

Problem 12357

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Proposed by Van Khea (Cambodia) and D. S. Marinescu (Romania).

Suppose that triangles ABC and DEF have the same centroid, where D , E , and F are on the segments BC , CA , and AB , respectively. Let I be the incenter of triangle ABC . Prove

$$\frac{|AI|}{|AD|} + \frac{|BI|}{|BE|} + \frac{|CI|}{|CF|} \leq 2.$$

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy.

Solution. Since D , E , and F are on the segments BC , CA , and AB , respectively, then there exist $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in [0, 1]$ such that

$$D = (1 - \alpha)B + \alpha C, \quad E = (1 - \beta)C + \beta A, \quad F = (1 - \gamma)A + \gamma B.$$

Given that the triangles ABC and DEF have the same centroid, it follows that

$$\frac{A + B + C}{3} = \frac{D + E + F}{3} \Leftrightarrow \beta(C - A) + \gamma(A - B) = \alpha(C - B).$$

Therefore, by the law of sines,

$$\beta(B - A) \times (C - A) = \alpha(B - A) \times (C - B) \implies \beta = \frac{ac \sin(\widehat{B})}{cb \sin(\widehat{A})} \cdot \alpha = \alpha$$

where $a = |BC|$, $b = |CA|$, $c = |AB|$. Similarly we find $\gamma = \alpha$.

By the the law of cosines,

$$\begin{aligned} |AD|^2 &= |BD|^2 + c^2 - 2|BD|c \cos(\widehat{B}) = (\alpha a)^2 + c^2 + \alpha(b^2 - a^2 - c^2) \\ &= (\alpha b + (1 - \alpha)c)^2 \frac{s(s - a)}{bc} + (\alpha b - (1 - \alpha)c)^2 \frac{(s - c)(s - b)}{bc} \\ &\geq (\alpha b + (1 - \alpha)c)^2 \frac{s(s - a)}{bc} \end{aligned}$$

where $s = (a + b + c)/2$. Moreover, it is known that $|AI|^2 = \frac{bc(s - a)}{s}$. Hence, because of the convexity of $x \rightarrow 1/x$ for $x > 0$, we find

$$\frac{|AI|}{|AD|} \leq \frac{bc/s}{\alpha b + (1 - \alpha)c} \leq \frac{\alpha c + (1 - \alpha)b}{s}.$$

Analogous inequalities hold for $\frac{|BI|}{|BE|}$ and $\frac{|CI|}{|CF|}$, and, recalling that $\beta = \gamma = \alpha$, we may conclude that

$$\frac{|AI|}{|AD|} + \frac{|BI|}{|BE|} + \frac{|CI|}{|CF|} \leq \frac{1}{s} ((\alpha c + (1 - \alpha)b) + (\alpha a + (1 - \alpha)c) + (\alpha b + (1 - \alpha)a)) = 2.$$

□