

Equal circles, spheres

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Problem 1.

Three equal circles $(w_1, 1), (w_2, 1), (w_3, 1)$ have a common point H and pass from the points A, B, C . Prove that the point H is the orthocenter of the triangle ABC and the circle ABC has radius equal 1.

We consider an orthogonal Kartesian system with origin the point H .

We will denote the vector $\vec{HM} = M$

so we have

$$A = w_2 + w_3, B = w_1 + w_3, C = w_1 + w_2$$

that is because Aw_2Hw_3, Bw_1Hw_3 are rhombus etc.

So we have $B - C = w_1 + w_3 - (w_1 + w_2) = w_3 - w_2$,

that is $(w_2 + w_3)(w_2 - w_3) = 0$, or HA is orthogonal to BC

The same for HB orthogonal to CA and CH orthogonal to AB . Therefore we see that H is the orthocenter of the triangle ABC .

We will find the circumradius of the triangle ABC .

Let G the barycenter and K the circumcenter of ABC . We know from the Euler line that $\vec{HG} = 2\vec{GK}$,

that is

$$2/3(w_1 + w_2 + w_3) = 2K - 4/3(w_1 + w_2 + w_3)$$

Finally the circumradius is $|K - A| = |w_1 + w_2 + w_3 - A| = 1$

Problem 2.

Can we see the problem 1 as a generalization in three dimensions ?

We consider four equal spheres $(w_1), (w_2), (w_3), (w_4)$ through the point H and intersecting every three spheres at the points A, B, C, D . What can we say about the point H , the circumradius of the tetrahedron $ABCD$?

(a). About the point H . We prove that H is not the orthocenter.

The spheres w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4 form a network with center H and radical axes HA, HB, HC, HD. The plane $w_2w_3w_4$ is orthogonal and bisects at the point A_1 the str. line segment HA. We see that A_1 is the circumcenter of the triangle $w_2w_3w_4$. Similarly we take the points B_1, C_1, D_1 . The homothetic transformation with center H and ratio 2/1 transforms $B_1C_1D_1$ to BCD. But the planes $B_1C_1D_1$ and $w_2w_3w_4$ are not parallel. Therefore HA is not orthogonal to the plane BCD.

For the circumradius R of the tetrahedron ABCD we have to remark: From the triangle Hw₂A, it is $2 > HA$ hence the sphere (H,2) includes ABCD. So we have $R < 2$.