

A characteristic property of a convex centrosymmetric curve

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It is well known, that for a centrosymmetric closed convex curve, the support lines to the endpoints of a chord through the center are parallel see [1]. This property is characteristic of the central convex curves. So we will prove the following theorem.

Theorem: If a closed smooth convex curve (c) in E^2 and an interior point O have the property that (c) possesses parallel supporting lines at the endpoints of every chord through O , then the (c) is centrosymmetric and O is the center.

Proof

Let O an interior point and $\vec{r} = r(\vec{M})$ the position vector of the point $M \in (c)$.

Suppose $\phi = \angle(\vec{r}, \vec{\epsilon}_0)$. We will have:

$\vec{r} = r\vec{r}_0$, hence:

$$\frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} = \vec{\epsilon}_0 = \frac{dr}{ds}\vec{r}_0 + r\frac{d\vec{r}_0}{ds} \quad (1)$$

or

$$\vec{r} \cdot \vec{\epsilon}_0 = r \frac{dr}{ds} \quad (2)$$

that is:

$$\frac{dr}{ds} = \cos\phi. \quad (3)$$

The last equation, combining with the well known $ds^2 = r^2(d\theta)^2 + (dr)^2$ gives:

$$\frac{dr(\theta)}{d\theta} = r(\theta)\cot\phi. \quad (4)$$

We choose as Ox axis the chord of (c) with middle point the point O . The angle θ is: $\theta = \angle(Ox, OM)$ and $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$.

Let now MN a chord through O and $O\vec{M} = \vec{r}(\theta)$, $O\vec{N} = \vec{r}(\theta + \pi)$ and $\epsilon(\theta)$, $\epsilon(\theta + \pi)$ the parallel support lines at the points M and N respectively. According the above we will have.

$$\frac{1}{r(\theta)} \cdot \frac{dr(\theta)}{d\theta} = \frac{1}{r(\theta + \pi)} \cdot \frac{dr(\theta + \pi)}{d\theta} = \cot\phi.$$

or

$$\frac{d(\log r(\theta))}{d\theta} = \frac{d(\log r(\theta + \pi))}{d\theta}$$

and

$$\log r(\theta) = \log r(\theta + \pi) + c(\text{const}).$$

But $c = 0$ because of $r(0) = r(\pi)$. Therefore follows $r(\theta) = r(\theta + \pi)$.

We point out here that the theorem holds for a general closed convex curve, because if (c) possesses a str.line segment AB and A' , B' the central projections of A and B through O respectively on c , then the str.line segment $A'B'$ belongs to c . But, from the neighbor of A (smooth part of c), we see that the points A and A' must be symmetric about O , so the $ABA'B'$ must be parallelogramme. For the case (c) polygon and $AB, A'B'$ opposite sides, we see that $AB \parallel A'B'$ and from the series of the similar triangles with common vertex O , we can see that $\frac{AB}{A'B'} = \frac{A'B'}{AB}$, that is $AB = A'B'$. Therefore (c) must be a central polygon (an affine image of a regular polygon).

Reference.

1. Theory of convex bodies, T. Bonnesen, W. Fenchel, B, Associates.