

Problem 11857

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Proposed by M. Şahin (Turkey).

Let ABC be a triangle with corresponding sides of lengths a , b , and c , inradius r , and corresponding exradii r_a , r_b , and r_c . Let $A'B'C'$ be another triangle with sides of lengths \sqrt{a} , \sqrt{b} , and \sqrt{c} . Show that $A'B'C'$ has area given by

$$\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{r(r_a + r_b + r_c)}.$$

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", via della Ricerca Scientifica, 00133 Roma, Italy.

Let $x = \sqrt{a}$, $y = \sqrt{b}$, and $z = \sqrt{c}$ then $a + b \geq c$ implies that

$$x + y = \sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b} \geq \sqrt{a + b} = \sqrt{c} = z.$$

Hence the triangle $A'B'C'$ is well defined. We have that

$$r = \frac{\Delta}{s}, \quad r_a = \frac{\Delta}{s-a}, \quad r_b = \frac{\Delta}{s-b}, \quad r_c = \frac{\Delta}{s-c},$$

where Δ and s are the area and the perimeter of ABC respectively. Then

$$\begin{aligned} r(r_a + r_b + r_c) &= \frac{\Delta^2}{s} \left(\frac{1}{s-a} + \frac{1}{s-b} + \frac{1}{s-c} \right) \\ &= (s-b)(s-c) + (s-a)(s-c) + (s-a)(s-b) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} ((s-c)(2s-a-b) + (s-b)(2s-a-c) + (s-a)(2s-b-c)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} ((s-c)c + (s-b)b + (s-a)a) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} ((a+b+c)^2 - 2a^2 - 2b^2 - 2c^2) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} ((x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^2 - 2x^4 - 2y^4 - 2z^4) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (x+y+z)(y+z-x)(z+x-y)(x+y-z) = (2\Delta')^2 \end{aligned}$$

where Δ' is the area of $A'B'C'$. □