

VI. Collinearity and Concurrence

Po-Shen Loh

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1 Your Weapons

Ceva Let ABC be a triangle, and let $D \in BC$, $E \in CA$, and $F \in AB$. Then AD , BE , and CF concur if and only if:

$$\frac{AF}{FB} \frac{BD}{DC} \frac{CE}{EA} = 1.$$

Trig Ceva Let ABC be a triangle, and let $D \in BC$, $E \in CA$, and $F \in AB$. Then AD , BE , and CF concur if and only if:

$$\frac{\sin CAD}{\sin DAB} \frac{\sin ABE}{\sin EBC} \frac{\sin BCF}{\sin FCA} = 1.$$

Radical Axis Let $\{\omega_k\}_1^3$ be a family of circles, and let ℓ_k be the radical axis of ω_k and ω_{k+1} , where we identify ω_4 with ω_1 . Then $\{\ell_k\}_1^3$ are concurrent. The **radical axis** of ω_1 and ω_2 is the locus of points with equal power with respect to the two circles. This locus turns out to be a straight line. (You can prove it with coordinates!)

Brianchon Let circle ω be inscribed in hexagon $ABCDEF$. Then the diagonals AD , BE , and CF are concurrent.

Identification Three lines AB , CD , and EF are concurrent if and only if the points A , B , and $CD \cap EF$ are collinear.

Desargues Two triangles are perspective from a point if and only if they are perspective from a line. Two triangles ABC and DEF are **perspective from a point** when AD , BE , and CF are concurrent. Two triangles ABC and DEF are **perspective from a line** when $AB \cap DE$, $BC \cap EF$, and $CA \cap FD$ are collinear.

Menelaus Let ABC be a triangle, and let D , E , and F line on the extended lines BC , CA , and AB . Then D , E , and F are collinear if and only if:

$$\frac{AF}{FB} \frac{BD}{DC} \frac{CE}{EA} = -1.$$

Pappus Let ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 be lines, let $A, C, E \in \ell_1$, and let $B, D, F \in \ell_2$. Then $AB \cap DE$, $BC \cap EF$, and $CD \cap FA$ are collinear.

Pascal Let ω be a conic, and let $A, B, C, D, E, F \in \omega$. Then $AB \cap DE$, $BC \cap EF$, and $CD \cap FA$ are collinear.

2 Problems For PWNage (Warm-Ups)

1. (Gergonne Point) Let ABC be a triangle, and let its incircle intersect sides BC , CA , and AB at A' , B' , C' respectively. Prove that AA' , BB' , CC' are concurrent.

Solution: Ceva

2. Let ABC be a triangle, and let D, E, F be the feet of the altitudes from A, B, C . Construct the incircles of triangles AEF , BDF , and CDE ; let the points of tangency with DE , EF , and FD be C' , A' , and B' , respectively. Prove that AA' , BB' , CC' concur.

Solution: Isogonal conjugate of Gergonne point; trig ceva

3. (Russia97) The circles S_1 and S_2 intersect at M and N . Show that if vertices A and C of a rectangle $ABCD$ lie on S_1 while vertices B and D lie on S_2 , then the intersection of the diagonals of the rectangle lies on the line MN .

Solution: Radical Axis

4. (Simson Line) If P is on the circumcircle of ABC , then the feet of the perpendiculars from P to the (possibly extended) sides of ABC are collinear.

Solution: Angle chasing shows it with vertical angles

3 Problems

1. (Zeit96) Let $ABCDEF$ be a convex cyclic hexagon. Prove that AD, BE, CF are concurrent if and only if $AB \cdot CD \cdot EF = BC \cdot DE \cdot FA$.

Solution: Trig Ceva

2. (StP96) The points A' and C' are chosen on the diagonal BD of a parallelogram $ABCD$ so that $AA' \parallel CC'$. The point K lies on the segment $A'C$, and the line AK meets CC' at L . A line parallel to BC is drawn through K , and a line parallel to BD is drawn through C ; these meet at M . Prove that D, M, L are collinear.

Solution: StP96/17

3. (Bulgaria97) Let $ABCD$ be a convex quadrilateral such that $\angle DAB = \angle ABC = \angle BCD$. Let H and O denote the orthocenter and circumcenter of ABC . Prove that D, O, H are collinear.

Solution: Bulgaria97/10

4. (Korea97) In an acute triangle ABC with $AB \neq AC$, let V be the intersection of the angle bisector of A with BC , and let D be the foot of the perpendicular from A to BC . If E and F are the intersections of the circumcircle of AVD with CA and AB , respectively, show that the lines AD, BE, CF concur.

Solution: Korea97/8

4 Harder Problems

1. (MOP98) Let ABC be a triangle, and let A', B', C' be the midpoints of the arcs BC, CA, AB , respectively, of the circumcircle of ABC . The line $A'B'$ meets BC and AC at S and T . $B'C'$ meets AC and AB at F and P , and $C'A'$ meets AB and BC at Q and R . Prove that the segments PS, QT, FR concur.

Solution: They pass through the incenter of ABC , prove with Pascal on $AA'C'B'BC$. See MOP98/2/3a.

2. (MOP98) The bisectors of angles A, B, C of triangle ABC meet its circumcircle again at the points K, L, M , respectively. Let R be an internal point on side AB . The points P and Q are defined by the conditions: RP is parallel to AK and BP is perpendicular to BL ; RQ is parallel to BL and AQ is perpendicular to AK . Show that the lines KP, LQ, MR concur.

Solution: MOP98/5/4

3. (MOP98) Let ω_1 and ω_2 be two circles of the same radius, intersecting at A and B . Let O be the midpoint of AB . Let CD be a chord of ω_1 passing through O , and let the segment CD meet ω_2 at P . Let EF be a chord of ω_2 passing through O , and let the segment EF meet ω_1 at Q . Prove that AB, CQ, EP are concurrent.

Solution: MOP98/12/3

4. (MOP97) Let $ABCD$ be a cyclic quadrilateral, inscribed in a circle ω , whose diagonals meet at E . Suppose the point P has the following property: if we extend the line AP to meet ω again at F , and we extend the line BP to meet ω again at G , then CF, DG, EP are all parallel. Similarly, suppose the point Q is such that if we extend the line CQ to meet ω again at H , and we extend the line DQ to meet ω again at I , then AH, BI, EQ are all parallel. Prove that E, P, Q are collinear.

Solution: MOP97/11/5

5 Problems to PWN You

1. (MOP98) Let $A_1A_2A_3$ be a nonisosceles triangle with incenter I . For $i = 1, 2, 3$, let C_i be the smaller circle through I tangent to A_iA_{i+1} and A_iA_{i+2} (indices being taken mod 3) and let B_i be the second intersection of C_{i+1} and C_{i+2} . Prove that the circumcenters of the triangles A_1B_1I , A_2B_2I , and A_3B_3I are collinear.

Solution: MOP98/4/5

2. (MOP97) Let ABC be a triangle and D, E, F the points where its incircle touches sides BC, CA, AB , respectively. The parallel through E to AB intersects DF in Q , and the parallel through D to AB intersects EF in T . Prove that CF, DE, QT are concurrent.

Solution: MOP97/2/5

3. (MOP97) Let P be a point in the plane of a triangle ABC . A circle Γ passing through P intersects the circumcircles of triangles PBC, PCA, PAB at A_1, B_1, C_1 , respectively, and lines PA, PB, PC intersect Γ at A_3, B_3, C_3 . Prove that:

- (a) the points A_2, B_2, C_2 are collinear
- (b) the lines A_1A_3, B_1B_3, C_1C_3 are concurrent