

**XIII GEOMETRICAL OLYMPIAD IN HONOUR OF  
I.F.SHARYGIN  
The correspondence round. Solutions**

1. (A.Zaslavsky) (8) Mark on a cellular paper four nodes forming a convex quadrilateral with the sidelengths equal to four different primes.

**Solution.** Take for example a quadrilateral with vertices  $A(-3, 0)$ ,  $B(0, 4)$ ,  $C(12, -1)$ ,  $D(12, -8)$ . Its sidelengths are  $AB = 5$ ,  $BC = 13$ ,  $CD = 7$ ,  $DA = 17$ .

2. (L.Shteingarts) (8) A circle cuts off four right-angled triangles from rectangle  $ABCD$ . Let  $A_0$ ,  $B_0$ ,  $C_0$  and  $D_0$  be the midpoints of the correspondent hypotenuses. Prove that  $A_0C_0 = B_0D_0$ .

**Solution.** Let the circle meet  $AB$ ,  $BC$ ,  $CD$ ,  $DA$  at points  $K_1$ ,  $K_2$ ,  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$ ,  $M_1$ ,  $M_2$ ,  $N_1$ ,  $N_2$ . Then  $K_1K_2M_2M_1$  is an isosceles trapezoid, i.e.  $AK_1 - DM_1 = BK_2 - CM_2$ , or  $AK_1 + CM_2 = BK_2 + DM_1$ . Hence the projections of segments  $A_0C_0$  and  $B_0D_0$  to  $AB$ , equal to  $AB - (AK_1 + CM_2)/2$  and  $AB - (BK_2 + DM_1)/2$  respectively, are congruent. Similarly their projections to  $BC$  are congruent, therefore the lengths of these segments are equal.

3. (M.Plotnikov) (8) Let  $I$  be the incenter of triangle  $ABC$ ;  $H_B$ ,  $H_C$  the orthocenters of triangles  $ACI$  and  $ABI$  respectively;  $K$  the touching point of the incircle with the side  $BC$ . Prove that  $H_B$ ,  $H_C$  and  $K$  are collinear.

**Solution.** Since  $BH_B$  and  $CH_C$  are perpendicular to  $AI$ , the quadrilateral  $BH_BCH_C$  is a trapezoid and its diagonals divide each other as  $BH_B : CH_C$ . Since the projections  $M$ ,  $N$  of  $H_B$ ,  $H_C$  to  $AB$  and  $AC$  respectively coincide with the projections of  $I$  to these lines, we obtain that  $BM = BK$  and  $CN = CK$ . Also since  $\angle H_BBM = \angle H_CCN = 90^\circ - \angle A/2$ , the right-angled triangles  $H_BBM$  and  $H_CCN$  are similar. Therefore  $BH_B : CH_C = BK : CK$ , and the diagonals of the trapezoid meet at  $K$  (fig. 3).

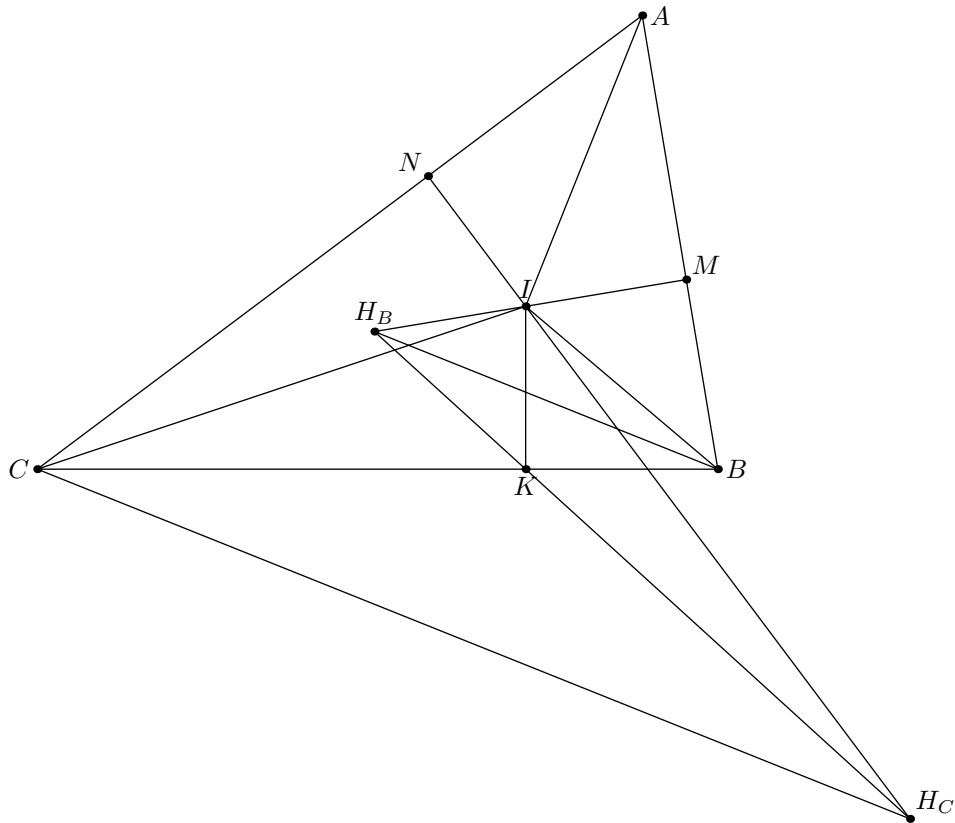


Fig. 3

4. (A.Zaslavsky) (8) A triangle  $ABC$  is given. Let  $C'$  be the vertex of an isosceles triangle  $ABC'$  with  $\angle C' = 120^\circ$  constructed on the other side of  $AB$  than  $C$ , and  $B'$  be the vertex of an equilateral triangle  $ACB'$  constructed on the same side of  $AC$  as  $ABC$ . Let  $K$  be the midpoint of  $BB'$ . Find the angles of triangle  $KCC'$ .

**Answer.**  $90^\circ, 30^\circ, 60^\circ$ .

**Solution.** Let  $C''$  be a vertex of parallelogram  $B'C'BC''$ . Then  $B'C'' = BC' = AC'$ ,  $B'C = AC$  and  $\angle CB'C'' = \angle CAC'$  because the angle between  $C''B'$  and  $AC'$  is equal to  $\angle B'CA = 60^\circ$ . Therefore the triangles  $C''B'C$  and  $C'AC$  are congruent, and the angle between their corresponding sidelines  $C''C$  and  $C'C$  is equal to  $60^\circ$  (fig. 4). Thus the triangle  $CC'C''$  is regular, and since  $K$  is the midpoint of  $C'C''$ , we obtain that  $CK \perp C'C$  and  $\angle C'CK = 30^\circ$ .

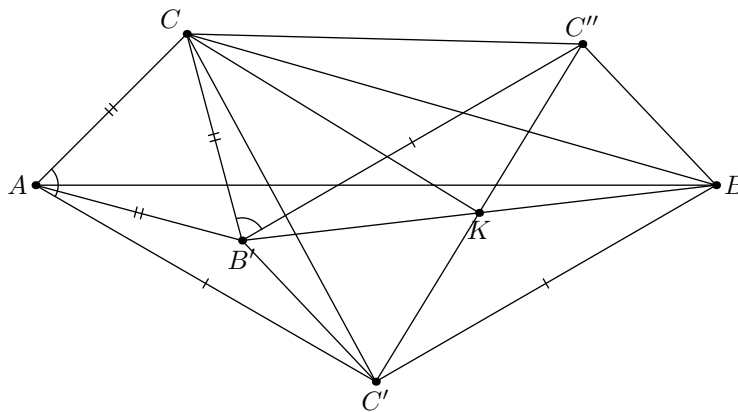


Fig. 4

This reasoning can be also formulated in the following way. Consider the rotations around  $C'$  by  $120^\circ$  and around  $C$  by  $60^\circ$ . Their composition maps  $B$  to  $B'$ , hence it is the reflection about  $K$ . Since it maps  $C$  to  $C''$ , we obtain the indicated answer.

5. (B.Frenkin) A segment  $AB$  is fixed on the plane. Consider all acute-angled triangles with side  $AB$ . Find the locus of
- (8) the vertices of their greatest angles;
  - (8–9) their incenters.

**Answer.** a) The points  $A$ ,  $B$  and the set of points lying inside or on the boundary of the intersection of two discs centered at  $A$  and  $B$  with radii  $AB$ , but outside the disc with diameter  $AB$ . b) The set of points lying inside the square  $AKBL$ , but outside the intersection of two discs centered at  $K$  and  $L$  with radii  $KA$ .

**Solution.** a) If the vertex of the greatest angle does not coincide with  $A$  or  $B$  then  $AB$  is the greatest side of triangle  $ABC$ , i.e.  $CA \leq AB$  and  $CB \leq AB$ . On the other hand, since angle  $C$  is acute, we obtain that  $C$  lies outside the circle with diameter  $AB$ .

b) Let  $I$  be the incenter of  $ABC$ . Since angles  $A$  and  $B$  are acute, we have  $\angle IAB < 45^\circ$  and  $\angle IBA < 45^\circ$ , i.e.  $I$  lies inside the square  $AKBL$ . On the other hand, since angle  $C$  is acute, we obtain that  $\angle AIB < 135^\circ$  and  $I$  lies outside the intersection of the discs centered at  $K$ ,  $L$  with radii  $KA$ .

6. (N.Moskvitin) (8–9) Let  $ABCD$  be a convex quadrilateral with  $AC = BD = AD$ ;  $E$  and  $F$  the midpoints of  $AB$  and  $CD$  respectively;  $O$  the common point of the diagonals. Prove that  $EF$  passes through the touching points of the incircle of triangle  $AOD$  with  $AO$  and  $OD$ .

**Solution.** Let  $X$ ,  $Y$ ,  $Z$  be the touching points of the incircle with  $AO$ ,  $OD$ ,  $AD$  respectively. Then  $DY = DZ$  and therefore  $BY = AZ = AX$ . Furthermore  $OX = OY$ . Applying the Menelaus theorem to the triangle  $AOB$  and the line  $XY$ , we obtain that this line passes through  $E$ . Similarly it passes through  $F$  (fig. 6).

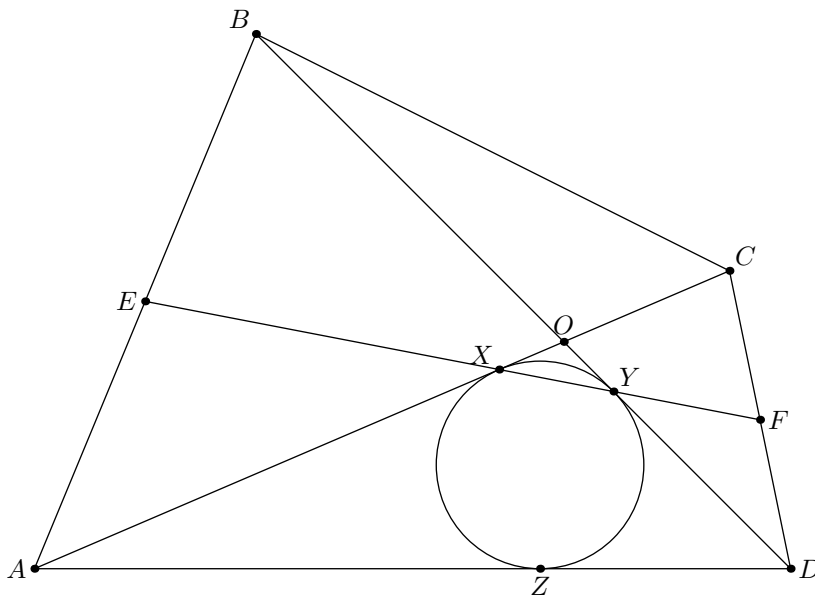


Fig. 6

7. (B.Frenkin) (8–9) The circumcenter of a triangle lies on its incircle. Prove that the ratio of its greatest and smallest sides is less than two.

**First solution.** Since the circumcenter belongs to the given triangle  $ABC$ , this triangle is not obtuse-angled. If it is right-angled then the circumcenter  $O$  is the midpoint of its hypotenuse and coincides with the touching point of the incircle. Therefore the triangle is isosceles and right-angled and the assertion of the problem is valid. Suppose that the triangle is acute-angled and  $O$  lies on one of three arcs between the touching points. Let this arc be faced to the vertex  $A$ . Construct the perpendiculars from  $O$  to  $AB$  and  $AC$ . The foot of each of them (the midpoint of the corresponding side) lies between  $A$  and the touching point of the incircle  $\omega$  with the side. Therefore,  $AB > BC$  and  $AC > BC$ .

Now we have to prove that the ratio of each of sides  $AB, AC$  to  $BC$  is less than 2. For example let  $D$  be the midpoint of  $AB$ . Let us prove that  $AD < BC$ . Let  $K$  and  $L$  be the touching points of  $\omega$  with  $AB$  and  $BC$ . Then  $BK = BL$ , and we have to prove that  $DK < CL$ . But the perpendicular from  $D$  to  $AB$  passes through the point  $O$  on  $\omega$ , hence  $DK$  is not greater than its radius. On the other hand  $CL$  is greater than the radius, because the perpendicular from  $C$  to  $BC$  does not intersect  $\omega$  (the angle between  $BC$  and the tangent  $CA$  is acute). Q.e.d.

**Second solution.** Use the Euler formula:  $OI^2 = R^2 - 2Rr$ , where  $I$  is the incenter,  $R, r$  are the radii of the circumcircle and the incircle. Since  $OI = r$  we obtain that  $r/R = \sqrt{2} - 1$ . Each side of the triangle is a chord of the circumcircle tangent to the incircle. The greatest of these chords is equal to  $2R$ , and the shortest one touching the incircle at the point opposite to  $O$  is  $2\sqrt{R^2 - 4r^2} > R$ .

8. (Ye.Bakayev) (8–9) Let  $AD$  be the base of trapezoid  $ABCD$ . It is known that the circumcenter of triangle  $ABC$  lies on  $BD$ . Prove that the circumcenter of triangle  $ABD$  lies on  $AC$ .

**Solution.** Let the perpendicular bisector to  $AB$  meet  $BD$  and  $AC$  at points  $K$  and  $L$  respectively. Then by the assumption  $\angle BLK = \angle ACB = \angle CAD$ . Hence  $\angle CKL = \angle BDA$  which yields the required assertion (fig. 8).

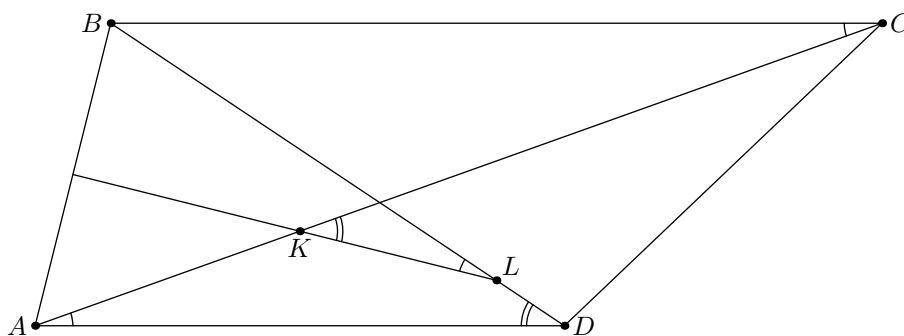


Fig. 8

9. (A.Zaslavsky) (8–9) Let  $C_0$  be the midpoint of hypotenuse  $AB$  of triangle  $ABC$ ;  $AA_1, BB_1$  the bisectors of this triangle;  $I$  its incenter. Prove that the lines  $C_0I$  and  $A_1B_1$  meet on the altitude from  $C$ .

**Solution.** Use the following property of an arbitrary triangle.

**Lemma.** The line  $C_0I$  meets the altitude  $CH$  at the point lying at the distance  $r$  from  $C$ .

In fact, let  $C'$ ,  $C''$  be the touching points of side  $AB$  with the incircle and the excircle respectively, and  $C_2$  the point of the incircle opposite to  $C'$ . Point  $C$  is the homothety center of the incircle and the excircle, and  $C_2$  and  $C''$  are the corresponding points of these circles, therefore  $C$ ,  $C_2$ ,  $C''$  are collinear. Furthermore  $C'C_0 = C''C_0$ , i.e.  $C_0I$  is the medial line of triangle  $C'C''C_2$ , and  $C_0I \parallel CC_2$ . Hence the lines  $CC_2$ ,  $C_2I$ ,  $C_0I$  and  $CH$  are the sidelines of a parallelogram, and we obtain the assertion of the lemma (fig. 9.1).

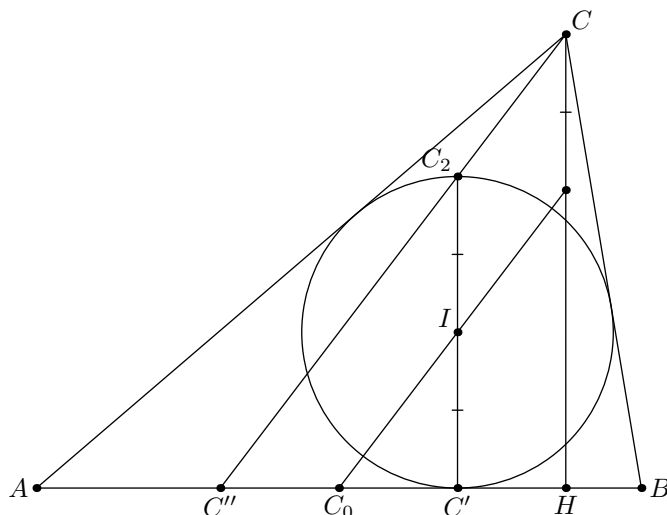


Fig. 9.1

Return to the problem. Denote the common point of  $C_0I$  and  $CH$  by  $H'$  (fig. 9.2). Since  $CH' = r$ , the distances from  $H'$  to  $CA$ ,  $BC$  and  $AB$  are  $d_b = r \cos \angle HCB = r \cos \angle BAC = r \cdot AC/AB$ ,  $d_a = r \cdot BC/AB$  and  $d_c = CH - r$  respectively. Since  $(AB + BC + CA)r = AB \cdot CH = 2S_{ABC}$ , we obtain that  $d_c = d_a + d_b$ . It is clear that the distances from  $A_1$ ,  $B_1$  to  $BC$ ,  $CA$  and  $AB$  also have the similar property. By the Thales theorem all such points are collinear.

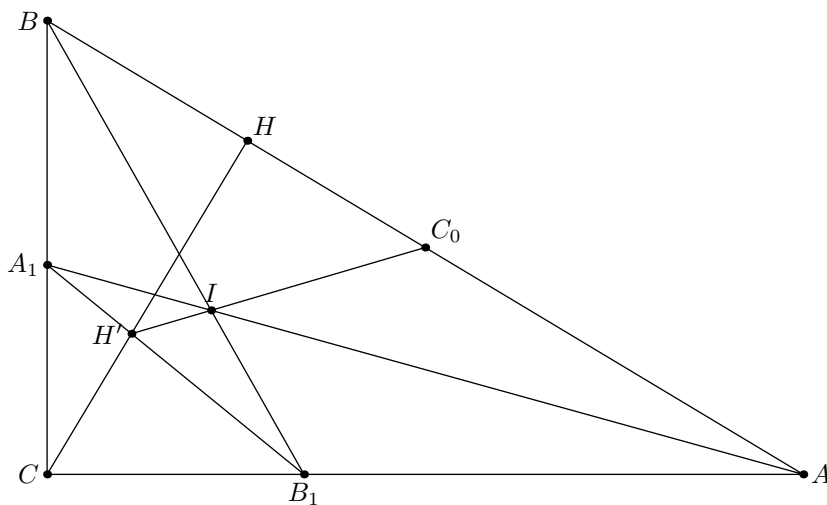


Fig. 9.2

10. (I.I.Bogdanov) (8–10) Points  $K$  and  $L$  on the sides  $AB$  and  $BC$  of parallelogram  $ABCD$  are such that  $\angle AKD = \angle CLD$ . Prove that the circumcenter of triangle  $BKL$  is equidistant from  $A$  and  $C$ .

**Solution.** The triangles  $AKD$  and  $CLD$  are similar by two angles, therefore  $AK : CL = AD : CD$ . Hence, when  $K$  moves along  $AB$  with constant velocity,  $L$  also moves along  $BC$  uniformly, and therefore the circumcenter of  $BKL$  moves along some line. If  $K, L$  are the projections of  $D$  to  $AB$  and  $BC$  respectively, the circumcenter of  $BKL$  coincides with the center of the parallelogram, and when  $K$  and  $L$  coincide with  $A$  and  $C$  respectively, the circumcenter lies on the perpendicular bisector to  $AC$ . Thus this perpendicular bisector is the locus of circumcenters.

11. (A.Tolesnikov) (8–11) A finite number of points is marked on the plane. Each three of them are not collinear. A circle is circumscribed around each triangle with marked vertices. Is it possible that all centers of these circles are also marked?

**Answer.** No.

**Solution.** Consider the circle having the minimal radius. Let it be the circumcircle of triangle  $ABC$ , and  $O$  be its center. If  $ABC$  is not a regular triangle, then some of its angles, for example  $C$ , is less than  $60^\circ$ . But in this case  $60^\circ < \angle AOB < 120^\circ$ , i.e.  $\sin \angle AOB > \sin \angle ACB$ , and by the sinus theorem the circumradius of  $AOB$  is less than the radius of circle  $ABC$ , which contradicts to the definition of this circle. If  $ABC$  is regular then the centers  $A', B', C'$  of circles  $BOC, COA, AOB$  are also marked. But for example the triangle  $AOB'$  is regular, and its circumradius is less than the radius of circle  $ABC$ .

12. (D.Shvetsov) (9–10) Let  $AA_1, CC_1$  be the altitudes of triangle  $ABC$ ,  $B_0$  the common point of the altitude from  $B$  and the circumcircle of  $ABC$ ; and  $Q$  the common point of the circumcircles of  $ABC$  and  $A_1C_1B_0$ , distinct from  $B_0$ . Prove that  $BQ$  is the symmedian of  $ABC$ .

**Solution.** Since  $A, C, A_1, C_1$  are concyclic we obtain that the lines  $AC, A_1C_1$  and  $B_0Q$  concur at the radical center  $N$  of circles  $ACA_1C_1, ABC$  and  $A_1C_1B_0$ . Let  $BQ$  meet  $AC$  and  $A_1C_1$  at points  $P$  and  $M$  respectively (fig. 12). Projecting the circumcircle of triangle  $ABC$  from  $Q$  to  $AC$ , and projecting this line from  $B$  to  $A_1C_1$  we obtain the equality of cross-ratios  $(A_1C_1MN) = (CAPN) = (CABB_0) = \frac{BC}{BA} : \frac{B_0C}{B_0A}$ . Since  $B_0$  is the reflection of the orthocenter  $H$  of triangle  $ABC$  about  $AC$ , the second fraction is equal to  $HC/HA = CA_1/AC_1$ . Now applying the Menelaus theorem to the triangle  $A_1BC_1$  and the line  $ACN$  we obtain that  $A_1C_1MN = C_1N/A_1N$ , i.e.  $A_1M = C_1M$ . Therefore  $BM$  is the median of triangle  $A_1BC_1$  and the symmedian of  $ABC$ .

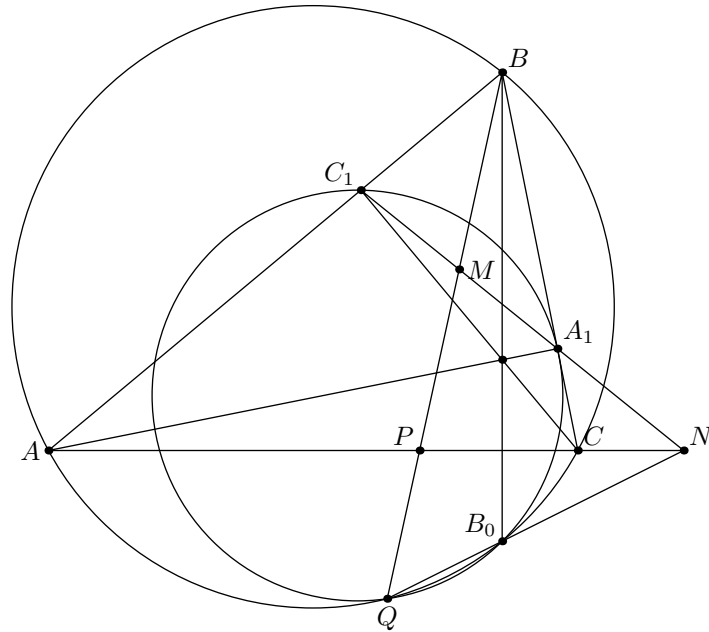


Fig. 12

13. (A.Zaslavsky) (9–11) Two circles pass through points  $A$  and  $B$ . A third circle touches both these circles and meets  $AB$  at points  $C$  and  $D$ . Prove that the tangents to this circle at these points are parallel to the common tangents of two given circles.

**Solution.** Let the third circle touch two given circles at points  $X, Y$ , and their common tangent touch them at  $U, V$  (points  $X$  and  $U$  lie on the same circle). Since  $X$  is the homothety center of touching circles, the line  $XU$  meets the third circle at point  $P$  such that the tangent at this point is parallel to  $UV$ . Similarly  $YV$  passes through  $P$ . Also  $X, Y, U, V$  are collinear, therefore  $PX \cdot PU = PY \cdot PV$ . Hence  $P$  lies on  $AB$  and thus coincides with one of points  $C, D$  (fig. 13). The proof for the second point is similar.

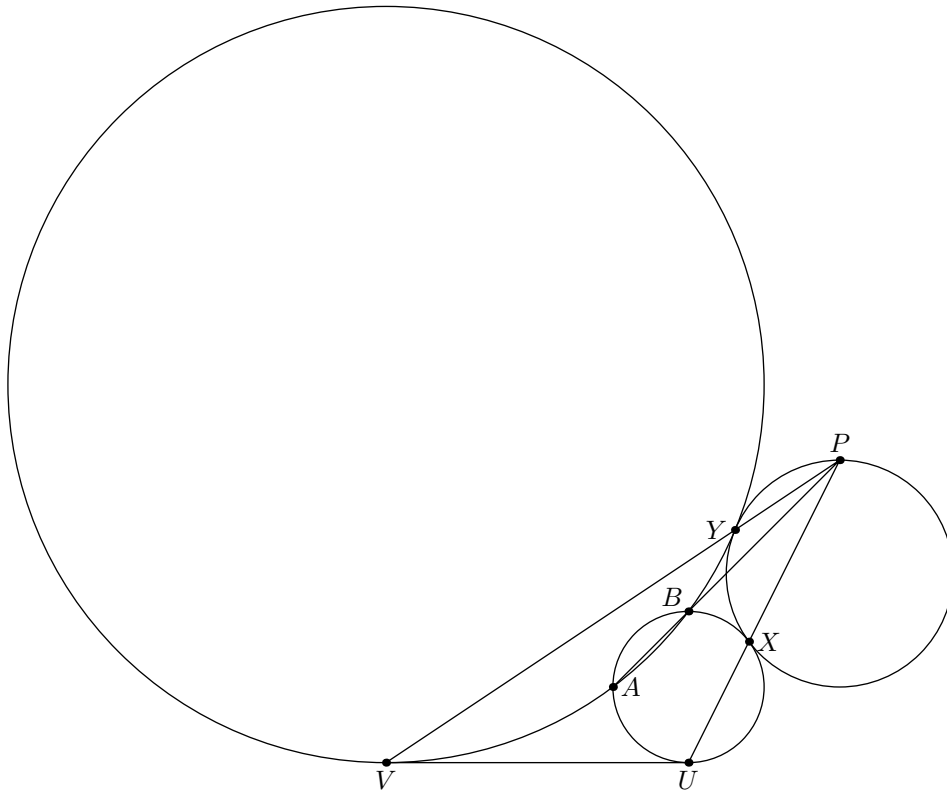


Fig. 13

14. (N.Moskvitin) (9–11) Let points  $B$  and  $C$  lie on the circle with diameter  $AD$  and center  $O$  on the same side of  $AD$ . The circumcircles of triangles  $ABO$  and  $CDO$  meet  $BC$  at points  $F$  and  $E$  respectively. Prove that  $R^2 = AF \cdot DE$ , where  $R$  is the radius of the given circle.

**Solution.** Since  $ABFO$  is cyclic and  $AO = OB$ , we have (fig.14)

$$\frac{AF}{AO} = \frac{\sin \angle AOF}{\sin \angle ABO} = \frac{\sin \angle ABF}{\sin \angle ABO} = \frac{\sin \angle ABC}{\sin \angle BAD}.$$

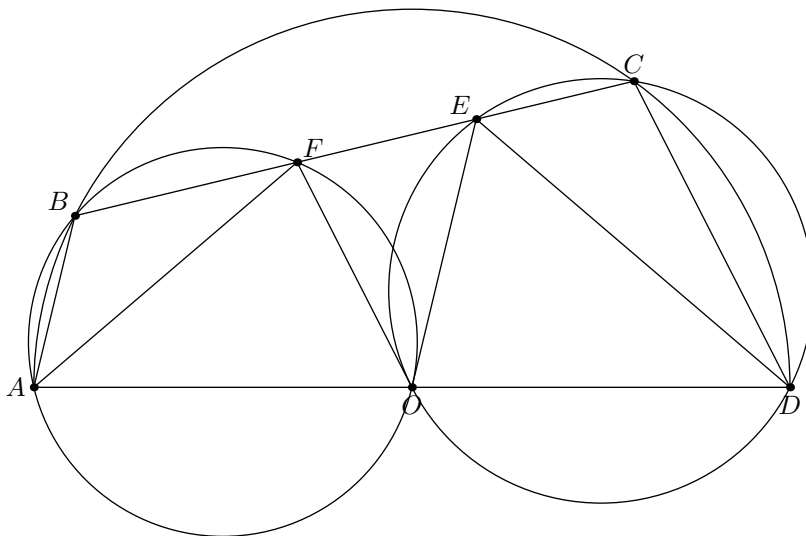


Fig. 14



Similarly,  $DE/OD = \sin \angle BCD / \sin \angle CDA$ . Since  $ABCD$  is cyclic, the product of these ratios is equal to 1.

15. (K.Aleksiev) (9–11) Let  $ABC$  be an acute-angled triangle with incircle  $\omega$  and incenter  $I$ . Let  $\omega$  touch  $AB$ ,  $BC$  and  $CA$  at points  $D$ ,  $E$ ,  $F$  respectively. The circles  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  centered at  $J_1$  and  $J_2$  respectively are inscribed into  $ADIF$  and  $BDIE$ . Let  $J_1J_2$  intersect  $AB$  at point  $M$ . Prove that  $CD$  is perpendicular to  $IM$ .

**Solution.** Since  $DJ_1$ ,  $DJ_2$  are the bisectors of triangles  $DIA$ ,  $DIB$  respectively, we have  $AJ_1/J_1I = AD/ID$ ,  $IJ_2/J_2B = CI/CB$ . By the Menelaus theorem we obtain that the quadruple  $A, B, C, M$  is harmonic, i.e.  $M$  lies on  $FE$  (fig.15). Since  $C$  and  $D$  are the poles of lines  $EF$  and  $AB$  wrt the incircle we obtain that  $M$  is the pole of  $CD$ , therefore  $CD \perp IM$ .

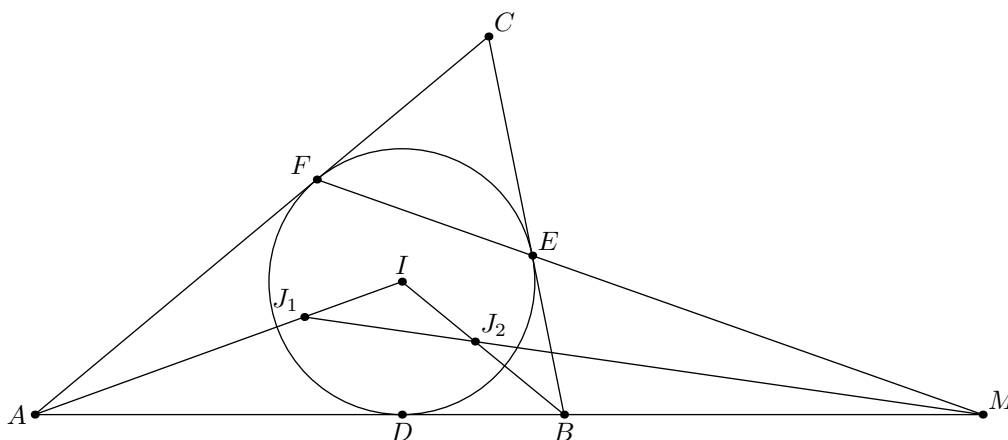


Fig. 15

16. (P.Ryabov) (9–11) The tangents to the circumcircle of triangle  $ABC$  at  $A$  and  $B$  meet at point  $D$ . The circle passing through the projections of  $D$  to  $BC$ ,  $CA$ ,  $AB$ , meet  $AB$  for the second time at point  $C'$ . Points  $A'$ ,  $B'$  are defined similarly. Prove that  $AA'$ ,  $BB'$ ,  $CC'$  concur.

**Solution.** The pedal circle of point  $D$  coincides with the pedal circle of isogonally conjugated point  $D'$  which is the vertex of parallelogram  $ACBD'$ . Hence  $C'$  is the projection of  $D'$  to  $AB$ , i.e. the reflection of the foot of the altitude from  $C$  about the midpoint of  $AB$ . Similarly  $A'$ ,  $B'$  are the reflections of the feet of the altitudes from  $A$  and  $B$  about the midpoints of the corresponding sides. Therefore  $AA'$ ,  $BB'$  and  $CC'$  concur at the point isotomically conjugated to the orthocenter of the triangle.

17. (A.Trigub) (9–11) Using a compass and a ruler, construct a point  $K$  inside an acute-angled triangle  $ABC$  so that  $\angle KBA = 2\angle KAB$  and  $\angle KBC = 2\angle KCB$ .

**Solution.** Let the circle centered at  $K$  and passing through  $B$  meet  $AB$  and  $BC$  at points  $P$  and  $Q$  respectively, and let  $T$  be the midpoint of arc  $ABC$  of the circumcircle. Then  $\angle KPB = \angle KBP = 2\angle KAP$ , therefore  $\angle KAP = \angle PKA$  and  $AP = PK = KB$ . Similarly  $CQ = QK = KB$ . Since  $AP = CQ$ ,  $AT = CT$  and  $\angle PAT = \angle QCT$ , the triangles  $TAP$  and  $TCQ$  are congruent i.e.  $\angle TPB = \angle TQB$  and  $T$  lies on the circle  $BPQ$ .

Hence the center  $K$  of this circle lies on the perpendicular bisector to  $BT$ . Furthermore by the assumption  $\angle AKC = 3\angle B/2$ , i.e.  $K$  lies on the corresponding arc (fig.17).

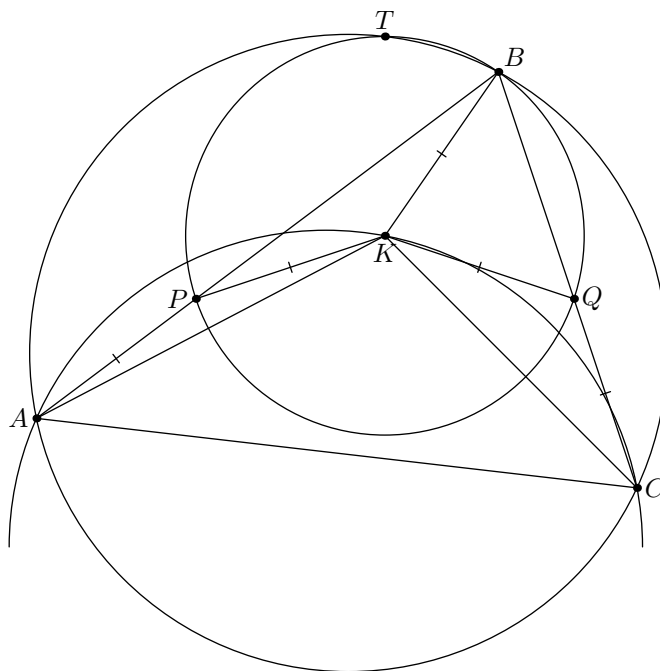


Fig. 17

Now let us prove that the constructed point  $K$  is in fact the required one. Denote again the common points of the sidelines with the circle centered at  $K$  and passing through  $B$  by  $P$  and  $Q$ . Since this circle passes through  $T$ , we obtain that  $AP = CQ$ . If  $AP > PK = KB$  then  $\angle PKA > \angle PAK$ ,  $\angle KPB = \angle KBP > 2\angle BAK$ ,  $\angle KBC > 2\angle KCB$  and  $\angle AKC < 3\angle B/2$  which contradicts to the construction of  $K$ . Similarly if  $AP < PK$  we have  $\angle AKC > 3\angle B/2$ .

18. (A.Trigub) (9–11) Let  $L$  be the common point of the symmedians of triangle  $ABC$ , and  $BH$  be its altitude. It is known that  $\angle ALH = 180^\circ - 2\angle A$ . Prove that  $\angle CLH = 180^\circ - 2\angle C$ .

**Solution.** Let  $AA_1, CC_1$  be the altitudes of the triangle. Then the symmedians  $AL, CL$  are the medians of triangles  $AC_1H, CA_1H$ , i.e. they pass through the midpoints  $M, N$  of segments  $HC_1, HA_1$  respectively. But  $\angle MNH = \angle C_1A_1H = 180^\circ - 2\angle A$ , therefore  $\angle ALH = 180^\circ - 2\angle A$  if and only if  $HLMN$  is cyclic. Similarly this is equivalent to the condition  $\angle CLH = 180^\circ - 2\angle C$ .

19. (D.Prokopenko) (10–11) Let cevians  $AA', BB'$  and  $CC'$  of triangle  $ABC$  concur at point  $P$ . The circumcircle of triangle  $PA'B'$  meets  $AC$  and  $BC$  at points  $M$  and  $N$  respectively, and the circumcircles of triangles  $PC'B'$  and  $PA'C'$  meet  $AC$  and  $BC$  for the second time respectively at points  $K$  and  $L$ . The line  $c$  passes through the midpoints of segments  $MN$  and  $KL$ . The lines  $a$  and  $b$  are defined similarly. Prove that  $a, b$  and  $c$  concur.

**Solution.** By the assumption  $CM \cdot CB' = CN \cdot CA'$  and  $CK \cdot CB' = CP \cdot CC' = CL \cdot CA'$ . Hence  $KL \parallel MN$  and  $c$  passes through  $C$ . Since  $MN$  and  $A'B'$  are antiparallel, this line

is the symmedian of triangle  $CA'B'$  and so it divides  $C$  into two angles with the ratio of sines equal to  $CB' : CA'$ . The similar relations for two remaining angles and the Ceva theorem yield the required assertion.

20. (V.Luchkin, M.Fadin) (10–11) Given a right-angled triangle  $ABC$  and two perpendicular lines  $x$  and  $y$  passing through the vertex  $A$  of its right angle. For an arbitrary point  $X$  on  $x$  define  $y_B$  and  $y_C$  as the reflections of  $y$  about  $XB$  and  $XC$  respectively. Let  $Y$  be the common point of  $y_b$  and  $y_c$ . Find the locus of  $Y$  (when  $y_b$  and  $y_c$  do not coincide).

**Solution.** Consider the point  $X'$  isogonally conjugated to  $X$  and its reflections  $U, V, W$  about  $AB, AC, BC$  respectively. Perpendicularity of  $x$  and  $y$  implies that  $U$  and  $V$  lie on  $y$ . Furthermore  $XB, XC$  are the perpendicular bisectors to  $UW, VW$  respectively. Therefore  $W$  lies on  $y_b, y_c$ , i.e. it coincides with  $Y$  (fig.20). Thus  $Y$  lies on the reflection of the isogonal image of  $x$  about  $BC$ . The required locus is this line without the points such that  $y_b$  and  $y_c$  coincide, i.e. the common point of this line with  $BC$  and the reflection of  $A$  about  $BC$ .

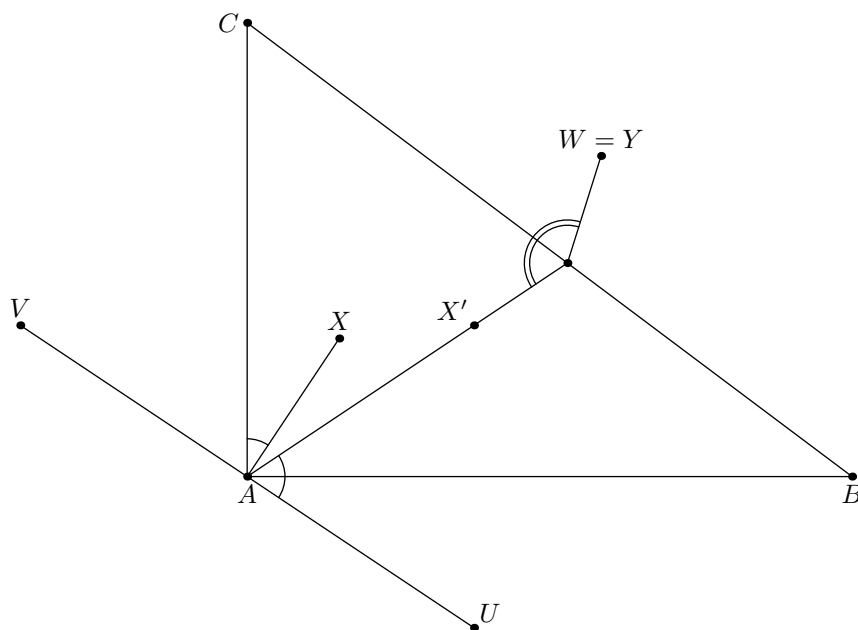


Fig. 20

21. (N.Beluhov) (10–11) A convex hexagon is circumscribed about a circle of radius 1. Consider the three segments joining the midpoints of its opposite sides. Find the greatest real number  $r$  such that the length of at least one segment is at least  $r$ .

**Solution.** Let  $A_1A_2 \dots A_6$  be the hexagon in question, circumscribed about a circle  $\omega$  with center  $I$ , and let  $M_i$  be the midpoint of  $A_iA_{i+1}$  (indices run modulo 6, so that, say,  $A_7 \equiv A_1$ ). If  $A_1A_2A_3$  approaches an equilateral triangle and  $A_4, A_5$ , and  $A_6$  all approach the midpoint of  $A_1A_3$  then the lengths of  $M_1M_4, M_2M_5$ , and  $M_3M_6$  all approach  $\sqrt{3}$ .

We will show that  $r = \sqrt{3}$  is indeed the answer to the problem. First we verify that  $I$  lies inside  $M_1M_2 \dots M_6$ . Suppose for example that it lies inside the triangle  $M_1A_1M_6$ . But then  $\omega$  is contained inside  $A_2A_1A_6$  and cannot touch all sides of  $A_1A_2 \dots A_6$ , a contradiction.

Let  $\angle(ABCD)$  denote the angle such that rotation by it counterclockwise about  $A$  makes  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  codirectional with  $\overrightarrow{CD}$ .

Since all  $M_i$  lie outside  $\omega$ , we have  $IM_i \geq 1$ . Therefore, if  $120^\circ \leq \angle(IM_i IM_{i+3}) \leq 240^\circ$  for some  $i$  then  $M_i M_{i+3} \geq \sqrt{3}$  and we are done.

Suppose now that this does not happen for any  $i$ . Let  $j$  be such that  $\angle(IM_j IM_{j+3}) \leq 120^\circ$  and  $\angle(IM_{j+3} IM_j) \geq 240^\circ$ . Then there is some  $k$ ,  $j \leq k \leq j+2$ , such that  $\angle(IM_k IM_{k+3}) \leq 120^\circ$  and  $\angle(IM_{k+1} IM_{k+4}) \geq 240^\circ$ . Without loss of generality, take  $k = 4$ . Then  $120^\circ \leq \angle IM_1 IM_2 \leq 180^\circ$  and consequently  $M_1 M_2 \geq \sqrt{3}$ .

Consider the convex quadrilateral  $M_1 M_2 M_4 M_5$ . If angle  $M_1$  is right or obtuse then  $M_2 M_5 > M_1 M_2 \geq \sqrt{3}$  and we are done. If angle  $M_2$  is right or obtuse then  $M_1 M_4 > M_1 M_2 \geq \sqrt{3}$  and we are done. It remains to consider the case when angles  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are both acute.

In this case however  $90^\circ < \angle(M_1 M_2 M_4 M_5) < 270^\circ$ . Since  $\overrightarrow{M_3 M_6} = -\overrightarrow{M_1 M_2} + \overrightarrow{M_4 M_5}$  (because  $\overrightarrow{M_3 M_6} = \overrightarrow{M_3 M_4} + \overrightarrow{M_4 M_5} + \overrightarrow{M_5 M_6}$  and  $\overrightarrow{M_1 M_2} + \overrightarrow{M_3 M_4} + \overrightarrow{M_5 M_6} = \frac{1}{2}(\overrightarrow{A_1 A_3} + \overrightarrow{A_3 A_5} + \overrightarrow{A_5 A_1}) = \mathbf{0}$ ), we have  $M_3 M_6 > M_1 M_2 \geq \sqrt{3}$ , and the proof is complete.

22. (M. Panov) (10–11) Let  $P$  be an arbitrary point on the diagonal  $AC$  of cyclic quadrilateral  $ABCD$ , and  $PK, PL, PM, PN, PO$  be the perpendiculars from  $P$  to  $AB, BC, CD, DA, BD$  respectively. Prove that the distance from  $P$  to  $KN$  is equal to the distance from  $O$  to  $ML$ .

**Solution.** When  $P$  moves uniformly along  $AC$ , the lines  $KN$  and  $ML$  are translated uniformly and the point  $O$  moves uniformly as well. Thus  $d(P, KN) - d(O, ML)$  is a linear function of the position of  $P$ . When  $P = A$ , this function equals 0 by the Simson theorem, and when  $P$  is the common point of  $AC$  and  $BD$ , it equals 0 because  $KLMN$  is circumscribed about a circle centered at  $P = O$  ( $\angle NKP = \angle DAC = \angle DBC = \angle PKL$  because  $AKPN$  and  $BKPL$  are cyclic).

23. (I. Frolov) (10–11) Let a line  $m$  touch the incircle of triangle  $ABC$ . The lines passing through the incenter  $I$  and perpendicular to  $AI, BI, CI$  meet  $m$  at points  $A', B', C'$  respectively. Prove that  $AA', BB'$  and  $CC'$  concur.

**Solution.** The polar transformation wrt the incircle maps  $BC, CA, AB, m$  to their touching points  $A_1, B_1, C_1, M$  with the incircle. Since  $IA'$  is the polar of the infinite point of perpendicular line  $IA$ , its common point with  $m$  is the pole of the line passing through  $M$  and parallel to  $IA$ . Since  $IA \perp B_1 C_1$ , the line  $AA'$  is the polar of the projection of  $M$  to  $B_1 C_1$ . Similarly the lines  $BB'$  and  $CC'$  are the polars of projections of  $M$  to  $A_1 C_1$  and  $A_1 B_1$  respectively. By the Simson theorem these projections are collinear, hence their polars concur.

24. (I.I. Bogdanov) (11) Two tetrahedrons are given. Each two faces of the same tetrahedron are not similar, but each face of the first tetrahedron is similar to some face of the second one. Does this yield that these tetrahedrons are similar?

**Answer.** No.

**Solution.** Let  $t$  be some number close to 1. Then there exist two tetrahedrons such that their bases are regular triangles with side equal to 1, the lateral edges of the first tetrahedron are equal to  $t, t^2, t^3$ , and the lateral edges of the second one are equal to  $1/t,$

$1/t^2$ ,  $1/t^3$ . It is clear that the assumption is valid for these tetrahedrons but they are not similar.