  $AQ$ ,  $EF$ , and  $BC$  are concurrent. Thus,  $R$  lies on  $BC$ . Then  $R = BC \cap EF$ , so by Ceva-Menelaus duality,  $(B, C; D, R) = -1$ .

We now discard all dignity that we have and proceed by barycentric coordinates with reference triangle  $\triangle ABC$ .

Let  $A = (1, 0, 0)$ ,  $B = (0, 1, 0)$ , and  $C = (0, 0, 1)$ . Then Strong EFFT gives that the equation of line  $AP$  is

$$c^2y + b^2z = 0.$$

Since  $M = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 0)$  and  $N = (\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2})$ , the equation of line  $MN$  is

$$x - y - z = 0.$$

Solving these with  $x + y + z = 1$  gives the unique solution of

$$P = \left( \frac{1}{2}, \frac{b^2}{2(b^2 - c^2)}, -\frac{c^2}{2(b^2 - c^2)} \right).$$

Now, using Conway's notation of  $S_A = \frac{b^2 + c^2 - a^2}{2}$  and similarly for  $B$  and  $C$ , we have that  $H = (S_B S_C : S_C S_A : S_A S_B)$ , so  $D = (0 : S_C : S_B)$ , so  $\frac{BD}{DC} = \frac{S_B}{S_C}$  (directed segments). Since  $(B, C; D, R) = -1$ , we have that  $\frac{BR}{RC} = -\frac{S_B}{S_C}$ . Thus,

$$R = (0 : S_C : -S_B).$$

Normalized,

$$R = \left( 0, \frac{S_C}{b^2 - c^2}, -\frac{S_B}{b^2 - c^2} \right).$$

Thus, the displacement vector  $\overrightarrow{PR}$  is

$$\left[ 0 - \frac{1}{2}, \frac{S_C}{b^2 - c^2} - \frac{b^2}{2(b^2 - c^2)}, -\frac{S_B}{b^2 - c^2} + \frac{c^2}{2(b^2 - c^2)} \right] = \left[ -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{a^2 - c^2}{2(b^2 - c^2)}, \frac{b^2 - a^2}{2(b^2 - c^2)} \right].$$

Since parallel vectors can be considered the same when considering orthogonality, we can multiply by  $-2(b^2 - c^2)$  to get

$$[b^2 - c^2, c^2 - a^2, a^2 - b^2].$$

Now, considering  $O$  to be the origin, we get that

$$\vec{H} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C},$$

so the "displacement vector" for  $\vec{OH}$  would be

$$[1, 1, 1].$$

Then

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 ((c^2 - a^2) \cdot 1 + (a^2 + b^2) \cdot 1) = \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 c^2 - a^2 b^2 = 0,$$

so Strong EFFT implies that  $PR \perp OH$ . ■