

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

1. (A.Mardanov) (8) Let  $L$  be the midpoint of the minor arc  $AC$  of the circumcircle of an acute-angled triangle  $ABC$ . A point  $P$  is the projection of  $B$  to the tangent at  $L$  to the circumcircle. Prove that  $P, L$ , and the midpoints of sides  $AB, BC$  are concyclic.

**Solution.** Let  $M, N$ , and  $K$  be the midpoints of  $AB, BC$ , and  $AC$ ; let  $H$  be the foot of the altitude from  $B$ ; then  $H$  is also the common point of  $BP$  and  $AC$ . It is clear that  $MN \parallel AC \parallel PL$ , thus  $MPLN$  is a trapezoid. It is known that  $MHKN$  is an isosceles trapezoid, hence  $\angle MHP = \angle NKL$ ,  $MH = KN$ . Also  $PH = KL$ . Therefore the triangles  $MHP$  and  $NKL$  are congruent, i.e the trapezoid  $MPLN$  is isosceles (fig.1), thus  $P, L$ , and the midpoints of  $AB$  and  $BC$  are concyclic.

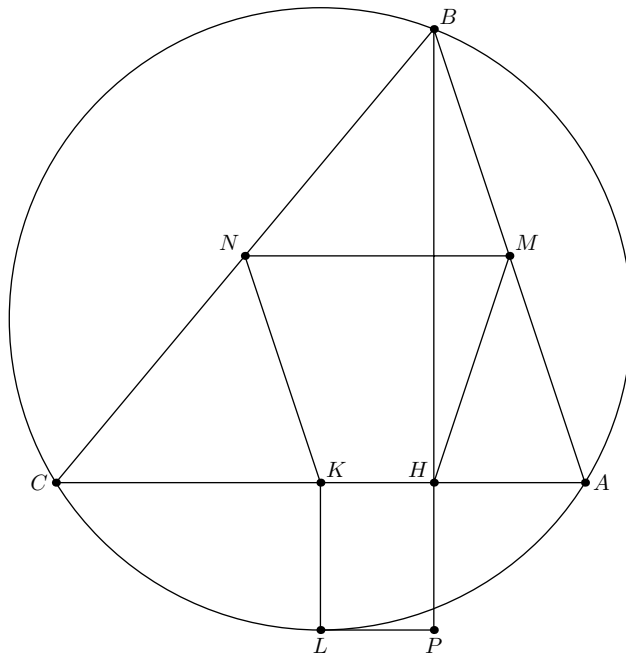


Fig. 1.

2. (N.Moskvitin) (8) The diagonals of a rectangle  $ABCD$  meet at point  $E$ . A circle centered at  $E$  lies inside the rectangle. Let  $CF, DG, AH$  be the tangents to this circle from  $C, D, A$ ; let  $CF$  meet  $DG$  at point  $I$ ,  $EI$  meet  $AD$  at point  $J$ , and  $AH$  meet  $CF$  at point  $L$ . Prove that  $LJ$  is perpendicular to  $AD$ .

**Solution.** Since the lines  $DG$  and  $AH$  are symmetric with respect to the perpendicular bisector to  $AD$ , and  $AH$  and  $CF$  are symmetric with respect to the perpendicular bisector to  $AC$ , we obtain that  $\angle CID = 2\angle EAD = \angle CED$ , i.e.  $C, D, I, E$  are concyclic. Hence  $\angle AEI = \angle CDI$ , and since  $\angle AEL = \angle ADC = 90^\circ$ , we obtain that  $\angle JEL = \angle IDA = \angle JAL$ . Therefore  $A, J, E, L$  are concyclic and  $\angle AJL = 90^\circ$  (fig.2).

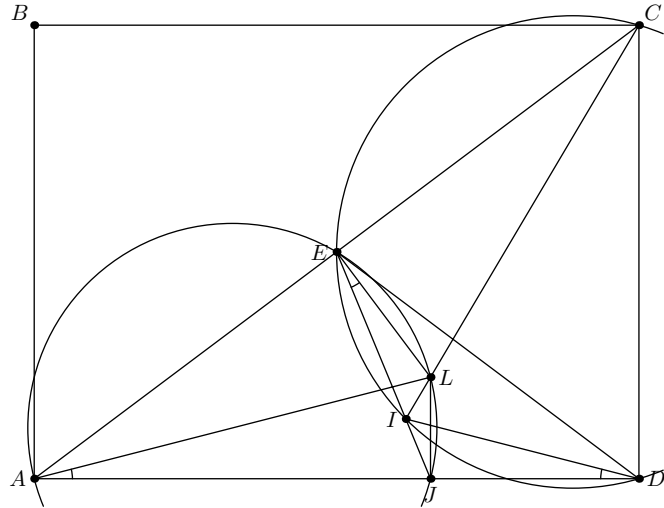


Fig. 2.

3. (D.Mukhin) (8) A circle touches the lateral sides of a trapezoid  $ABCD$  at points  $B$  and  $C$ , and its center lies on  $AD$ . Prove that the diameter of the circle is less than the medial line of the trapezoid.

**Solution.** Let  $O$  be the center of the circle;  $EF$  be its diameter lying on  $AD$ ;  $G, H$  be the projections of  $B$  and  $C$  to  $AD$ . Since the arcs  $BE$  and  $CF$  are equal, we obtain that  $\angle ABG = \angle DCH$ , i.e.  $AG = DH$  and the trapezoid is isosceles. Therefore its medial line equals to  $AH = EH + AE = EH + OA - OB$ . But from the similarity of triangles  $OAB$  and  $OBG$  we have  $OA - OB > OB - OG = GE = HF$ , thus  $AH > EH + HF = EF$  (fig.3).

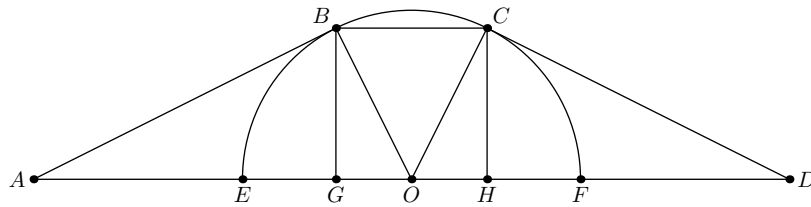


Fig. 3.

4. (F.Ivlev, A.Mardanov) (8) Points  $D$  and  $E$  lie on the lateral sides  $AB$  and  $BC$  respectively of an isosceles triangle  $ABC$  in such a way that  $\angle BED = 3\angle BDE$ . Let  $D'$  be the reflection of  $D$  about  $AC$ . Prove that the line  $D'E$  passes through the incenter of  $ABC$ .

**Solution.** Let the bisectors  $AL$  and  $CH$  meet at point  $I$ . Since  $\angle BLA = \angle BAL + \angle ACL = 3\angle BAL$ , we obtain that  $DE \parallel AL$ . Also  $AD' \parallel BL$ . Since  $LE : AD' = LE : AD = BL : BA = IL : IA$ , we obtain that  $ED'$  passes through  $I$  (fig.4).

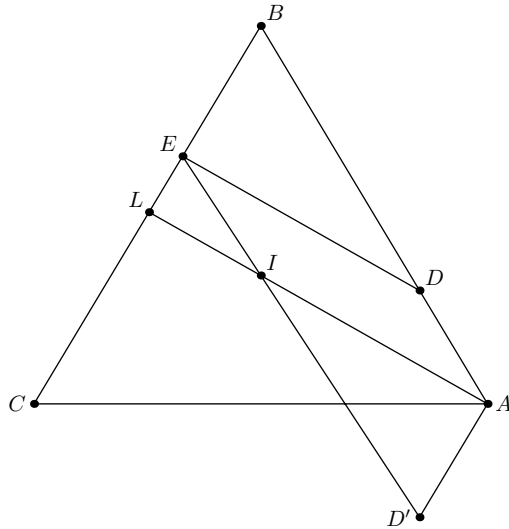


Fig. 4.

5. (I.Kukharchuk) (8) Let  $ABCD$  be a cyclic quadrilateral. Points  $E$  and  $F$  lie on the sides  $AD$  and  $CD$  in such a way that  $AE = BC$  and  $AB = CF$ . Let  $M$  be the midpoint of  $EF$ . Prove that  $\angle AMC = 90^\circ$ .

**First solution.** In the pentagon  $ABCFE$  we have  $\angle A + \angle C = 180^\circ$ , thus  $\angle B + \angle E + \angle F = 360^\circ$ . Draw from any point  $U$  segments  $UX = AB = CF$ ,  $UY = BC = AE$ ,  $UZ = ME = MF$  in such a way that  $\angle XUY = \angle B$ ,  $\angle YUZ = \angle E$ ,  $\angle ZUX = \angle F$ . Then the triangles  $UXY$ ,  $UYZ$ ,  $UZX$ , and  $XYZ$  are congruent to the triangles  $BAC$ ,  $EMA$ ,  $FMC$ , and  $ACM$  respectively, therefore  $\angle AMC = \angle AME + \angle CME = 90^\circ$  (fig.5).

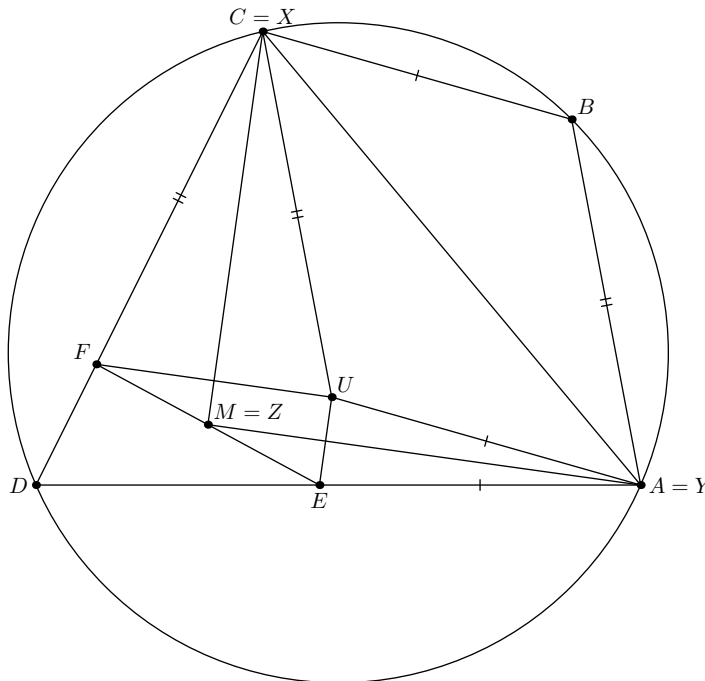


Fig. 5.

**Second solution.** Construct the parallelogram  $ABCU$ . The point  $E, F$  are the reflections of  $U$  about the bisectors of angles  $BAD, BCD$  respectively. Since  $\angle AUC + \angle ADC = 180^\circ$ ,

these bisectors are perpendicular. Therefore the triangle  $UEF$  is right-angled, and the bisectors meet at its orthocenter  $M$ .

6. (D.Shvetsov) (8–9) Let  $A_1, B_1, C_1$  be the feet of altitudes of an acute-angled triangle  $ABC$ . The incircle of triangle  $A_1B_1C_1$  touches  $A_1B_1, A_1C_1, B_1C_1$  at points  $C_2, B_2, A_2$  respectively. Prove that the lines  $AA_2, BB_2, CC_2$  concur at a point lying on the Euler line of triangle  $ABC$ .

**Solution.** Since the altitudes of triangle  $ABC$  coincide with the bisectors of triangle  $A_1B_1C_1$  which are perpendicular to the sidelines of triangle  $A_2B_2C_2$ , we obtain that the triangles  $ABC$  and  $A_2B_2C_2$  are homothetic (fig.6). Its homothety center lies on the line passing through the circumcenters of these triangles, i.e. the Euler line of  $ABC$ .

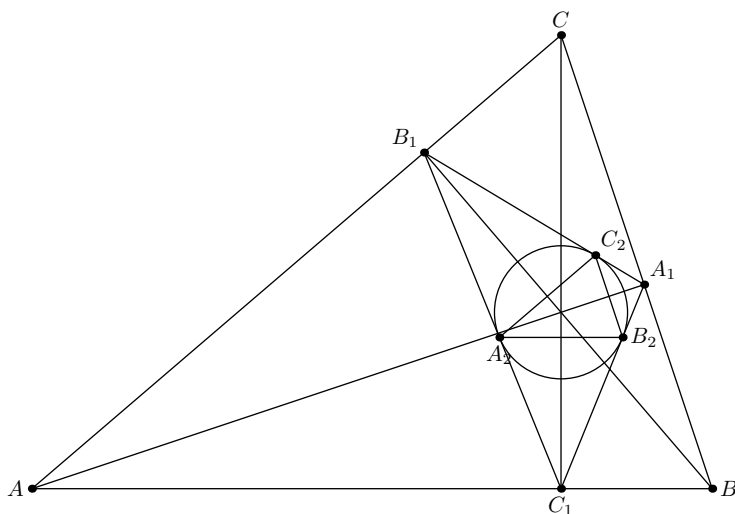


Fig. 6.

7. (D.Demin, I.Kukharchuk) (8–9) Let  $A$  be a fixed point of a circle  $\omega$ . Let  $BC$  be an arbitrary chord of  $\omega$  passing through a fixed point  $P$ . Prove that the nine-points circles of triangles  $ABC$  touch some fixed circle not depending on  $BC$ .

**Solution.** The locus of the midpoints of chords  $BC$  is the circle with diameter  $OP$ , where  $O$  is the center of  $\omega$ . The homothety with center  $A$  and coefficient  $2/3$  maps this circle to the locus of the centroids of triangles  $ABC$ . Applying the homothety with center  $O$  and coefficient  $3/2$  to this circle, we obtain that the locus of the centers of the nine-points circles is also a circle. Since the radii of all nine-point circles are equal, we obtain that all these circles touch two fixed circles.

8. (G.Filipovsky) (8–9) A triangle  $ABC$  ( $a > b > c$ ) is given. Its incenter  $I$  and the touching points  $K, N$  of the incircle with  $BC$  and  $AC$  respectively are marked. Construct a segment with length  $a - c$  using only a ruler and drawing at most three lines.

**Solution.** It is known that the common point  $T$  of the line  $KN$  and the bisector  $BI$  coincide with the projection of  $A$  to  $BI$ . Thus if  $AT$  meets  $BC$  at point  $P$ , then the altitude  $BT$  of triangle  $BPT$  coincides with the bisector. Therefore  $BP = AB$  and  $CP$  is the required segment (fig.8).

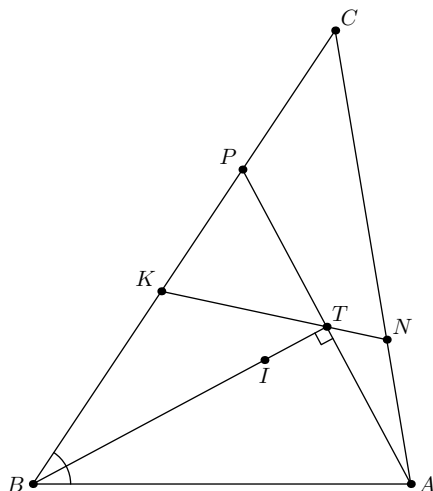


Fig. 8.

9. (S.Gubanov) (8–9) It is known that the reflection of the orthocenter of a triangle  $ABC$  about its circumcenter lies on  $BC$ . Let  $A_1$  be the foot of the altitude from  $A$ . Prove that  $A_1$  lies on the circle passing through the midpoints of the altitudes of  $ABC$ .

**Solution.** The distance from the circumcenter to the line  $BC$  equals to a half of  $AH$ , where  $H$  is the orthocenter. On the other hand the assumption yields that this distance equals to a half of  $HA_1$ . Therefore  $H$  is the midpoint of  $AA_1$ . Let  $A_0$  be the midpoint of  $BC$ . Since the midpoints  $X, Y$  of altitudes  $BB_1, CC_1$  lie on the medial lines of the triangle, we obtain that the angles  $A_0XH$  and  $A_0YH$  are right, i.e. the points  $X$  and  $Y$  lie on the circle with diameter  $A_0H$ . It is clear that  $A_1$  also lies on this circle (fig.9).

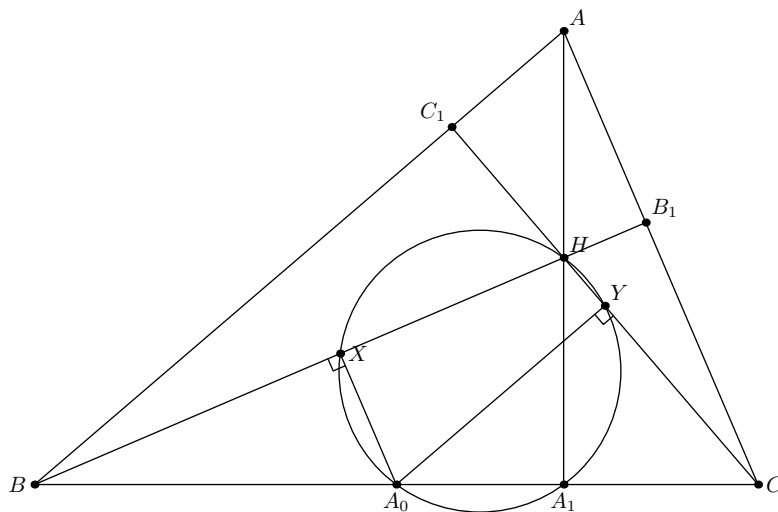


Fig. 9.

10. (G.Zabaznov) (8–9) Altitudes  $BE$  and  $CF$  of an acute-angled triangle  $ABC$  meet at point  $H$ . The perpendicular from  $H$  to  $EF$  meets the line  $\ell$  passing through  $A$  and parallel to  $BC$  at point  $P$ . The bisectors of two angles between  $\ell$  and  $HP$  meet  $BC$  at points  $S$  and  $T$ . Prove that the circumcircles of triangles  $ABC$  and  $PST$  are tangent.

**Solution.** Let  $PH$  meet  $BC$  at point  $M$ . Since  $\angle MPT = \angle APT = \angle MTP$ , we have  $MT = MP$ . Similarly  $MS = MP$ , i.e.  $M$  is the circumcenter of triangle  $PST$ . Also since  $AO \perp EF$ , we obtain that  $AO \parallel MP$ , where  $O$  is the circumcenter of triangle  $ABC$ . Since the reflection  $H'$  of  $H$  about  $BC$  lies on the circumcircle of  $ABC$ , we obtain that isosceles triangles  $HMH'$  and  $AOH'$  are similar, thus  $M$  lies on the segment  $OH'$ , and the lines  $OM$  and  $MP$  form equal angles with  $BC$ . Then  $OM$  and  $\ell$  meet at the common point of circles  $ABC$  and  $PST$ , which is the tangency point of these circles (fig.10).

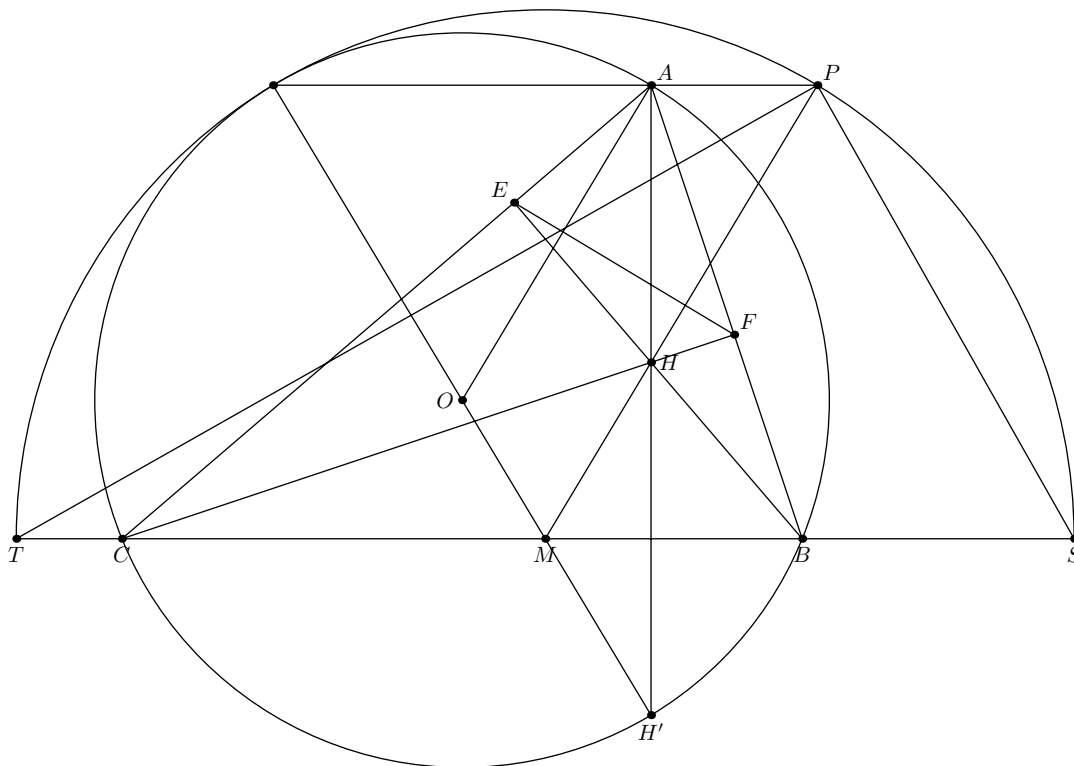


Fig. 10.

11. (M.Kursky) (8–10) Let  $H$  be the orthocenter of an acute-angled triangle  $ABC$ ;  $E, F$  be points on  $AB, AC$  respectively, such that  $AEHF$  is a parallelogram;  $X, Y$  be the common points of the line  $EF$  and the circumcircle  $\omega$  of triangle  $ABC$ ;  $Z$  be the point of  $\omega$  opposite to  $A$ . Prove that  $H$  is the orthocenter of triangle  $XYZ$ .

**Solution.** The assumption yields that  $\angle BHE = \angle CHF = \pi/2$ , therefore the triangles  $BHE$  and  $CHF$  are similar and  $AF : EB = EH : EB = HF : FC = AE : EC$ . Hence  $AE \cdot EB = AF \cdot FC$ , i.e. the powers of  $E$  and  $F$  with respect to the circumcircle are equal and the midpoint  $D$  of  $AH$  is also the midpoint of  $XY$ . Thus the medial line  $OD$  of triangle  $AHZ$  is perpendicular to  $XY$ . Therefore  $ZH$  is the altitude of triangle  $XYZ$ , and since the reflection  $A$  of  $H$  with respect to the midpoint of  $XY$  lies on the circumcircle, we obtain that  $H$  is the orthocenter (fig.11).

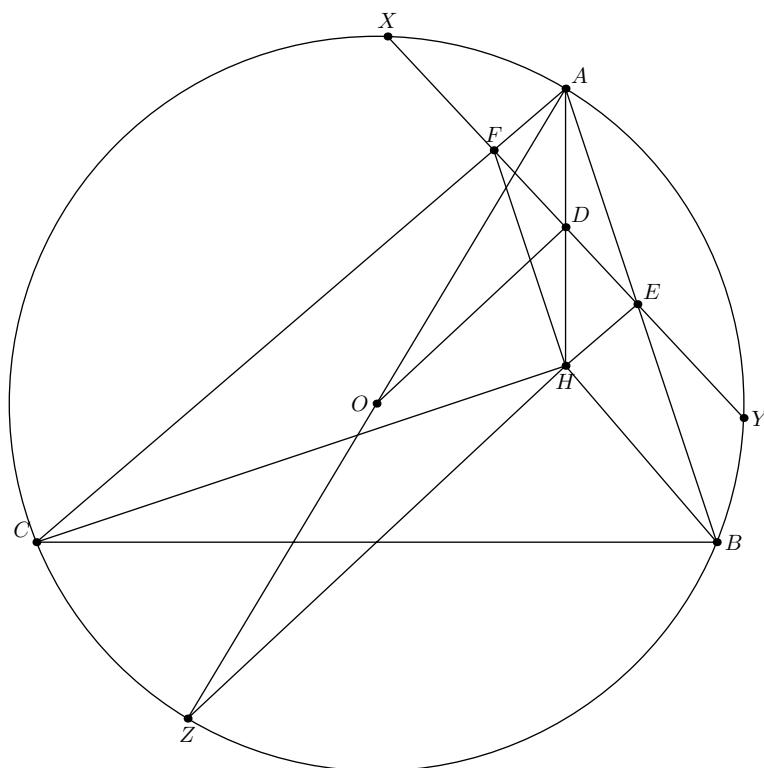


Fig. 11.

12. Let  $ABC$  be a triangle with obtuse angle  $B$ , and  $P, Q$  lie on  $AC$  in such a way that  $AP = PB, BQ = QC$ . The circle  $BPQ$  meets the sides  $AB$  and  $BC$  at points  $N$  and  $M$  respectively.

(a) (P.Ryabov, 8–9) Prove that the distances from the common point  $R$  of  $PM$  and  $NQ$  to  $A$  and  $C$  are equal.

(b) (A.Zaslavsky, 10–11) Let  $BR$  meet  $AC$  at point  $S$ . Prove that  $MN \perp OS$ , where  $O$  is the circumcenter of  $ABC$ .

**Solution.** (a) Let  $O$  be the circumcenter of triangle  $ABC$ . Then  $OP \perp AB$  and  $OQ \perp BC$ . Also  $\angle NQA = \angle NBP = \angle A$  and similarly  $\angle MPC = \angle C$ . Hence  $\angle PRQ + \angle POQ = \pi$  and  $OPRQ$  is a cyclic quadrilateral. Therefore  $\angle PRO = \angle PQO = \pi/2 - \angle C$ , i.e. the diagonals of this quadrilateral are perpendicular and  $AR = AC$  (fig.12).

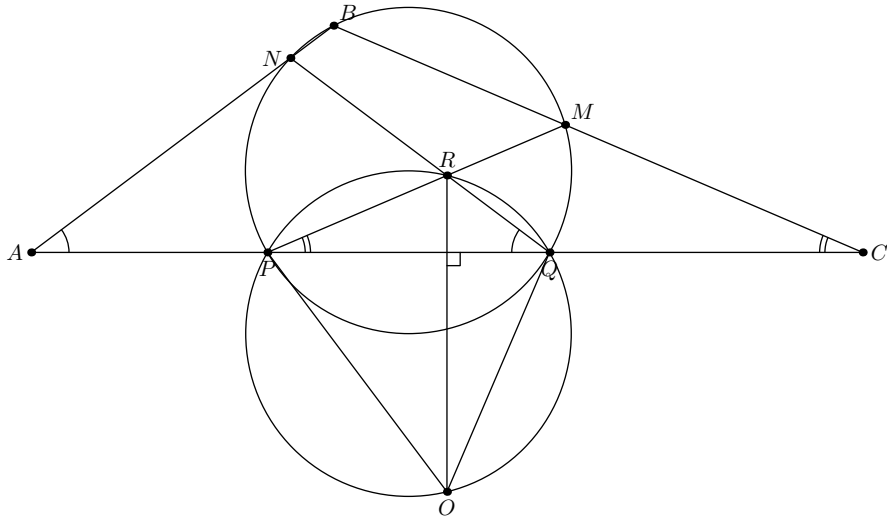


Fig. 12.

(b) By (a) the triangles  $QRP$  and  $ABC$  are orthologic with center  $O$ . Also they are perspective with center  $S$ . By the Sondat theorem  $OS$  is perpendicular to the perspective axis  $MN$ .

13. (A.Mardanov) (8–11) The base  $AD$  of a trapezoid  $ABCD$  is twice greater than the base  $BC$ , and the angle  $C$  equals one and a half of the angle  $A$ . The diagonal  $AC$  divides angle  $C$  into two angles. Which of them is greater?

**Solution.** Let the lateral sidelines meet at point  $P$  and the perpendicular bisector to  $PD$  meet  $AP$  at point  $Q$ . Then  $\angle A Q D = 2\angle Q P D = \angle Q A D$  and  $A D = Q D > C D$  (a hypotenuse is greater than a cathetus). Thus  $\angle A C D > \angle C A D = \angle B C A$  (fig.13).



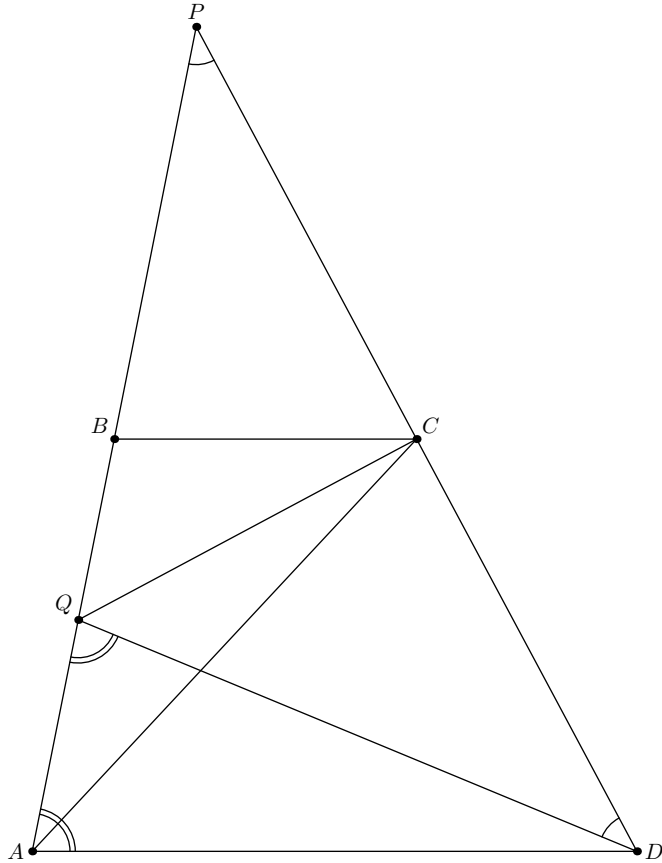


Fig. 13.

14. (A.Skopenkov) (8–11) Suppose that a closed oriented polygonal line  $l$  in the plane does not pass through a point  $O$ , and is symmetric with respect to  $O$ . Prove that the winding number of  $l$  around  $O$  is odd.

The winding number of  $l$  around  $O$  is defined to be the following sum of the oriented angles divided by  $2\pi$ :

$$\deg_O l := \frac{\angle A_1OA_2 + \angle A_2OA_3 + \dots + \angle A_{n-1}OA_n + \angle A_nOA_1}{2\pi}.$$

**Solution.** It is clear that the number of links is even:  $n = 2k$ . Since  $A_1$  and  $A_{k+1}$  are symmetric with respect to  $O$ , we obtain that between  $A_1$  and  $A_{k+1}$  the vector  $OA_i$  rotates by angle  $m\pi$ , where  $m$  is odd. But it rotates by the same angle between  $A_{k+1}$  and  $A_1$ . Therefore the winding number equals  $2\pi m$ .

15. (A.Matveev) (9–10) Let  $ABCD$  be a convex quadrilateral. Points  $X$  and  $Y$  lie on the extensions beyond  $D$  of the sides  $CD$  and  $AD$  respectively in such a way that  $DX = AB$  and  $DY = BC$ . Similarly points  $Z$  and  $T$  lie on the extensions beyond  $B$  of the sides  $CB$  and  $AB$  respectively in such a way that  $BZ = AD$  and  $BT = DC$ . Let  $M_1$  be the midpoint of  $XY$ , and  $M_2$  be the midpoint of  $ZT$ . Prove that the lines  $DM_1$ ,  $BM_2$ , and  $AC$  concur.

**Solution.** Let  $DM_1$  meet  $AC$  at point  $P$ . Then  $\sin \angle ADP : \sin \angle CDP = \sin \angle YDM : \sin \angle XDM = XD : YD = AB : BC$ . Therefore  $AP : CP = (AB \cdot AD) : (CB \cdot CD)$ . We obtain the same ratio for the meeting point of  $AC$  with the line  $BM_2$ .

16. (P.Kozhevnikov) (9–11) Let  $AH_A$  and  $BH_B$  be the altitudes of a triangle  $ABC$ . The line  $H_AH_B$  meets the circumcircle of  $ABC$  at points  $P$  and  $Q$ . Let  $A'$  be the reflection of  $Q$  about  $BC$ , and  $B'$  be the reflection of  $B$  about  $CA$ . Prove that  $A', B', P, Q$  are concyclic.

**Solution.** Since the reflections of the orthocenter about the sidelines lie on the circumcircle, we have  $H_AH \cdot H_AA' = H_AB \cdot H_AC = H_AP \cdot H_AQ$ , therefore  $P, Q, H, A'$  are concyclic. Similarly  $P, Q, H, B'$  are concyclic (fig.16).

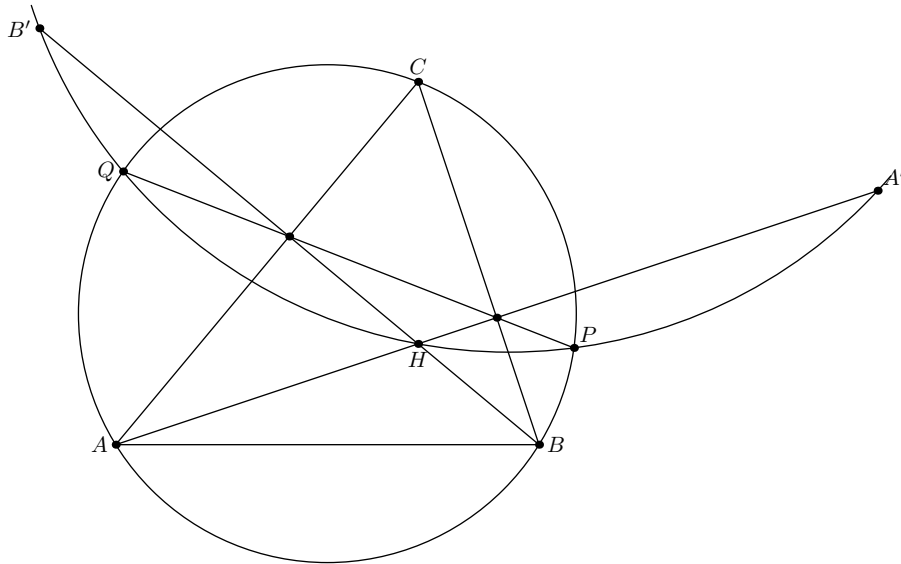


Fig. 16.

17. (L.Shatunov) (9–11) A common external tangent to circles  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  touches them at points  $T_1, T_2$  respectively. Let  $A$  be an arbitrary point on the extension of  $T_1T_2$  beyond  $T_1$ , and  $B$  be a point on the extension of  $T_1T_2$  beyond  $T_2$  such that  $AT_1 = BT_2$ . The tangents from  $A$  to  $\omega_1$  and from  $B$  to  $\omega_2$  distinct from  $T_1T_2$  meet at point  $C$ . Prove that all nagelians of triangles  $ABC$  from  $C$  have a common point.

**Solution.** Let us prove that all nagelians pass through the center of internal homothety of the circles. Reformulate the problem: let a triangle  $ABC$  be given;  $T_1, T_2$  be two points on the side  $AB$ , symmetric with respect to its midpoint; and two circles inscribed into angles  $A, B$  touch  $AB$  at  $T_1, T_2$  respectively. Then the internal homothety center of these circles lies on the nagelian  $CD$ .

When  $T_1, T_2$  move along  $AB$ , the centers of the circles move along the bisectors of angles  $A$  and  $B$  respectively, and the ratio of their radii is constant and equals  $\cot \frac{A}{2} : \cot \frac{B}{2} = AD : BD$ . Therefore the homothety center moves along some line passing through  $D$ . Also since  $AC + AD = BC + BD$ , we obtain that the incircle of triangle  $ACD$  corresponds to the incircle of triangle  $BCD$  (fig.17). It is clear that the homothety center of these circles lies on  $CD$ . Thus this is correct for any pair of corresponding circles.

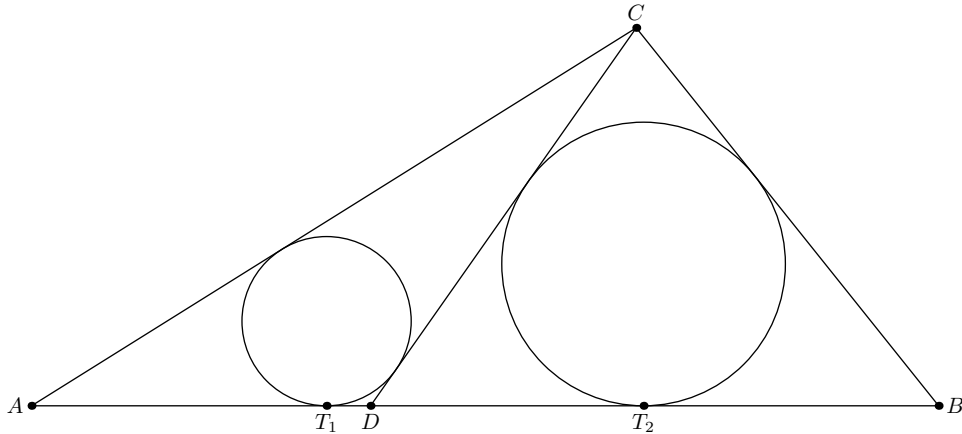


Fig. 17.

18. (A.Zaslavsky) (9–11) Restore a bicentral quadrilateral  $ABCD$  if the midpoints of the arcs  $AB$ ,  $BC$ ,  $CD$  of its circumcircle are given.

**Solution.** The circumcircle of the quadrilateral passes through given points, and its chords joining the midpoints of the opposite arcs are perpendicular. Hence we can restore the midpoint of the arc  $DA$ . The tangents to the circumcircle at the midpoints of arcs are parallel to the sidelines of the required quadrilateral, and two quadrilaterals are homothetic because they are circumscribed. Therefore we can draw the circumcircle of the quadrilateral formed by the tangents, and applying the homothety mapping this circle to the circumcircle we restore the quadrilateral.

19. (A.Zaslavsky) (10–11) A cyclic quadrilateral  $ABCD$  is given. An arbitrary circle passing through  $C$  and  $D$  meets  $AC$ ,  $BC$  at points  $X$ ,  $Y$  respectively. Find the locus of common points of circles  $CAY$  and  $CBX$ .

**Answer.** The line  $CE$ , where  $AEED$  is a harmonic quadrilateral.

**Solution.** Consider a composition of an inversion centered at  $C$  and the reflection about the bisector of angle  $BCA$ , swapping  $A$  and  $B$ . It swaps also the line  $AB$  and the circumcircle of  $ABCD$ , i.e. maps  $D$  to some point  $D'$  on  $AB$ ; the image of any circle passing through  $C$  and  $D$  is a line passing through  $D'$  and meeting  $AC$ ,  $BC$  at points  $Y'$ ,  $X'$  respectively. The circles  $CAY$  and  $CBX$  are transformed to the lines  $AX'$ ,  $BY'$ , and the common point of these lines lies on the line passing through  $C$  and meeting  $AB$  at point  $E'$  such that  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $D'$ ,  $E'$  is a harmonic quadruple. Repeated applying of the inversion and the reflection maps this line to  $CE$  (fig.19).

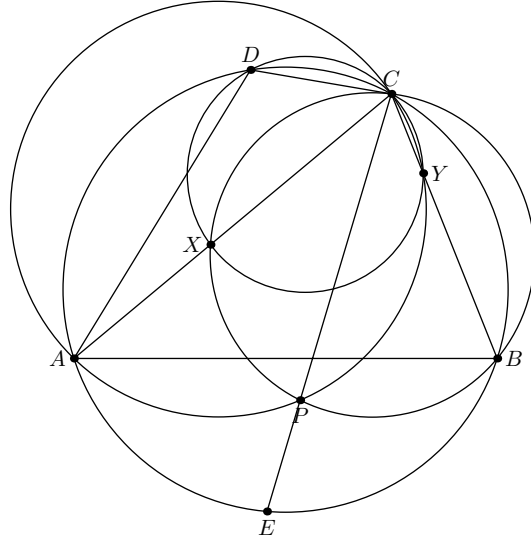


Fig. 19.

20. (A.Shevstov) (10–11) Let a point  $D$  lie on the median  $AM$  of a triangle  $ABC$ . The tangents to the circumcircle of triangle  $BDC$  at points  $B$  and  $C$  meet at point  $K$ . Prove that  $DD'$  is parallel to  $AK$ , where  $D'$  is isogonally conjugated to  $D$  with respect to  $ABC$ .

**First solution.** If  $D$  moves along  $AM$ , then  $D'$  and  $K$  move along a symmedian and the perpendicular bisector to  $BC$ . The correspondence between  $D'$  and  $D$  is projective, and  $K$  depend on  $D$  quadratically (it is the pole of fixed line  $BC$  with respect to the circle  $BDC$ , and the coefficients of equation of this circle are quadratic functions of  $D$ ). Hence we have to prove the assertion for five positions of  $D$ . If  $D$  coincides with  $A$ , then  $D'$  is the foot of the symmedian, and  $K$  is the common point of tangents to the circumcircle of  $ABC$ , i.e., all three points are collinear. If  $D$  is the second common point of  $AM$  with the circumcircle, then  $K$  also lies on the symmedian, and  $D'$  is its infinite point. If  $D$  coincides with  $M$ , then  $K$  also coincides with  $M$ , and  $D'$  coincides with  $A$ . If  $ABDC$  is a parallelogram, then  $D'$  is the common point of the tangents to the circumcircle at  $B$  and  $C$ , and  $K$  is the reflection of  $D'$  about  $M$ . Finally if  $D$  is infinite, then  $K$  coincides with  $M$ . The required assertion is correct for all cases.

### Second solution

(N. Beluhov, <https://artofproblemsolving.com/community/c6h3025566p27515578>)

Denote the circle  $BDC$  by  $\Gamma$  and let  $AB$  and  $AC$  meet  $\Gamma$  again at  $B'$  and  $C'$ . Also let  $M'$  be the midpoint of  $B'C'$  and let the tangents to  $\Gamma$  at  $B'$  and  $C'$  meet at  $K'$ .

Notice that  $A$ ,  $K$ , and  $K'$  are collinear. (All three lie on the polar of  $BC \cap B'C'$  with respect to  $\Gamma$ .) So what we want becomes  $DD' \parallel KK'$ . We will show that both of  $DD'$  and  $KK'$  are antiparallel to  $MM'$  within  $\angle BAC$ .

We begin with  $DD'$ . Let  $AD$  meet  $\Gamma$  again at  $E$ . Then  $ABD' \sim AEC$ , and so  $AD' \cdot AE = AB \cdot AC$ . Hence,  $AD : AD' = (AD \cdot AE) : (AD' \cdot AE) = (AB \cdot AB') : (AB \cdot AC) = AB' : AC$ .

On the other hand,  $ABCM \sim AC'B'M'$ , and so  $AM : AM' = AC : AB' = AD' : AD$ . Furthermore,  $A$ ,  $D$ , and  $M$  are collinear, and the same similarity yields also  $\angle BAM = \angle C'AM'$ , so that  $A$ ,  $D'$ , and  $M'$  are collinear as well. Thus  $D$ ,  $D'$ ,  $M$ , and  $M'$  are

concylic. From here, a straightforward angle chase shows that  $DD'$  and  $MM'$  are indeed antiparallel within  $\angle BAC$ , as claimed.

We continue with  $KK'$ . Let  $O$  and  $R$  be the center and radius of  $\Gamma$ . Then  $O, M$ , and  $K$  are collinear,  $O, M'$ , and  $K'$  are collinear as well, and  $OM \cdot OK = R^2 = OM' \cdot OK'$ . Consequently,  $K, K', M$ , and  $M'$  are concyclic. From here, a straightforward angle chase shows that  $KK'$  and  $MM'$  are indeed antiparallel within  $\angle BAC$ , as claimed. The solution is complete.

21. (I.Mikhaylov) (10–11) Let  $ABCD$  be a cyclic quadrilateral;  $M_{ac}$  be the midpoint of  $AC$ ;  $H_d, H_b$  be the orthocenters of  $\triangle ABC, \triangle ADC$  respectively;  $P_d, P_b$  be the projections of  $H_d$  and  $H_b$  to  $BM_{ac}$  and  $DM_{ac}$  respectively. Define similarly  $P_a, P_c$  for the diagonal  $BD$ . Prove that  $P_a, P_b, P_c, P_d$  are concyclic.

**Solution.** It is known that  $A, C, P_d, H_d$  lie on the circle symmetric to the circumcircle of  $ABC$  with respect to  $M_{ac}$ . Hence  $MA \cdot MC = MP_d \cdot MB' = MP_d \cdot MB$ , where  $B'$  is the vertex of a parallelogram  $ABCB'$ . Similarly  $MA \cdot MC = MD \cdot MP_b$ , thus  $B, D, P_b, P_d$  are concyclic. Also since  $A, C, P_b, P_d$  are concyclic, we obtain that  $BD, AC$ , and  $P_bP_d$  concur at the radical center  $L$  (fig.21). Similarly  $P_aP_c$  passes through  $L$ , and  $LP_a \cdot LP_c = LA \cdot LC = LB \cdot LD = LP_b \cdot LP_d$  which yields the required assertion.

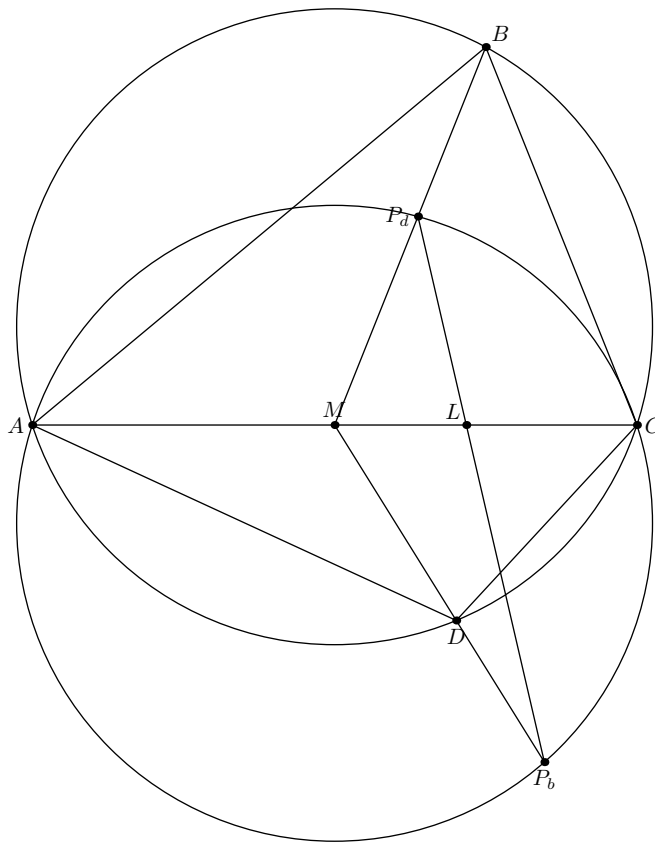


Fig. 21.

22. (A.Mudgal, P.Srivastava) (10–11) Let  $ABC$  be a scalene triangle,  $M$  be the midpoint of  $BC$ ,  $P$  be the common point of  $AM$  and the incircle of  $ABC$  closest to  $A$ , and  $Q$  be the common point of the ray  $AM$  and the excircle farthest from  $A$ . The tangent to the

incircle at  $P$  meets  $BC$  at point  $X$ , and the tangent to the excircle at  $Q$  meets  $BC$  at  $Y$ . Prove that  $MX = MY$ .

**Solution.** Consider the homothety centered at  $A$  and mapping the excircle to the incircle. Let  $B', C', M', Q', Y'$  be the images of  $B, C, M, Q, Y$  respectively. Then  $BB'C'C$  is a trapezoid circumscribed around the incircle of  $ABC$ , denote the touching points of  $BC, B'C', BB', CC'$  as  $K, L, U, V$  respectively. By the Brianchon theorem the common point  $J$  of segments  $KL$  and  $UV$  coincides with the common point of the diagonals of the trapezoid, therefore  $J$  lies on  $AM$  (fig.22). Also  $JK : JL = BC : B'C'$ . The lines  $PX, BC, Q'Y'$ , and  $B'C'$  form a quadrilateral circumscribed around the same circle, thus its diagonal  $XY'$  also passes through  $J$  and  $XM : Y'M' = JK : JL$ . Using the inverse homothety we obtain the required equality.

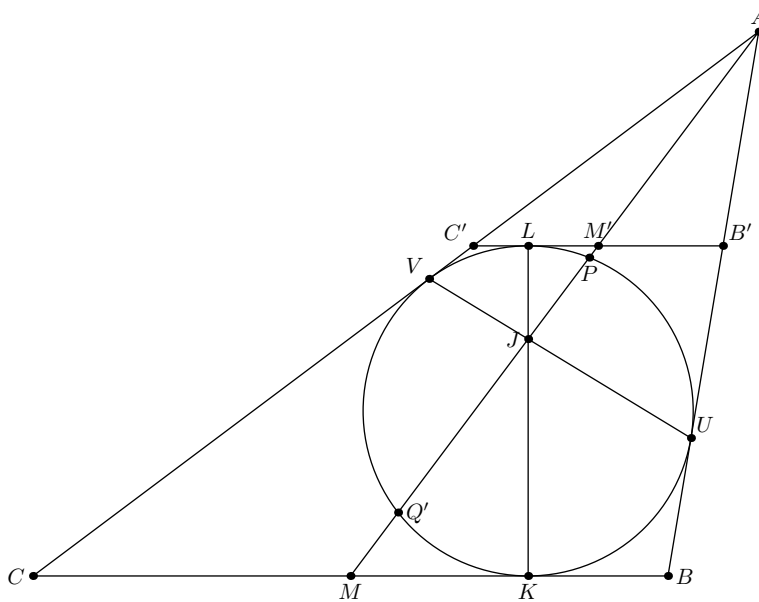


Fig. 22.

23. (A.Mardanov) (10–11) An ellipse  $\Gamma_1$  with foci at the midpoints of sides  $AB$  and  $AC$  of a triangle  $ABC$  passes through  $A$ , and an ellipse  $\Gamma_2$  with foci at the midpoints of  $AC$  and  $BC$  passes through  $C$ . Prove that the common points of these ellipses and the orthocenter of triangle  $ABC$  are collinear.

**Solution.** Let  $B_0$  be the midpoint of  $AC$ . The directrices  $d_1, d_2$  of ellipses  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2$  corresponding to the focus  $B_0$  are parallel to the altitudes  $AH, CH$ , therefore the distances from  $H$  to  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  are equal to the distances from  $A$  and  $C$  respectively to these lines. Since  $AB_0 = CB_0$ , the ratio of these distances is inverse to the ratio of the excentricities. Since this ratio is the same for the common points of the ellipses, these three points are collinear.

24. (Tran Quang Hung) (11) A tetrahedron  $ABCD$  is given. A line  $\ell$  meets the planes  $ABC, BCD, CDA, DAB$  at points  $D_0, A_0, B_0, C_0$  respectively. Let  $P$  be an arbitrary point not lying on  $\ell$  and the planes of the faces, and  $A_1, B_1, C_1, D_1$  be the second common points of lines  $PA_0, PB_0, PC_0, PD_0$  with the spheres  $PBCD, PCDA, PDAB, PABC$  respectively. Prove that  $P, A_1, B_1, C_1, D_1$  lie on a circle.

**Solution.** Let  $S$  be the circumsphere of  $ABCD$ , and  $\omega$  be the circumcircle of triangle  $PA_1B_1$ . Then  $BCD$  is the radical plane of  $S$  and the circumsphere of  $PBCD$ ; since  $A_0$  lies on the plane  $BCD$ , the powers of  $A_0$  with respect to  $S$  and the sphere  $PBCD$  are equal, i.e.  $A_0P \cdot A_0A_1$ . This product equals also to the power of  $A_0$  with respect to the circumcircle  $\omega$  of triangle  $PA_1B_1$ . Thus  $A_0$  lies on the radical axis of  $S$  and  $\omega$ . Similarly we obtain that  $B_0$  lies on the radical axis of  $S$  and  $\omega$ . Therefore this radical axis coincides with  $\ell$ .

Since  $C_0$  lies on the radical plane  $DAB$  of  $S$  and the circumsphere of  $PDAB$ , the powers of  $C_0$  with respect to these spheres are equal. Hence  $PC_0$  is the radical axis of  $\omega$  and the sphere  $PDAB$ , but  $PC_0$  meets this sphere at  $C_1$ , therefore  $C_1$  lies on  $\omega$ . Similarly  $D_1$  lies on  $\omega$ . Thus  $P, A_1, B_1, C_1, D_1$  are concyclic.