Proceedings of the Institute of Natural Sciences, Nihon University
No.51 (2016) pp.317 - 320

A TRIGONOMETRIC PROOF OF THE STEINER-LEHMUS THEOREM IN HYPERBOLIC GEOMETRY

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(Accepted November 11, 2015)

Abstract. We give a trigonometric proof of the Steiner-Lehmus Theorem in hyperbolic geometry. Precisely we show that if two internal bisectors of a triangle on the hyperbolic plane are equal, then the triangle is isosceles.

1. Introduction

In 1844 [6], Steiner gave the first proof of the following theorem. If two internal bisectors of a triangle on the Euclidean plane are equal, then the triangle is isosceles. This had been originally asked by Lehmus in 1840, and now is called the Steiner-Lehmus Theorem. Since then, wide variety of proofs have been given by many people over 170 years. At present, at least 80 different proofs exist. See [4]. For example, in 2008, Hajja gave a short trigonometric proof in [3]. On the other hand, several proofs of this theorem in hyperbolic geometry ware given in [5], [1] and [2]. In [5], the theorem is differently stated, and its hyperbolic trigonometric proof would be incorrect. Then, as a part of study of gyrogroups, the theorem was considered in the homonymous paper [1], and also, an alternative proof was given in [2] by using gyrogroups. In this paper, we correct and complete a hyperbolic trigonometric proof based on [3].

2. Steiner-Lehmus Theorem

Theorem. *If two internal bisectors of a triangle on the Hyperbolic plane are equal, then the triangle is isosceles.*

Proof. We consider a triangle ABC on the hyperbolic plane. See Figure 1. Let B' be the intersection of the side AC and the internal bisector of the angle B. Let C' be the intersection of the side AB and the internal bisector of the angle C. Then BB' and CC' are the internal bisectors of the angles B and C respectively. Let a, b and c be the lenghs of the opposite sides of the angles A, B and C respectively. We set $\beta = B/2$, $\gamma = C/2$, $u = AB'$, $U = B'C$, $v = AC'$, and $V = C'B$.

Date: November 20, 2015.
2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 51M09.
Key words and phrases. Steiner-Lehmus Theorem, hyperbolic geometry.

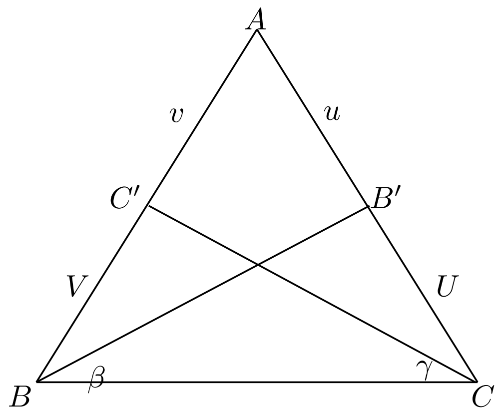

FIGURE 1

We apply the low of sines in hyperbolic geometry to the triangles ABC, BCC', ACC', CBB' and ABB' respectively, then we have the following.

$$\frac{\sinh a}{\sin A} = \frac{\sinh b}{\sin 2\beta} = \frac{\sinh c}{\sin 2\gamma}\ , \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\sinh CC'}{\sin 2\beta} = \frac{\sinh V}{\sin \gamma}\ , \tag{2}$$

$$\frac{\sinh CC'}{\sin A} = \frac{\sinh v}{\sin \gamma}\ , \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{\sinh BB'}{\sin 2\gamma} = \frac{\sinh U}{\sin \beta}\ , \tag{4}$$

$$\frac{\sinh BB'}{\sin A} = \frac{\sinh u}{\sin \beta}\ . \tag{5}$$

We assume $BB' = CC'$ and $C > B$, and lead to contradiction. Since the sum of the interior angles in a hyperbolic triangle is less than π, we have $B < C < \frac{\pi}{2}$, and so, $\sin B < \sin C$. In the following, we show that $U < V$ and $u < v$.
By (2) and (4), we have

$$\frac{\sinh V}{\sin \gamma}\sin 2\beta = \frac{\sinh U}{\sin \beta}\sin 2\gamma\ ,$$
$$\frac{\sinh U}{\sinh V} = \frac{\sin \beta}{\sin \gamma}\frac{\sin 2\beta}{\sin 2\gamma}\ .$$

By (1), we get $\frac{\sin 2\beta}{\sin 2\gamma} = \frac{\sinh b}{\sinh c}$, so we have the following.

$$\frac{\sinh U}{\sinh V} = \frac{\sin \beta}{\sin \gamma}\frac{\sinh b}{\sinh c}\ .$$

Becaue of $\frac{\sin \beta}{\sin \gamma} < 1$ and $\frac{\sinh b}{\sinh c} < 1$, we get $\frac{\sin \beta}{\sin \gamma}\frac{\sinh b}{\sinh c} < 1$.Then we have $\sinh U < \sinh V$. Since the hyperbolic sine function is monotonically increasing, we conclude $U < V$.

Similarly, by (3) and (5),we have

$$\frac{\sinh v}{\sin\gamma} = \frac{\sinh u}{\sin\beta} \ ,$$
$$\frac{\sinh u}{\sinh v} = \frac{\sin\beta}{\sin\gamma} < 1 \ .$$

Therefore we get $\sinh u < \sinh v$, that is, $u < v$.

Now let us consider the ratio and difference of $\frac{\sinh b}{\sinh u}$ and $\frac{\sinh c}{\sinh v}$. First we consider the ratio.

$$\frac{\sinh b}{\sinh u}\Big/\frac{\sinh c}{\sinh v} = \frac{\sinh b}{\sinh u}\frac{\sinh v}{\sinh c} = \frac{\sinh b}{\sinh c}\frac{\sinh v}{\sinh u} \ .$$

We have the following by (1), (3) and (5).

$$\frac{\sinh b}{\sinh c}\frac{\sinh v}{\sinh u} = \frac{\sin 2\beta}{\sin 2\gamma}\frac{\sin\gamma}{\sin\beta} \ .$$

Here, we apply the double-angle formula to $\sin 2\beta, \sin 2\gamma$ respectively.

$$\frac{\sin 2\beta}{\sin 2\gamma}\frac{\sin\gamma}{\sin\beta} = \frac{2\sin\beta\cos\beta}{2\sin\gamma\cos\gamma}\frac{\sin\gamma}{\sin\beta} = \frac{\cos\beta}{\cos\gamma} \ .$$

By assumption $\beta < \gamma$, we have $\cos\beta > \cos\gamma$. So $\frac{\cos\beta}{\cos\gamma} > 1$. Therefore we get the following result.

$$\frac{\sinh b}{\sinh u} > \frac{\sinh c}{\sinh v} \ . \tag{6}$$

Next we consider the difference, as follows

$$\frac{\sinh b}{\sinh u} - \frac{\sinh c}{\sinh v} = \frac{\sinh(U+u)}{\sinh u} - \frac{\sinh(V+v)}{\sinh v} \ .$$

We apply the sum formula to $\sinh(U+u)$ and $\sinh(V+v)$ respectively.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\sinh(U+u)}{\sinh u} - \frac{\sinh(V+v)}{\sinh v} &= \frac{\sinh U\cosh u + \cosh U\sinh u}{\sinh u} - \frac{\sinh V\cosh v + \cosh V\sinh v}{\sinh v} \\ &= \frac{\sinh U}{\sinh u}\cosh u + \cosh U - \frac{\sinh V}{\sinh v}\cosh v - \cosh V \ .\end{aligned}$$

By (4), (5) and (2), (3), $\frac{\sinh U}{\sinh u} = \frac{\sin A}{\sin 2\gamma}$ and $\frac{\sinh V}{\sinh v} = \frac{\sin A}{\sin 2\beta}$ hold, and so, we have the following.

$$\frac{\sinh U}{\sinh u}\cosh u + \cosh U - \frac{\sinh V}{\sinh v}\cosh v - \cosh V = \frac{\sin A}{\sin 2\gamma}\cosh u + \cosh U - \frac{\sin A}{\sin 2\beta}\cosh v - \cosh V \ .$$

Moreover we get the following by (1).

$$\frac{\sin A}{\sin 2\gamma}\cosh u + \cosh U - \frac{\sin A}{\sin 2\beta}\cosh v - \cosh V = \frac{\sinh a}{\sinh c}\cosh u + \cosh U - \frac{\sinh a}{\sinh b}\cosh v - \cosh V \ .$$

By $\sinh c > \sinh b$, we have $\frac{\sinh a}{\sinh b} > \frac{\sinh a}{\sinh c}$. And $\cosh v > \cosh u$ and $\cosh V > \cosh U$ by $u < v$ and $U < V$. Therefore we get the following.

$$\frac{\sinh a}{\sinh c}\cosh u + \cosh U - \frac{\sinh a}{\sinh b}\cosh v - \cosh V < 0 \ .$$

Eventually we conclude the following result.

$$\frac{\sinh b}{\sinh u} < \frac{\sinh c}{\sinh v} \ . \tag{7}$$

A contradiction is led by (6) and (7). □

Accknowledgement

I would like to referee for comments on an error in the earlier version.

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