

# The Associated Harmonic Quadrilateral

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**Abstract.** In this article we study a natural association of a harmonic quadrilateral to every non-parallelogrammic quadrilateral. In addition we investigate the corresponding association in the case of cyclic quadrilaterals and the reconstruction of the quadrilateral from its harmonic associated one. Finally, we associate to a generic quadrilateral a cyclic one.

## 1. Harmonic quadrilaterals

Harmonic quadrilaterals, introduced by Tucker and studied by Neuberg ([1, p.206], [6]) can be defined in various equivalent ways. A simple one is to draw the tangents  $FA, FC$  to a circle  $\kappa$  from a point  $F$  (can be at infinity) and draw also an additional secant  $FBD$  to the circle (see Figure 1(I)). Another definition starts

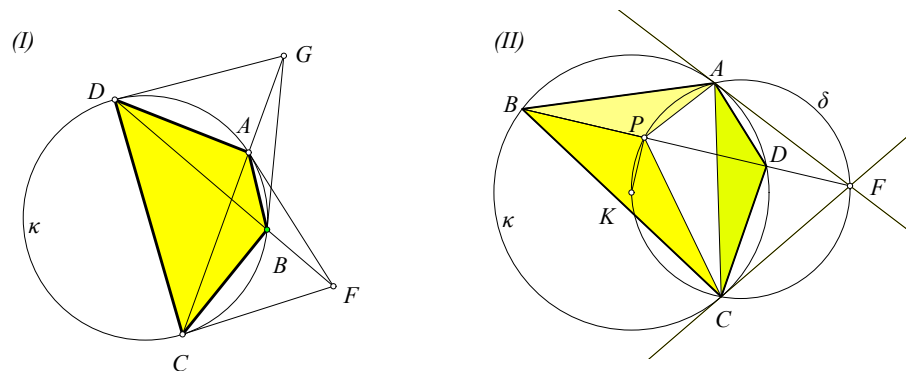


Figure 1. Definition and a basic property

with an arbitrary triangle  $ABD$  and its circumcircle  $\kappa$  and defines  $C$  as the intersection of  $\kappa$  with the symmedian from  $A$ . These convex quadrilaterals have several interesting properties exposed in textbooks and articles ([5, p.100,p.306], [8]). One of them, used in the sequel, is their characterization as convex cyclic quadrilaterals, for which the products of opposite side-lengths are equal  $|AB||CD| = |BC||DA|$  or, equivalently, the ratios of adjacent side-lengths are equal  $\frac{|AB|}{|AD|} = \frac{|CB|}{|CD|}$ . Another property, also used below, deals with a dissection of the quadrilateral in similar triangles (see Figure 1(II)), which I formulate as a lemma without a proof.

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $ABCD$  be a harmonic quadrilateral and  $P$  be the projection of its circumcenter  $K$  onto the diagonal  $BD$ . Then triangles  $ADC$ ,  $APB$  and  $BPC$  are similar. Furthermore, the tangents of its circumcircle at points  $A$  and  $C$  intersect*

at a point  $F$  of the diagonal  $BD$  and the circumcircle  $\delta$  of  $ACF$  passing through  $K$  and  $P$ .

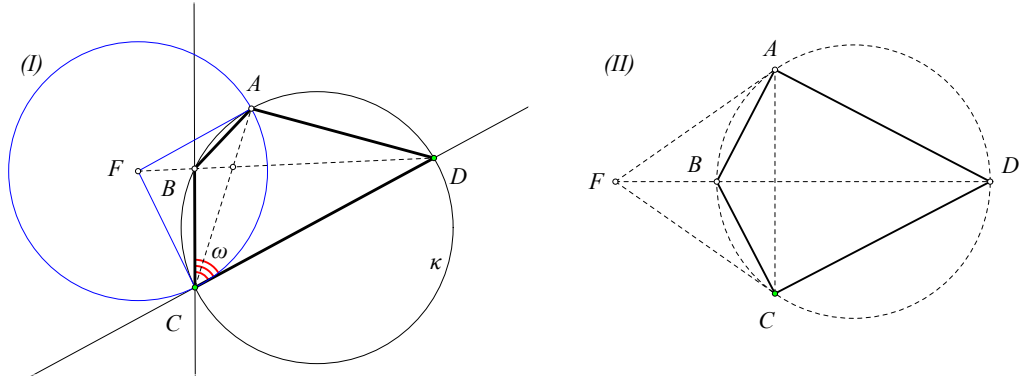


Figure 2. Determination by  $\omega$  and  $r = \frac{|AB|}{|AD|}$

Kite

Note that, up to similarity, a harmonic quadrilateral is uniquely determined by its angle  $\omega = \angle BCD$  and the ratio  $r = \frac{|AB|}{|AD|} = \frac{|CB|}{|CD|}$  (see Figure 2(I)). In fact, fixing the circle  $\kappa$  and taking an inscribed angle of measure  $\omega$ , the angle-sides determine a chord  $BD$  of length depending only on  $\kappa$  and  $\omega$ . Then, points  $A, C$  on both sides of  $BD$  are determined by intersecting  $\kappa$  with the Apollonius circle ([2, p.15]), dividing  $BD$  in the given ratio  $r$ .

A special class of harmonic quadrilaterals, comprising the squares, is the one of *kites*, which are symmetric with respect to one of their diagonals (see Figure 2(II)). Excluding this special case, for all other harmonic quadrilaterals there is a kind of symmetry with respect to the two diagonals, having the consequence, that in all properties, including one of the diagonals, it is irrelevant which one of the two is actually chosen.

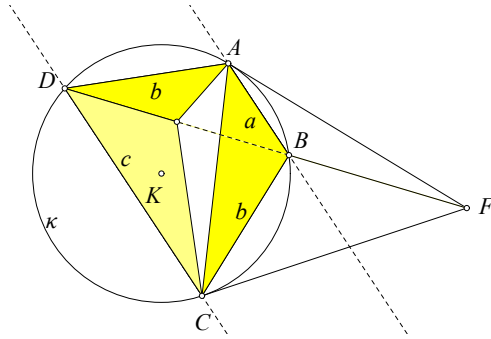


Figure 3. Harmonic trapezia

Another class of special harmonic quadrilaterals is the one of *harmonic trapezia*, comprising all equilateral trapezia with side lengths satisfying  $ac = b^2$  (see Figure

3). This, up to similarity, is also a one-parameter family of harmonic quadrilaterals. Given the circle  $\kappa(r)$ , each harmonic trapezium, inscribed in  $\kappa$ , is determined by the ratio  $k = \frac{a}{b} < 1$  of the small parallel to the non-parallel side-length. A short calculation shows that to each such trapezium corresponds a special triangle  $ABD$  with data

$$a = k'r, \quad b = \frac{k'}{k}r, \quad \cos B = \frac{1 - k^2}{2k},$$

where  $k' = \sqrt{\frac{4k^2 - (1 - k^2)^2}{2}}$ .

## 2. The associated harmonic quadrilateral

In the sequel we restrict ourselves to non-parallelogrammic convex quadrilaterals. For every such quadrilateral  $p = ABCD$  there is a harmonic quadrilateral  $q$ , naturally associated to  $p$ . The next theorem shows how to construct it.

**Theorem 2.** *The two centers  $Z_1, Z_2$  of the similarities  $f_1, f_2$ , mapping respectively  $f_1(A) = C, f_1(B) = D, f_2(B) = D, f_2(C) = A$ , of a non-parallelogrammic quadrilateral  $p = ABCD$ , together with the midpoints  $M, N$  of its diagonals  $AC, BD$ , are the vertices of a harmonic quadrilateral  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$ , whose circumcircle  $\kappa$  passes through the intersection point  $E$  of the diagonals.*

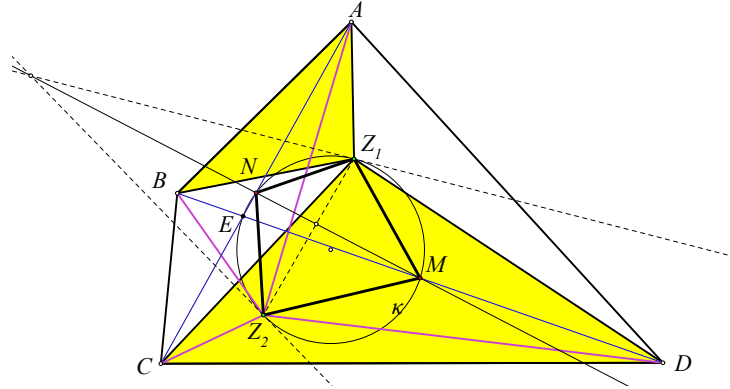


Figure 4. The harmonic quadrilateral associated to a quadrilateral

In fact, let  $\kappa$  be the circle passing through the midpoints  $M, N$  of the diagonals and also passing through their intersection point  $E$ . Some special cases in which point  $E$  is on line  $MN$  are handled below. Point  $Z_1$  is the center of similarity  $f_1$  ([3, p.72], [11, II, p.43]) mapping the triangle  $ABZ_1$  correspondingly onto  $CDZ_1$  (see Figure 4). Analogously, point  $Z_2$  is the center of the similarity mapping the triangle  $BCZ_2$  onto  $DAZ_2$ . It follows easily, that the triangles based on the diagonals,  $ACZ_1$  and  $BDZ_1$ , are also similar, their similarity ratio being equal to those of their medians from  $Z_1$ , as well as their corresponding bases coinciding with the diagonals  $\lambda = \frac{|Z_1N|}{|Z_1M|} = \frac{|AC|}{|BD|}$ . This implies also that the angles formed by corresponding medians of the two similar triangles are equal, i.e.,  $ANZ_1$  and

$EMZ_1$  are equal angles. This implies that  $Z_1$  is on  $\kappa$ . Analogously is seen that  $Z_2$  is also on  $\kappa$  and that the ratio  $\frac{|Z_2N|}{|Z_2M|} = \lambda$ . Thus,

$$\frac{|Z_1N|}{|Z_1M|} = \frac{|Z_2N|}{|Z_2M|},$$

which means that the cyclic quadrilateral  $Z_1MZ_2N$  is harmonic.

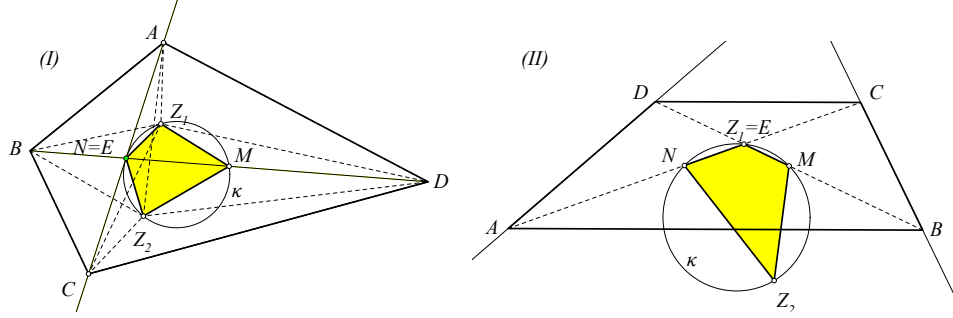


Figure 5. Point  $E$  coinciding with  $N$

Point  $Z_1$  coinciding with  $E$

In the case one of the midpoints of the diagonals coincides with their intersection point ( $N = E$ ) the circle  $\kappa$  passes through the midpoints  $M, N$  of the diagonals and is tangent to the diagonal ( $AC$ ), whose midpoint coincides with  $E$  (see Figure 5(I)). Another particular class is the one of trapezia, characterized by the fact that one of the similarity centers ( $Z_1$ ) coincides with the intersection  $E$  of the diagonals (see Figure 5(II)).

### 3. The inverse construction

Fixing a harmonic quadrilateral  $q$  and selecting two opposite vertices  $Z_1, Z_2$  of it, we can easily construct all convex quadrilaterals  $p$  having the given one as their associated. This reconstruction is based on the following lemma.

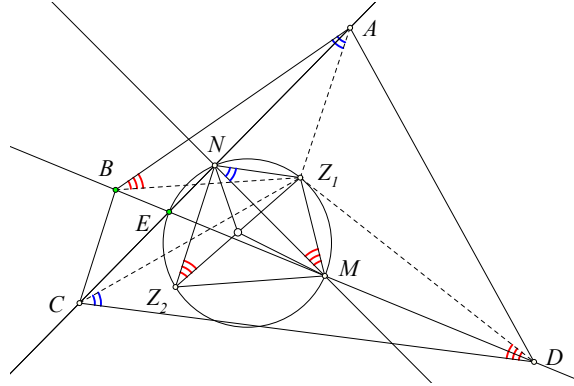


Figure 6. Generating the quadrilateral from its associated harmonic one

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $p = ABCD$  be a convex quadrilateral with associated harmonic one  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$ , such that  $Z_1$  is the similarity center of triangles  $ABZ_1, CDZ_1$ . Then triangle  $NMZ_1$  is also similar to the above triangles.*

In fact, by the Theorem 2, triangles  $ACZ_1, BDZ_1$  are also similar, and  $N$ , being the midpoint of side  $AC$ , maps, by the similarity sending  $ACZ_1$  to  $BDZ_1$ , to the corresponding midpoint  $M$  of  $CD$  (see Figure 6). This implies that triangles  $Z_1AN, Z_1BM$  are also similar, hence  $\frac{|Z_1N|}{|Z_1M|} = \frac{|Z_1A|}{|Z_1B|}$ . Since the rotation angle, involved in the similarity mapping  $ACZ_1$  to  $BDZ_1$ , is the angle  $AZ_1B$ , this angle will be also equal to angle  $NZ_1M$ , thereby proving the similarity of triangles  $ABZ_1$  and  $NMZ_1$ .

Lemma 3 implies that all quadrangles  $p = ABCD$ , having the given quadrangle  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$  as their associated harmonic, are parameterized by the similarities  $f$  with center at  $Z_1$ . For, each such similarity produces a triangle  $ABZ_1 = f(NMZ_1)$  and defines through it the two vertices  $A, B$ . The other two vertices  $C, D$  of the quadrilateral  $p$  are found by taking, correspondingly, the symmetric of  $A, B$  with respect to  $N$  and  $M$ . Note, that, by reversing the argument in Lemma 3, the diagonals  $AC, BD$  of the resulting quadrilateral intersect at a point  $E$  of the circumcircle of the harmonic quadrilateral. Hence their angle is the same with angle  $NZ_1M$ . Also the ratio of the diagonals of  $ABCD$  is equal to the ratio  $\frac{|Z_1N|}{|Z_1M|}$ , thus it is determined by the harmonic quadrilateral  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$ . We have proved the following theorem.

**Theorem 4.** *Given a harmonic quadrilateral  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$ , there is a double infinity of quadrilaterals  $p = ABCD$  having  $q$  as their harmonic associate with similarity centers at  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  and midpoints of diagonals at  $M$  and  $N$ . All these quadrilaterals have their diagonals intersecting at the same angle  $NZ_1M$ , the same ratio  $\frac{|AC|}{|BD|} = \frac{|Z_2N|}{|Z_2M|}$  and their Newton lines coinciding with  $MN$ . Each of these quadrilaterals is characterized by a similarity  $f$  with center at  $Z_1$ , mapping  $f(Z_1NM) = Z_1AB$ .*

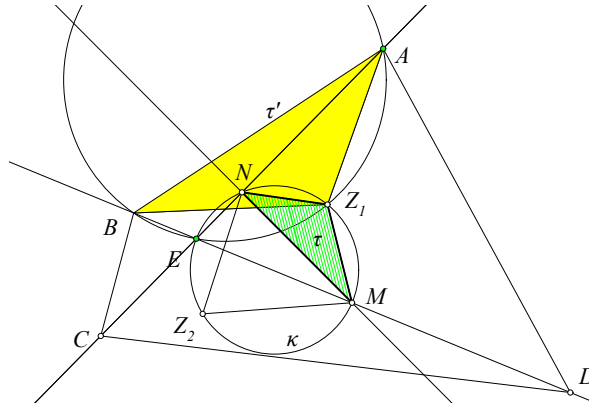


Figure 7. Alternative generation of  $ABCD$  from the harmonic quadrilateral

An alternative way to generate all quadrilaterals with given harmonic associate  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$  and similarity centers at  $Z_1, Z_2$ , is to use a point  $E$  on the circumcircle  $\kappa$  of  $q$ , draw lines  $EM, EN$ , and consider their intersections  $A, C$  with the circles passing through  $E$  and  $Z_1$ . Equivalently, construct all triangles  $Z_1AB$  similar to  $Z_1NM$  and having the vertex  $A$  on line  $EN$ . Then the other vertex  $B$  moves on line  $EN$  ([11, II, p.68]) and  $C, D$  are again, respectively, the symmetric of  $A, B$  with respect to  $N$  and  $M$ . A fourth method is described in §7.

#### 4. Two related similar quadrilaterals

In order to prove some additional properties of our configuration, the following lemma is needed, which, though elementary in character, I could not locate a proof of it in the literature. For the completeness of the exposition I outline a short proof of it.

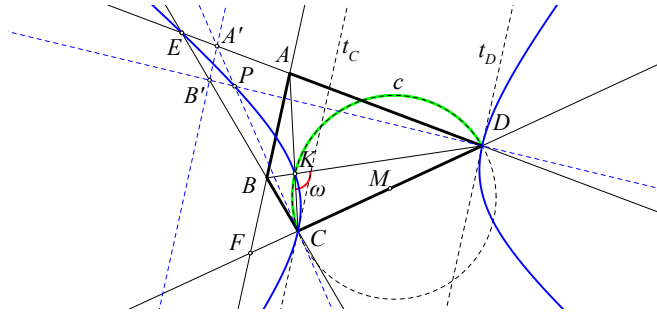


Figure 8. Quadrilateral from angles and angle of diagonals

**Lemma 5.** *Two quadrilaterals having equal corresponding angles and equal angles between diagonals are similar.*

In fact, let  $ABCD$  be a quadrilateral with given angles and the angle  $\omega$  between its diagonals. The two triangles  $ECD, FAD$ , where  $E, F$  are the intersection points of opposite sides, have known angles and are constructible up to similarity. Thus, we can fix triangle  $ECD$  and move a line parallel to  $AF$  intersecting the sides  $EC, ED$  correspondingly at  $B', A'$ . The quadrilateral with the required data must have the angle formed at the intersection point  $P = (A'C, B'D)$  equal to  $\omega$ . This position  $K$  for  $P$  is found as follows (see Figure 8). As  $A'B'$  moves parallel to itself it creates a homographic correspondence  $B' \mapsto A'$  between the points of the lines  $EC$  and  $ED$  and induces a corresponding homography between the pencils of lines at  $C$  and  $D$ . Then, according to the Chasles-Steiner theorem, the intersection point  $P$  of corresponding rays  $CA', DB'$  describes a conic ([9, p.109]). It is easily seen that this conic is a hyperbola passing through the vertices of triangle  $ECD$ , whose tangents at  $C, D$  are parallel to  $A'B'$  and its center is the midpoint  $M$  of  $CD$ . The intersection point  $K$  of the conic with a circular arc  $c$  of points viewing  $CD$  under the angle  $\omega$  determines the quadrilateral with the required properties and shows that it is unique, up to similarity.

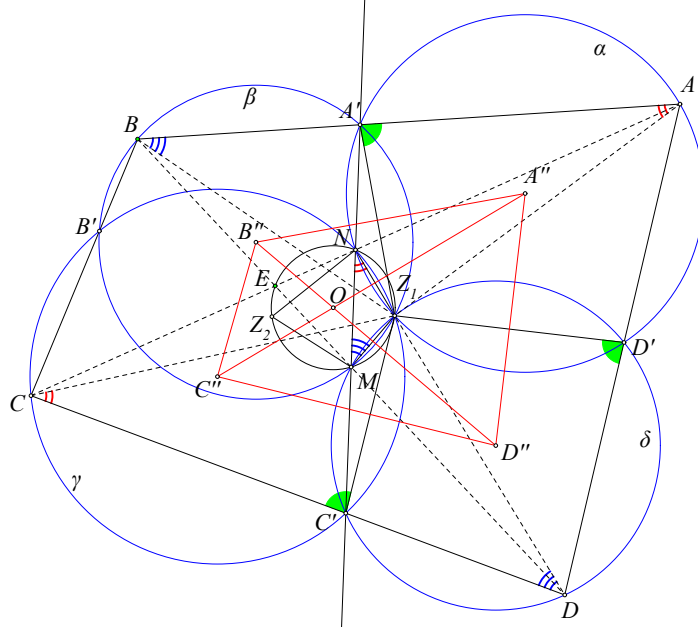


Figure 9. Four circles intersecting on the sides

**Theorem 6.** (1) The circles  $\alpha = (Z_1NA)$ ,  $\beta = (Z_1MB)$  pass through the intersection point  $A'$  of the Newton line with side  $AB$ . Analogously, the circles  $\gamma = (Z_1NC)$ ,  $\delta = (Z_1MD)$  pass through the intersection point  $C'$  of the Newton line with side  $CD$ .

(2) Circles  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  intersect at a point  $B'$  of  $BC$ . Analogously circles  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  intersect at a point  $D'$  of  $AD$ .

(3) The centers  $A''$ ,  $B''$ ,  $C''$ ,  $D''$  of corresponding circles  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$  build a quadrilateral  $A''B''C''D''$  similar to  $ABCD$ , whose diagonals pass through  $O$ .

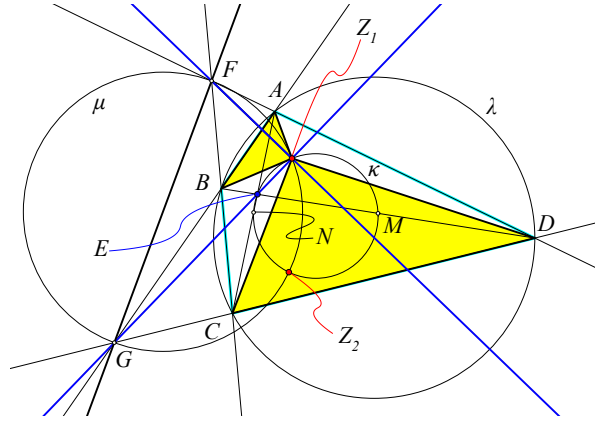
(4) Analogous to the above properties hold by replacing  $Z_1$  with  $Z_2$  and defining  $A'$ ,  $B'$ ,  $C'$ ,  $D'$  and circles  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$  properly.

In fact, (1) and (2) result by a simple angle chasing argument (see Figure 9). (3) follows from the Lemma 5 and the fact that  $A''B''C''D''$  has the same angles with  $ABCD$  and also the same angle of diagonals, which intersect at  $O$ . (4) is proved by the same arguments.

## 5. The case of cyclic quadrilaterals

The location of the similarity centers  $Z_1$ ,  $Z_2$  in the case of a cyclic quadrilateral is, in most cases, immediate according to the following.

**Theorem 7.** In the case of a cyclic quadrilateral  $p = ABCD$ , whose opposite sides intersect at points  $F, G$ , the similarity centers  $Z_1, Z_2$  are the intersections of the circumcircle  $\kappa$  of the associated harmonic quadrilateral with the circle  $\mu$  on diameter  $FG$ .

Figure 10. The case of cyclic  $ABCD$ 

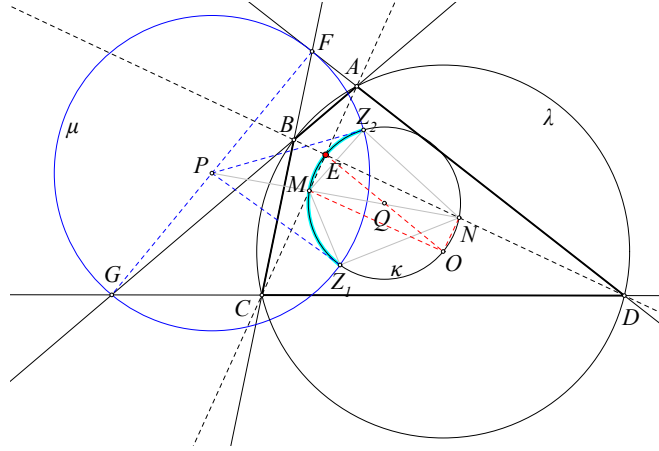
In [7] it is proved that a quadrilateral  $p$  is cyclic if and only if the circle  $\mu$ , with diameter  $FG$ , is orthogonal to the corresponding circle  $\kappa = (MNE)$ . Thus, in this case there are indeed two intersection points  $Z_1, Z_2$  on  $\kappa$  (see Figure 10). There is also proved, that in this case line  $FG$  is the polar of  $E$  and coincides with the radical axis of the pencil of circles generated by  $\kappa$  and the circumcircle  $\lambda$  of  $ABCD$ . Since angle  $FZ_1G$  is a right one and points  $(B, C, N, F)$  make a harmonic division, the two lines  $Z_1G, Z_1F$  are the bisectors of the angle  $BZ_1C$  as well as of angle  $AZ_1D$ . Thus, angles  $AZ_1B$  and  $CZ_1D$  are equal and angles  $AZ_1C, BZ_1D$  are also equal. Since  $G$  is on the radical axis of  $\kappa$  and  $\lambda$  the quadrilateral  $CDZ_1E$  is cyclic, hence the angles  $ECZ_1$  and  $EDZ_1$  are equal. This implies that triangles  $AZ_1C$  and  $BZ_1C$  are similar and from this follows that triangles  $AZ_1B, CZ_1D$  are also similar. This identifies point  $Z_1$  with the center of similarity transforming  $AB$  to  $CD$ . Analogously is proved the corresponding property for the other intersection point  $Z_2$ .

Next theorem explores the possibility to determine a generic cyclic quadrilateral  $p = ABCD$  on the basis of its associated harmonic one.

**Theorem 8.** *A convex cyclic quadrilateral  $p$ , whose opposite sides intersect, is uniquely determined from its associated harmonic quadrilateral  $q$  and the location of the intersection  $E$  of the diagonals of  $p$  on the circumcircle  $\kappa$  of  $q$ . Point  $E$  can be taken arbitrarily on the arc defined by  $Z_1Z_2$ , which is less than half the circumference of  $\kappa$ . All cyclic quadrilaterals resulting by such a choice of  $E$  have the angle between their diagonals equal to  $\angle Z_1MZ_2$  or its complementary and the ratio of diagonal-lengths equal to  $\frac{|Z_1M|}{|Z_1N|} = \frac{|Z_2M|}{|Z_2N|}$ .*

The first statement follows easily from two facts. The first is that, according to Theorem 7, the circle  $\mu$  on diameter  $FG$ , where  $F, G$  are the intersections of opposite sides of  $p = ABCD$ , is orthogonal to the circumcircle  $\kappa$  of  $q$  and its center is at the intersection  $P$  of tangents to  $\kappa$ , respectively at  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  or the pole of  $Z_1Z_2$  with respect to  $\kappa$ . Hence this circle is constructible from the data of the harmonic



Figure 11. Constructing the cyclic  $ABCD$  from its associated harmonic

quadrilateral  $q = MZ_1NZ_2$ . The second fact, proved in the aforementioned reference, is that the circumcircle  $\lambda$  of the quadrilateral  $p$  is orthogonal to  $\mu$  and its center is the diametral point  $O$  of  $E$  with respect to circle  $\kappa$ . This implies that  $\lambda$  can be constructed as the circle, which is orthogonal to  $\mu$  and has its center at  $O$ . Having this circle, we obtain the vertices of the quadrilateral  $p$  by intersecting it with lines  $EM$  and  $EN$ . The other statements follow from fundamental properties of the harmonic quadrilateral, such as, for example, the fact, that  $M, N$  are separated by  $Z_1, Z_2$  and that generic cyclic convex quadrilaterals have the intersection point  $E$  always in the arc  $Z_1Z_2$ , which is less than half the circumference of  $\kappa$ .

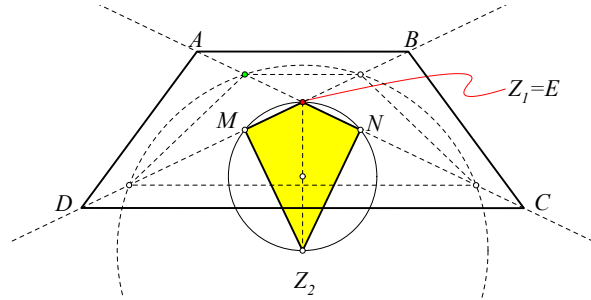


Figure 12. Associated harmonic quadrilateral of an isosceles trapezium

Having excluded from the beginning the parallelogrammic quadrilaterals, which have both pairs of opposite sides intersecting at infinity, the case of cyclic quadrilaterals, not included in both theorems, is the one of equilateral trapezia, having one pair of sides intersecting at infinity. In this case the harmonic associated is found easily, having the similarity centers coinciding correspondingly with the intersection point  $E = Z_1$  of the diagonals and the circumcenter  $O = Z_2$  (see Figure 12). Theorem 8 is not valid in this case, since, then, there are infinite many cyclic quadrilaterals with the same harmonic associate. In fact, in this case, every circle

centered at  $Z_2 = O$ , with radius  $r > |Z_1Z_2|$  defines, through its intersections with lines  $Z_1M, Z_1N$ , an equilateral trapezium having the given  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$  for harmonic associated. Two other cases, in which the intersection point  $E$  of the diagonals of  $p = ABCD$  coincides with a particular point, are the quadrilaterals having  $E = N$ , i.e., coinciding with the midpoint of one diagonal (see Figure 13),

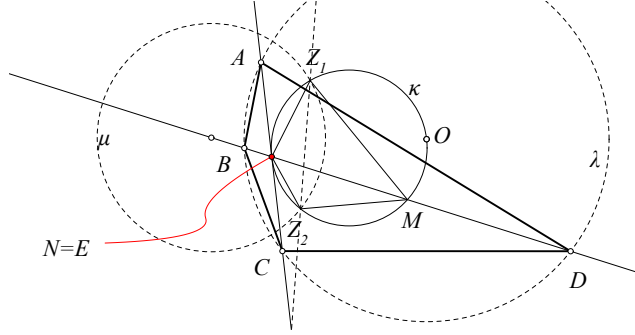


Figure 13. The case  $E = N$

and the quadrilaterals  $p = ABCD$ , which are also themselves harmonic. In this

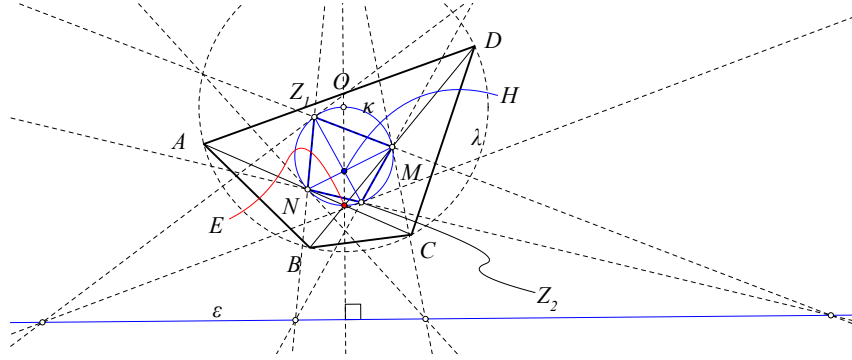


Figure 14. The case  $p = ABCD$  is also harmonic

case  $E$  is on the diameter of the circumcircle  $\kappa$  of  $q$ , which contains the intersection point  $H$  of the diagonals of  $q$ . Then the polar  $\varepsilon$  of  $H$  with respect to  $\kappa$  coincides with the radical axis of the circle  $\kappa$  and the circumcircle  $\lambda$  of  $p$  (see Figure 14).

## 6. The two lemniscates

Fixing the harmonic quadrilateral  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$ , as seen in the previous section, all cyclic quadrilaterals  $p$ , having  $q$  as their associated, are parameterized by a point  $E$  varying on an arc  $Z_1Z_2$  of the circumcircle  $\kappa$  of  $q$ . The following theorem shows that the vertices of the resulting quadrilaterals  $p = ABCD$  vary on two lemniscates of Bernoulli ([10, p.13], [4, p.110]).

**Theorem 9.** *The vertices of all convex cyclic quadrilaterals  $p = ABCD$ , having the same harmonic associated quadrilateral  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$  are on two Bernoulli lemniscates with nodes, respectively, at  $M$  and  $N$ . Each pair of opposite vertices lies on the same lemniscate and is symmetric with respect to the corresponding node.*

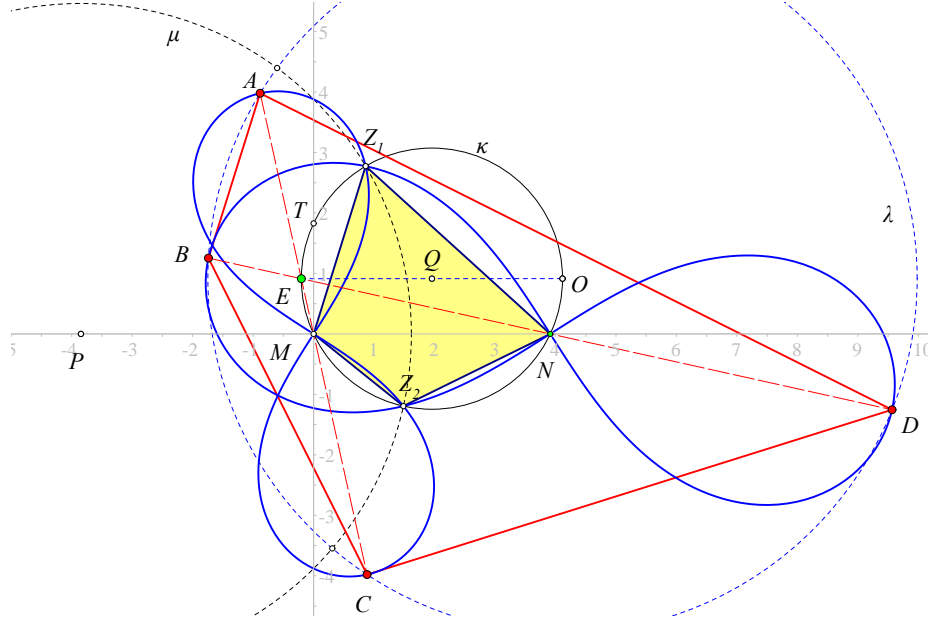


Figure 15. Geometric locus of vertices of  $ABCD$  with given harmonic associated

The proof of the theorem follows from a simple calculation, using cartesian coordinates centered at the vertex  $M$  of the given harmonic quadrilateral  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$ . Vertex  $N$  is set at  $(n, 0)$  and the circumcircle  $\kappa$  of  $q$  intersects the  $y$ -axis at  $(0, t)$ . Point  $P(p, 0)$  is the center of the circle  $\mu$ , which passes through  $Z_1, Z_2$  and is orthogonal to  $\kappa$ . The equations can be set in dependence of the parameters  $n, p$  and  $t$  by following the recipe of reconstruction of  $p$  from  $q$ , described in Theorem 8. For a variable point  $E(u, v)$  on  $\kappa$ , the intersection points of line  $EM$  and the circle  $\lambda$ , centered at the diametral  $O$  of the point  $E$  and orthogonal to  $\mu$ , are found by eliminating  $(u, v)$  from the three equations representing the circle  $\lambda$ , the line  $ME$  and the circle  $\kappa$ . These are correspondingly:

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + y^2 - 2x(n - u) - 2y(t - v) - 2pu + pn &= 0, \\ vx - uy &= 0, \\ u^2 + v^2 - nu - tv &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Eliminating  $(u, v)$  from these equations, leads to an equation of the 8-th degree, which splits into the two quadratics  $(x - p)^2 = 0$ ,  $(x - n)^2 + (y - t)^2 - (n^2 + t^2) + np = 0$  and the equation of the fourth degree

$$(x^2 + y^2)^2 + np(y^2 - x^2) - 2ptxy = 0,$$

for the coordinates  $(x, y)$  of the points  $A$  and  $C$ . The first equation represents the line  $x = p$  not satisfied by the points  $A, C$ . The second represents the circle  $\lambda$  obtained when  $E = M$  and satisfied by  $A, C$  only when  $AC$  is tangent to  $\kappa$  at  $M$ . Finally the last equation, by inverting on the unit circle, leads to

$$np(y^2 - x^2) - 2ptxy + 1 = 0,$$

representing a rectangular hyperbola centered at the origin. By the well known property of Bernoulli's lemniscates to be the inverses of such hyperbolas ([4, p.110]), this proves the theorem for the pair of opposite vertices  $A$  and  $C$ . For the other pair of opposite vertices,  $B$  and  $D$ , an analogous calculation, leads to a corresponding system of three equations

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + y^2 - 2x(n - u) - 2y(t - v) - 2pu + pn &= 0, \\ vx + (n - u)y - nv &= 0, \\ u^2 + v^2 - nu - tv &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Here again, elimination of  $(u, v)$ , transfer of the origin at  $N$ , and inversion on the unit circle centered at  $N$ , leads, through the factorization of an equation of the 8-th degree, to the equation of the rectangular hyperbola

$$(n^2 - np)(y^2 - x^2) + 2t(n - p)xy + 1 = 0.$$

This, using the aforementioned property of Bernoulli's lemniscate, proves the theorem for the vertices  $B$  and  $D$ .

*Remarks.* (1) Using, for convenience, the corresponding equations of the rectangular hyperbolas, one can easily compute the symmetry axes of the lemniscates and

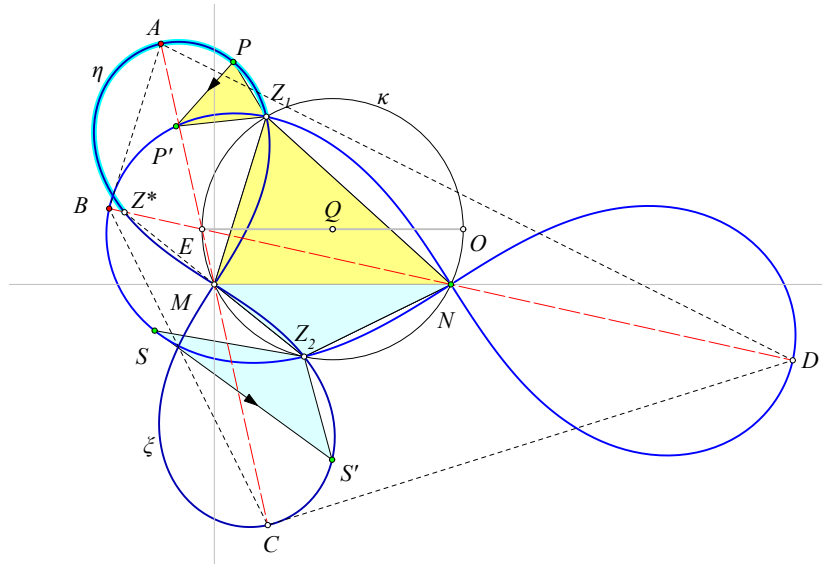


Figure 16. The similarities of the two lemniscates

see that they are obtained, respectively, by lines  $AC, BD$ , when their intersection

$E$  is such that  $EO$  is parallel to line  $MN$  (see Figure 16). A simple computation shows also that the two lemniscates are similar with respect to two similarities. The first one  $P' = f_1(P)$  has its center at  $Z_1$ , its oriented rotation-angle equals  $\angle MZ_1N$  and its ratio is  $r_1 = \frac{|Z_1M|}{|Z_1N|}$ . The second similarity  $S' = f_2(S)$  has its center at  $Z_2$ , its oriented rotation-angle equals  $\angle NZ_2M$  and its ratio is  $r_2 = \frac{|Z_2N|}{|Z_2M|} = r_1^{-1}$ .

(2) Fixing a certain lemniscate  $\xi$ , one can use the above results to give a parametrization of all cyclic quadrilaterals, up to similarity, by three points  $Z_1, Z_2, P$  properly chosen on the lemniscate. In fact, select first two points  $Z_1, Z_2$ , each on a different loop and on the same side of the axis  $AC$  of  $\xi$  (see Figure 16). This, together with the node  $M$  of  $\xi$  creates a triangle  $Z_1MZ_2$  with the angle at  $M$  greater than a right one. This triangle defines also a unique point  $N$ , such that  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$  is a harmonic quadrilateral. Excepting the squares, all other harmonic quadrilaterals, up to similarity, are obtained in this way. Having  $q$ , one can define the similarity  $f_1$  of the previous remark. Then, every point  $A$  on the arc  $\eta = Z_1Z^*$ , where  $Z^*$  the symmetric of  $Z_2$  with respect to  $M$ , defines a cyclic quadrilateral  $p = ABCD$ .

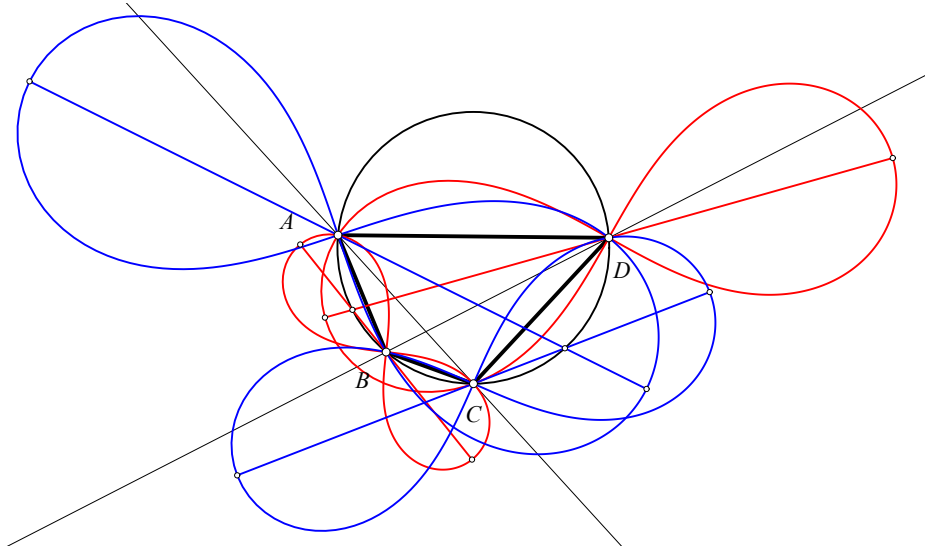


Figure 17. The four lemniscates

Point  $B = f_1(A)$ , point  $C$  is the symmetric of  $A$  with respect to  $M$  and point  $D$  is the symmetric of  $B$  with respect to  $N$ .

(3) The symbol  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$  for the harmonic quadrilateral sets a certain order on its vertices. In the resulting construction of the cyclic quadrilateral  $p = ABCD$  it is assumed that  $Z_1, Z_2$  play the role of the similarity centers and  $M, N$  are the midpoints of the diagonals. Interchanging these roles, changes also the related cyclic quadrilaterals. Thus, giving  $q$  without an ordering for its vertices, produces two families of cyclic quadrilaterals, depending on how we interpret its two pairs of opposite vertices. Figure 17 shows the two pairs of lemniscates

corresponding to the two interpretations of the opposite vertices of the harmonic quadrilateral  $q = ABCD$ . All cyclic quadrilaterals having  $q$  for their associated harmonic, have their vertices on these lemniscates.

## 7. The associated cyclic quadrilateral

Starting with an arbitrary convex quadrilateral  $p = ABCD$  with intersections of opposite sides  $F$  and  $G$ , we can, through the intermediate construction of its associated harmonic, pass to a natural *associated cyclic* quadrilateral  $p' = A'B'C'D'$ . In fact, consider the associated harmonic  $q = Z_1N Z_2M$  of  $p$  and from this, con-

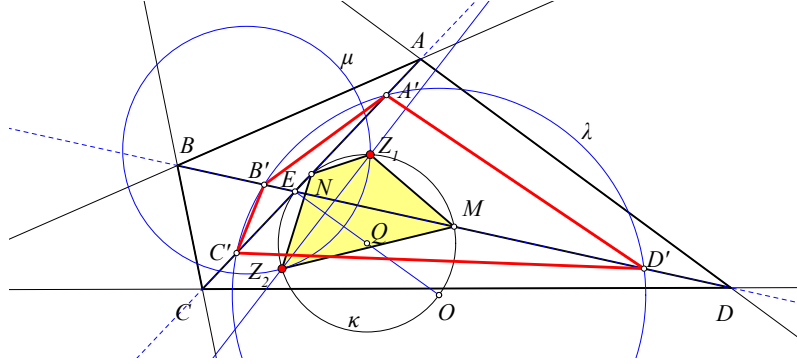


Figure 18. Quadrilateral  $p = ABCD$  and its associated cyclic  $p' = A'B'C'D'$

struct, following the recipe of Theorem 8, the corresponding cyclic  $p' = A'B'C'D'$  (see Figure 18). From its definition,  $p'$  has the same harmonic associated  $q$  with  $p$ . Further it is easy to see that  $|AA'| = |CC'|$ ,  $|BB'| = |DD'|$  and the ratio  $\frac{|AA'|}{|BB'|} = \frac{|AC|}{|BD|}$  (see Figure 18). If one of the intersection points  $F, G$  of the opposite sides is at infinity then  $p$  is a trapezium and the corresponding harmonic quadrilateral has one of the similarity centers ( $Z_1$ ) coinciding with the intersection  $E$  of its diagonals. Excluding this case, the procedure described above can be reversed. Starting from the convex cyclic quadrilateral  $p' = A'B'C'D'$  and taking on its diagonals segments

$$|AA'| = |CC'|, |BB'| = |DD'| \quad \text{in ratio} \quad \frac{|AA'|}{|BB'|} = \frac{|A'C'|}{|B'D'|},$$

we obtain quadrilaterals  $p = ABCD$  with the same associated harmonic quadrilateral. This gives an alternative construction of the one exposed in §3. In the excluded case of trapezia  $p = ABCD$ , the result is different and the procedure must be slightly modified. In fact, in this case there is no proper associated cyclic quadrilateral, the corresponding construction leading to a degenerate cyclic quadrilateral, which coincides with a triangle  $Z_1C''D''$  (see Figure 19). In this case the quadrilaterals  $p' = A'B'C'D'$ , having the same associated harmonic quadrilateral  $q = NZ_1MZ_2$  with  $p$  are also trapezia and are obtained by taking an arbitrary point  $A'$  on  $Z_1N$ , on the other halfline than  $N$  and projecting it parallel to  $MN$

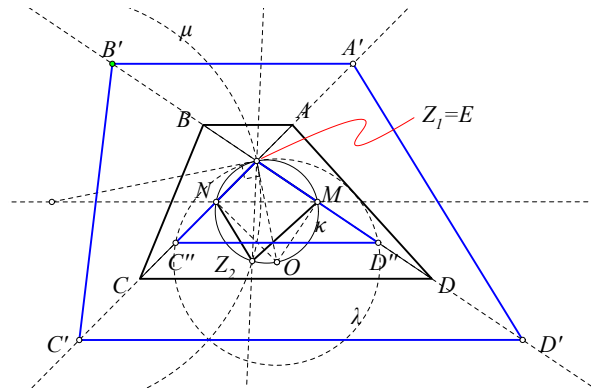


Figure 19. For trapezia the associated cyclic degenerates to a triangle

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