

Problem 12253

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Proposed by A. Girban (Romania) and B. D. Suceava (USA).

Let ABC be a triangle, and let D and E be the contact points of the incircle of ABC with the segments BC and CA , respectively. Let M be the intersection of the line DE and the line through A parallel to BC . Prove that the bisector of $\angle ABC$ passes through the midpoint of DM .

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

Solution. We show that the property holds also when in the statement we replace the incircle of ABC and the bisector of $\angle ABC$ with the excircle tangent to the side BC and the bisector of the external angle $\angle ABC$ respectively.

Without loss of generality we may assume that the side BC is along the line $y = 0$, with $B = (b, 0)$, $D = (0, 0)$, $C = (c, 0)$ such that $b < 0 < c$ and $bc \neq -1$. Let \mathcal{C} be the circle of center at $O = (0, 1)$ with radius 1. Note that if $bc < -1$ then \mathcal{C} is the incircle of the triangle ABC . Otherwise, when $-1 < bc < 0$, \mathcal{C} is the excircle tangent to the side BC .

Then the line DE , that is the polar line of the point C with respect to \mathcal{C} , is $y = cx$. The circle \mathcal{C} , with equation $x^2 + (y - 1)^2 = 1$, intersects the polar line $y = cx$ also at the other point of tangency $E = (\frac{2c}{1+c^2}, \frac{2c^2}{1+c^2})$. Hence the side AC is along the line $(1 - c^2)y = 2c(x - c)$. In a similar way, the side AB is along the line $(1 - b^2)y = 2b(x - b)$. The intersection between the line AB and the line AC is the point $A = (\frac{b+c}{bc+1}, \frac{2bc}{bc+1})$. The line through A parallel to BC is $y = \frac{2bc}{bc+1}$. It follows the intersection of the line DE and such parallel line is $M = (\frac{2b}{bc+1}, \frac{2bc}{bc+1})$. Therefore the midpoint of DM is $F = (\frac{b}{bc+1}, \frac{bc}{bc+1})$.

Finally, it easy to verify that the line BO , that is $x + by = b$, passes through point F ,

$$\frac{b}{bc+1} + \frac{b^2c}{bc+1} = b.$$

If \mathcal{C} is the incircle of the triangle ABC then the line BO is the bisector of the internal angle $\angle ABC$. On the other hand, if \mathcal{C} is the excircle tangent to the side BC then the line BO is the bisector of the external angle $\angle ABC$. \square