

**Problem 11871**

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Proposed by Cezar Lupu and Stefan Spataru (USA).

Let  $ABC$  be a triangle in the Cartesian plane with vertices in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ . Show that, if  $P$  is an interior lattice point of  $ABC$ , then at least one of the angles  $PAB$ ,  $PBC$ , and  $PCA$  has a radian measure that is not a rational multiple of  $\pi$ .

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

Preliminary remarks:

- if  $\theta$  is the radian measure of an angle of a triangle with vertices in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  then  $\theta = \pi/2$  or  $\tan(\theta) \in \mathbb{Q}$ ;
- the only rational values of  $\tan(q\pi)$  for  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$  are 0 and  $\pm 1$ .

Assume that  $PAB = q_1\pi$ ,  $PBC = q_2\pi$ , and  $PCA = q_3\pi$  where  $q_1, q_2, q_3 \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Moreover  $q_1, q_2, q_3 > 0$  and  $q_1 + q_2 + q_3 < 1$  because  $P$  is an interior point.

Since the triangles  $PAB$ ,  $PBC$ , and  $PCA$  have vertices in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ , by the above remarks it follows that  $\tan(q_1\pi) = \tan(q_2\pi) = \tan(q_3\pi) = 1$ , that is  $q_1 = q_2 = q_3 = 1/4$ . Hence

$$CAP + ABP + BCP = \pi - (PAB + PBC + PCA) = \pi/4$$

which implies

$$\sin(CAP) \sin(ABP) \sin(BCP) < \sin(\pi/4)^3 = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}.$$

On the other hand, by Ceva's theorem,

$$\sin(CAP) \sin(ABP) \sin(BCP) = \sin(PAB) \sin(PBC) \sin(PCA) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

and we have a contradiction. □