

# INTERSECTIONS OF LINES AND CIRCLES

Peter J. C. Moses and Clark Kimberling

**Abstract.** A method is presented for determining barycentric coordinates of points of intersection of a line and a circle. The method is applied specifically to the Euler line, the line of the circumcenter and incenter, the Brocard axis, and several circles, including the circumcircle, incircle, nine-point circle, and Brocard circle. The method also applies to intersections of certain pairs of lines, harmonic conjugate pairs, and to centers of similitude of pairs of circles.

**1. Introduction.** Let  $ABC$  be a triangle with vertices  $A, B, C$ , vertex angles  $A, B, C$ , sidelengths  $a, b, c$ , circumradius  $R$ , inradius  $r$ , area  $\Delta$ , semiperimeter  $s$ , Brocard angle  $\omega$ , and line  $\mathcal{L}^\infty$  at infinity. Let  $S_A = (b^2 + c^2 - a^2)/2$ , so that  $S_A = bc \cos A$ , and define  $S_B$  and  $S_C$  defined cyclically. The circumcenter, incenter, orthocenter, nine-point center, centroid, and symmedian point are denoted by  $O, I, H, N, G$ , and  $K$ , respectively, and the notation  $X(n)$  refers to points indexed in the *Encyclopedia of Triangle Centers - ETC* [4].

A key idea in this paper is that of linear combinations of triangle centers. It is helpful to use the notation  $\lambda P + \mu Q$  for such a combination, but, we shall soon see, this notation must be understood in terms of normalized barycentric coordinates. Consider, for example,

$$P = G = 1 : 1 : 1 = abc : abc : abc \quad \text{and} \quad Q = I = a : b : c.$$

The notation “ $2P+3Q$ ” could be taken to mean either  $2+3a : 2+3b : 2+3c$  or  $2abc+3a : 2abc+3b : 2abc+3c$ , two distinct points. In order to establish a single-point meaning for  $\lambda P + \mu Q$ , recall that the notation  $u : v : w$  represents an equivalence class of ordered triples  $(hu, hv, hw)$ , where  $h$  is any nonzero function of the variable  $(a, b, c)$ . For any point  $P = u : v : w$  not on  $\mathcal{L}^\infty$ , there is a member  $(uh, vh, wh)$  of  $u : v : w$  such that  $uh, vh, wh$  are the oriented areas of the triangles  $PBC, PCA, PAB$ , respectively. Indeed,  $h = \Delta/(u + v + w)$ . Now suppose  $P = u : v : w$  and  $Q = x : y : z$  are points, neither on  $\mathcal{L}^\infty$ , which is to say that  $u + v + w \neq 0 \neq x + y + z$ . Define  $\lambda P + \mu Q$  as the point  $R$  for which the oriented areas of the triangles  $RBC, RCA, RAB$  are

$$\lambda uh + \mu xk, \lambda vh + \mu yk, \lambda wh + \mu zk,$$

respectively, where  $h = \Delta/(u + v + w)$  and  $k = \Delta/(x + y + z)$ . Barycentrics are given by

$$\lambda P + \mu Q = \lambda u \Sigma_Q + \mu x \Sigma_P : \lambda v \Sigma_Q + \mu y \Sigma_P : \lambda w \Sigma_Q + \mu z \Sigma_P, \quad (1)$$

where  $\Sigma_P$  and  $\Sigma_Q$  are *coordinate sums*, given by  $\Sigma_P := u + v + w$  and  $\Sigma_Q := x + y + z$ . In this manner, given *any* barycentrics for points not on  $\mathcal{L}^\infty$ , the linear combination  $\lambda P + \mu Q$  is now unambiguously given by (1).

Another geometric significance of  $\lambda P + \mu Q$  is as the point  $R$  satisfying

$$|PR| : |RQ| = \mu : \lambda, \text{ or equivalently, } \overrightarrow{WR} = \overrightarrow{WP} + \frac{\mu}{\lambda + \mu} \overrightarrow{PQ}$$

for any point  $W$  not on  $\mathcal{L}^\infty$ . Taking  $W = P$  identifies  $R$  as the point “ $\mu/(\lambda + \mu)$  of the way from  $P$  to  $Q$ ”, or, writing  $\mu/(\lambda + \mu)$  as  $f$ ,  $R$  is the image of  $Q$  under the homothety centered at  $P$  with ratio  $f$ , denoted by  $\mathbb{H}(P, f)(Q)$ . If  $f$  is a fraction  $m/n$ , then the point  $R$ , alias  $\mathbb{H}(P, m/n)(Q)$  is the point  $(n - m)P + mQ$ . Special cases follow:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{H}(P, 1/2)(Q) &= \text{midpoint of } P \text{ and } Q \\ \mathbb{H}(P, 2)(Q) &= \text{reflection of } P \text{ in } Q \\ \mathbb{H}(P, -1)(Q) &= \text{reflection of } Q \text{ in } P \\ \mathbb{H}(P, 3)(Q) &= \text{complement of } P \\ \mathbb{H}(P, 3/2)(Q) &= \text{anticomplement of } P. \end{aligned}$$

A further note on notation will be helpful. If  $X$  is a triangle center given by a center function  $f(a, b, c)$ , then the notation  $X = f(a, b, c) ::$  abbreviates the homogeneous barycentric (or trilinear) representation  $f(a, b, c) : f(b, c, a) : f(c, a, b)$ . When a specific ordered triple of coordinates is required, we replace the colons by commas and enclose the triple by parentheses, like this:  $(f(a, b, c), f(b, c, a), f(c, a, b))$ , abbreviated as  $(f(a, b, c), , )$ . For example,

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(f(a, b, c), , ) + \mu(g(a, b, c), , ) &= (\lambda f(a, b, c) + \mu g(a, b, c), , ) \\ &= \lambda f(a, b, c) + \mu g(a, b, c) :: . \end{aligned}$$

This double-comma notation,  $(x, , )$ , will be used in the sequel.

Regarding  $S_A, S_B, S_C$  in the first paragraph, define  $S = 2\Delta$ . Then

$$S_B S_C + S_C S_A + S_A S_B = S^2,$$

and if  $P - Q$  has normalized barycentrics  $(u, v, w)$ , then

$$|PQ|^2 = u^2 S_A + v^2 S_B + w^2 S_C.$$

These and related identities are given by Yiu in [7]. See also [8].

**2. Incenter, Nagel Point, and Incircle.** Let  $P$  be the incenter,  $X(1)$ , and  $Q$  the Nagel point,  $X(8)$ . Then  $P = a ::$  and  $Q = b + c - a ::$ , and  $P_\Sigma = Q_\Sigma = a + b + c$ . The linear combination  $2P + Q$  is the centroid,  $X(2)$ , and  $P + Q$ , the Spieker center,  $X(10)$ .

In order to find barycentrics for the points where the line  $PQ$  meets the incircle, note that the points are at directed distances  $\pm r$  from  $P$ , so that we seek  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  satisfying  $|PQ|\mu/(\lambda + \mu) = \pm r$ . We choose  $\mu = r$  and obtain  $\lambda = \pm|PQ| - r$ . Putting this together with  $|PQ| = 3|IG|$  leads to barycentrics for the points of intersection:

$$\pm 3|IG|a + r(b + c - 2a) ::,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} |IG|^2 &= \frac{-9abc + 2\sum a^2(b+c) - \sum a^3}{9(a+b+c)} \\ &= \frac{1}{9}(5r^2 - 16Rr + s^2). \end{aligned}$$

The method just exemplified can be applied in many other settings, and it is the main purpose of this paper to do so. First, however, we describe a method already found in the literature. Suppose we wish to formulate the intersection points of a line  $PQ$  and a circle  $\Lambda$ . Let  $L$  be the line through the center of  $\Lambda$  and perpendicular to  $PQ$ . Let  $U = PQ \cap L$ . Then  $PQ$  meets  $\mathcal{L}^\infty$  in the point  $P - Q$ , and the required points of intersection are a pair of harmonic conjugates with respect to  $U$  and  $P - Q$ , so that the pair are  $U \pm t(P - Q)$  for some  $t$ .

**3. Euler Line and Some of Its Points.** The Euler line, perhaps the most famous line in triangle geometry, passes through  $O$  and  $H$ . Writing

$O$  as  $P = (a^2 S_A, ,)$  and  $H$  as  $Q = (S_B S_C, ,)$ , we have  $\Sigma_P = 2S^2$  and  $\Sigma_Q = S^2$ . These are combined using (1) to form

$$\lambda a^2 S_A + \mu S_B S_C :: = \mathbb{H}(O, \mu/(2\lambda + \mu))(H), \quad (2)$$

where

$$|OH|^2 = 9R^2 - a^2 - b^2 - c^2.$$

A trigonometric form can be obtained starting with  $O = (a \cos A, ,)$  and  $H = (a \cos B \cos C, ,)$ , for which the coordinate sums are  $S/R$  and  $S/2R$ , respectively. Using (1) and canceling  $a$ , we obtain the *trilinear* representation

$$\lambda(\cos A, ,) + \mu(\cos B \cos C, ,) = \mathbb{H}(O, \mu/(2\lambda + \mu))(H).$$

For example, centers  $X(631)$  and  $X(632)$  are easily formulated in this manner, using appropriate  $m$  and  $n$  in the identity

$$(3n - m)(a^2 S_A, ,) + 2n(S_B S_C, ,) = \mathbb{H}(O, m/n)(G),$$

where  $3|OG| = 2|ON| = |OH|$ . Indeed, using distances from  $O$  to selected points on the Euler line, we can easily determine barycentrics.

It is helpful to adopt the symbols  $J$  and  $e$  as defined here:

$$\begin{aligned} J &= |OH|/R \\ &= \frac{1}{abc} \left( \sum a^6 - \sum a^2 b^4 + 3a^2 b^2 c^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ &= \frac{1}{abc} (a^2 S_B S_C + b^2 S_C S_A + c^2 S_A S_B - 6S_A S_B S_C)^{1/2} \\ e &= (1 - 4 \sin^2 \omega)^{1/2} = \left( \frac{\sum a^4 - \sum a^2 b^2}{\sum a^2 b^2} \right)^{1/2}, \end{aligned}$$

as given by Gallatly [3].

**4. Euler Line and Circumcircle.** The Euler line passes through the center of the circumcircle, so that there are two real points of intersection:  $X(1113)$  and  $X(1114)$ . To find barycentrics, consider the distance associated with the right-hand side of equation (2):

$$|OH|\mu/(2\lambda + \mu) = \pm R.$$

Choosing  $\mu = 2R$ , we find  $\lambda = \pm|OH| - R$ , so that the points of intersection are given by

$$(\pm|OH| - R)(a^2S_A, ,) + 2R(S_B S_C, ,). \quad (3)$$

The point given by  $\lambda = |OH| - R$  is the one nearer to  $H$ . The points in (3) are also clearly given by

$$X(1113) = (1 - J)a^2S_A - 2S_B S_C :: , \quad (4)$$

$$X(1114) = (1 + J)a^2S_A - 2S_B S_C :: . \quad (5)$$

Equations (4) and (5) show that the two points of intersection may be regarded as linear combinations of the points  $X(3) = a^2S_A ::$  and  $X(30) = 2S_B S_C - a^2S_A ::$ , this latter point being on  $\mathcal{L}^\infty$ . The representations in (4) and (5) also bring to mind the following well-known connection [1] between inverse pairs and harmonic conjugate pairs.

**Theorem.** Suppose  $L$  is a line passing through the center  $W$  of a circle  $\Lambda$ . Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be the points where  $L$  meets  $\Lambda$ . If  $V = \text{inverse-in-}\Lambda$  of  $U$ , then  $V = \{P, Q\}$ -harmonic conjugate of  $U$ .

When  $\Lambda = \text{circumcircle}$  and  $L = \text{Euler line}$ , the theorem yields  $X(j) = \{X(1113), X(1114)\}$ -harmonic conjugate of  $X(i)$  for these pairs  $(i, j)$ : (2, 23), (4, 186), (22, 858), (24, 403), (25, 468), (237, 1316), and in a limiting sense, (3, 30).

**5. Euler Line and Nine-Point Circle.** The nine-point circle has center  $N = X(5)$ , situated on the Euler line halfway between  $O$  and  $H$ . The radius is  $R/2$ , and again there are two points of intersection, situated at directed distances  $|OH|/2 \pm R/2$  from  $O$ . We obtain  $|OH|\mu/(2\lambda + \mu) = (|OH| \pm R)/2$  by choosing  $\mu = 2(|OH| \pm R)$  and  $\lambda = |OH| \mp R$ , so that the points of intersection are given by

$$(|OH| \mp R)(a^2S_A, ,) + 2(|OH| \pm R)(S_B S_C, ,).$$

Alternatively, we can choose  $\mu = -1$  and obtain, for the same two points,

$$(1 - J)a^2S_A - 2(1 + J)S_B S_C :: \text{ and } (1 + J)a^2S_A - 2(1 - J)S_B S_C :: ,$$

which are  $X(1312)$  and  $X(1313)$ .

The radical axis of the circumcircle and the nine-point circle cuts the Euler line in the point  $X = X(468)$  satisfying  $|OX|^2 - R^2 = |NX|^2 - (R/2)^2$ , which yields  $|OX| = (|OH|^2 + 3R^2)/(4|OH|)$  and

$$\begin{aligned} X(468) &= 3(|OH|^2 - R^2)a^2S_A + 2(|OH|^2 + 3R^2)S_B S_C :: \\ &= 3(J^2 - 1)a^2S_A + 2(3 + J^2)S_B S_C :: \\ &= (a^2 - 2S_A)S_B S_C :: . \end{aligned}$$

As the points  $X(1113)$  and  $X(1114)$  are on the Euler line and are an antipodal pair on the circumcircle, their Simson lines are the asymptotes of the Jerabek rectangular circumhyperbola. These asymptotes meet in the center,  $X(125)$ , of the hyperbola; this center lies on the nine-point circle. The asymptotes then meet the nine-point circle again in the points  $X(1312)$  and  $X(1313)$ . Therefore, the three points,  $X(125)$ ,  $X(1312)$ , and  $X(1313)$ , are the vertices of a right triangle.

The theorem in Section 4 yields  $X(j) = \{X(1312), X(1313)\}$ -harmonic conjugate of  $X(i)$  for these pairs  $(i, j)$ :  $(2, 858)$ ,  $(4, 403)$ ,  $(427, 468)$ , and in a limiting sense,  $(5, 30)$ .

**6. Euler Line and Incircle.** Regarding (as usual)  $a, b, c$  as variables, the various centers and lines they determine are functions of the triple  $(a, b, c)$ . Functionally speaking, the incenter does not lie on the Euler line, so that for some choices of  $(a, b, c)$ , it is not surprising that the Euler has no real intersection with the incircle. The method of the previous sections nevertheless applies. Representing the points of intersection,  $X(1314)$  and  $X(1315)$ , as  $X$ , we have

$$\cos(\angle INO) = \frac{|ON|^2 + |IN|^2 - |OI|^2}{2|ON||IN|} = \frac{|NX|^2 + |IN|^2 - r^2}{2|NX||IN|}.$$

Solving for  $|NX|$  and then  $|OX|$ , we find, after simplifications, barycentrics for the two points:

$$\begin{aligned} X(1314) = & (|OH|^2 + 2r^2 - R^2)a^2S_A \\ & + (|OH|^2 + 4rR - R^2 + \sqrt{T})(S_B S_C) :: , \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} X(1315) = & (|OH|^2 + 2r^2 - R^2)a^2S_A \\ & + (|OH|^2 + 4rR - R^2 - \sqrt{T})(S_B S_C) :: , \end{aligned}$$

where

$$T = 4|OH|^2(4rR - R^2) + (|OH|^2 - 3R^2 + 4r^2 + 4rR)^2.$$

The point  $X(1315)$  is the one nearer to  $O$ . The Euler line meets the incircle in 2, 1, or 0 real points according as  $T$  is positive, zero, or negative.

**7. Euler Line and Brocard Circle.** The Brocard circle has diameter  $OK$ , radius  $p$ , and center  $U = X(182)$ . As in Gallatly [3],  $|OG| : |UG| = R : p$ . Point  $L$  is chosen on the Euler line  $OH$  so that the line  $UL$  is perpendicular to  $OH$ , and

$$|OL| = |OG| + (p^2 - |UG|^2 - |OG|^2)/(2|OG|).$$

Now  $|OK|/|OU| = 2$ , so that  $|OX(1316)| = 2|OL|$ . This leads to

$$|OX(1316)| = (1 + p^2/|OG|^2 - p^2/R^2)|OG|.$$

We rewrite (2) as

$$\lambda(a^2 S_{A,,}) + \mu(S_B S_C, ,) = \mathbb{H}(O, 3\mu/(2\lambda + \mu))(G)$$

and choose  $\mu = 2(|OG|^2 R^2 - |OG|^2 p^2 + p^2 R^2)$  to find that the point of intersection other than the circumcenter is given by

$$X(1316) = (S_B^2 + S_C^2)(S_A^2 + S_B S_C) - 2a^2 S_A S_B S_C :: .$$

Next, we seek barycentrics for the point  $X = X(187)$  of intersection of the Lemoine axis and the Brocard axis. The Lemoine axis is the radical axis of the circumcircle and the Brocard circle. Thus,  $|UX|^2 - p^2 = |OX|^2 - R^2$ . As  $|OX| = |UX| + p$ , we have  $|OX| = R^2/(2p) = R^2/|OK|$ , giving

$$\begin{aligned} X(187) &= a^2 R + a(2|OK|^2 - R^2) \cot \omega \cos A :: \\ &= a(\sin A - 3 \cos A \tan \omega) :: . \end{aligned}$$

Next, we find barycentrics for  $X(237)$  as the intersection of the Lemoine axis and the Euler line. Substituting for  $\cos(\angle UOG)$  and simplifying yield  $X(237) = a^4(S_A^2 - S_B S_C) ::$

As noted in [4], the point  $X(1316)$  is the inverse-in-circumcircle of  $X(237)$ , and  $X(1316)$  is also the inverse-in-orthocentroidal-circle of  $X(868)$ . Let  $V$  denote the center,  $X(381)$ , of the orthocentroidal circle and  $f(|OG|)$  the distance  $|OX(1316)|$ . The point  $V$  has distance  $2|OG|$  from  $O$ , so that the distance from  $V$  to  $X(1316)$  is  $2|OG| - f(|OG|)$ . The radius of the orthocentroidal circle is  $|OG|$ . Consequently,  $X(868)$  has distance  $|OG|^2/[2|OG| - f(|OG|)]$  from  $V$  and distance  $2|OG| - |OG|^2/(2|OG| -$

$f(|OG|)$  from  $O$ . These distances lead to  $X(868) = (S_A^2 - S_B S_C)(S_B - S_C)^2 ::$ , as well as these points:

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{Inverse-in-nine-point-circle of } X(1316)) &= (S_A^2 - S_B S_C)(S_B^2 + S_C^2) :: \\ (\text{Inverse-in-2nd-Lemoine-circle of } X(1316)) &= (S_A^2 + S_B S_C)(S_B^2 - S_C^2) :: \\ (\text{Reflection of } X(1316) \text{ in } X(6)) & \\ &= 2S_B S_C(S_A^2 + S_B S_C) + a^2 S_A(S_B^2 + S_C^2 - 4S_B S_C) :: \\ (\text{Reflection of } X(6) \text{ in } X(1316)) & \\ &= a^6 S_A - (S_A^2 + S_B S_C)(3S_B^2 + 3S_C^2 - 2S_B S_C) :: \end{aligned}$$

**8. Lines  $OI$  and  $OK$ .** Writing the circumcenter as  $P = (a^2 S_A, ,)$  and the incenter as  $Q = (a, ,)$ , we have coordinate sums  $\Sigma_P = 2S^2$  and  $\Sigma_Q = 2s$ . Then by (2),

$$\lambda(a^2 S_A, ,) + \mu(a, ,) = \mathbb{H}(O, \mu s / (S^2 \lambda + \mu s))(I). \quad (6)$$

As the line  $OI$  is a diameter of the circumcircle, there are two real intersections. To find their barycentrics, we determine  $\mu$  and  $\lambda$  so that the distances associated with the right-hand side of (6) are  $\pm R$ ; e.g.,  $\mu = RS^2$  and  $\lambda = (\pm|OI| - R)s$ , leading to

$$(|OI| - R)sa^2 S_A + RS^2 a :: , \quad (7)$$

$$(-|OI| - R)sa^2 S_A + RS^2 a :: . \quad (8)$$

The point in (8) is the one nearer to  $O$ .

Next, we intersect the line  $OI$  with the incircle. To have the distance associated with the right-hand side of (2) equal to  $|OI| \pm r$ , we choose  $\lambda = 1$  and  $\mu = -2S(r \pm |OI|)$ . The two points of intersection are then given by  $a^2 S_A - 4\Delta(r \pm |OI|)a ::$ . The radical axis of the circumcircle and incircle cuts the line  $OI$  in a point  $X$  satisfying  $|OX|^2 - R^2 = |IX|^2 - r^2$ , and using  $|IX| = |OX| - |OI|$ , we find the intersection of the radical axis and line  $OI$  given by

$$(2R - r)a^2 S_A + 2S(r^2 - |OI|^2 - R^2)a :: .$$

Or, using Euler's formula,  $|OI|^2 = R^2 - 2rR$ , these barycentrics can be written as

$$(2R - r)a^2 S_A + 2\Delta(r^2 + 2rR - 2R^2)a ::$$

and simplified to

$$a(a - b + c)(a + b - c)[(b + c)(a^2 + (b - c)^2) - 2a(b^2 + c^2 - bc)].$$

The line  $OI$  meets the nine-point circle in two points, one of which,  $X$ , lies between  $I$  and  $O$ . We have

$$\cos(\angle OIN) = \frac{|IN|^2 + |OI|^2 - |ON|^2}{2|IN||OI|} = \frac{|IN|^2 + |IX|^2 - |RN|^2}{2|IN||IX|}.$$

Solving for  $|IX|$  and simplifying lead to these barycentrics for the two points of intersection:

$$\begin{aligned} & (|OI|^2 - |IN|^2 - |ON|^2 + 2|RN|^2 \pm \sqrt{T})sa^2S_A \\ & + 8\Delta^2(|ON|^2 - |RN|^2)a : : , \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where

$$T = (|IN|^2 + |OI|^2 - |ON|^2)^2 + 4|OI|^2(|RN|^2 - |IN|^2). \quad (10)$$

Here,  $|RN|$ , the radius of the nine-point circle, equals  $R/2$ ; moreover,  $|ON| = 3|OG|/2$ ,  $|IN| = R/2 - r$ , and  $|OI|^2 = R^2 - 2rR$ . In (9), the expression containing “ $+\sqrt{T}$ ” gives the point nearer to  $O$ . In (10), note that  $|RN| \geq |IN|$ , so that  $T \geq 0$  for all  $(a, b, c)$ , which is to say that there is always a real point of intersection. Indeed, it is easy to see that there are two distinct points of intersection unless triangle  $ABC$  is degenerate with collinear vertices.

The method leading to the barycentrics (7) and (8) applies to the points of intersection of the Brocard axis,  $OK$ , and the circumcircle.

**9. Further Applications.** The method using (2) extends, through the formulation of distances along selected lines, to formulations of barycentrics, hence trilinears, of many other triangle centers.

Next, recall that points  $(U, V, W, W')$  form a *harmonic range*, and  $W'$  is the  $\{U, V\}$ -*harmonic conjugate* of  $W$ , if

$$\frac{|UW|}{|VW|} = \frac{|UW'|}{|VW'|}.$$

For example, letting  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  denote the points of intersection (in Table 2) of the Brocard axis and the circumcircle, we have

$$X(187) = \{O, K\}\text{-harmonic conjugate of } X(574)$$

$$X(187) = \{B_1, B_2\}\text{-harmonic conjugate of } K.$$

The method associated with (2) can be used to obtain the following harmonic conjugacies on the line  $GH$ :

$$\begin{aligned} O &= \{G, H\}\text{-harmonic conjugate of } N \\ X(25) &= \{G, H\}\text{-harmonic conjugate of } X(427) \\ X(378) &= \{G, H\}\text{-harmonic conjugate of } X(403) \\ X(382) &= \{G, H\}\text{-harmonic conjugate of } X(546) \\ X(1316) &= \{G, H\}\text{-harmonic conjugate of } X(868). \end{aligned}$$

Closely associated with harmonic conjugates are centers of similitude of two nonconcentric circles. We begin with definitions. Suppose  $(U, s)$  and  $(V, t)$  are circles with  $U \neq V$ , and point  $P$  lies on  $(U, s)$  but not on line  $UV$ . The line  $L_P$  through  $V$  parallel to line  $UP$  meets  $(V, t)$  in two points: let  $Q$  be the one for which the vector  $\overrightarrow{VQ}$  has the same direction as  $\overrightarrow{UP}$ , and let  $Q'$  be the other, so that  $\overrightarrow{VQ'}$  has the same direction opposite that of  $\overrightarrow{UP}$ . Let  $W = UV \cap PQ$  and  $W' = UV \cap PQ'$ . The points  $W$  and  $W'$ , called the *external center of similitude* and the *internal center of similitude*, respectively, remain fixed as  $P$  varies on  $(U, s)$ . Moreover, if  $s < t$ , then

$$\frac{|UW|}{|VW|} = \frac{|UW'|}{|VW'|} = \frac{s}{t},$$

so that  $W' = \{U, V\}$ -harmonic conjugate of  $W$ .

As noted in [5], the centers of similitude of the 2nd Lemoine circle and Parry circle are a pair of bicentric points, not triangle centers. More generally, suppose  $\Lambda$  is a circle with arbitrary triangle center  $x : y : z$  as center and radius  $\rho$ . Then the internal center of similitude has first trilinear

$$a(b^2 - c^2)(x + y + z)\rho T + bcSx, \quad (11)$$

where  $S = a^4 + b^4 + c^4 - b^2c^2 - c^2a^2 - a^2b^2$  and  $T = b^2 + c^2 - 2a^2$ . The representation (11) indicates that these centers of similitude comprise a bicentric pair.

As a final note in this section, we mention that many properties associated with points on the lines  $NK$ ,  $OI$ , and  $OK$  follow from three identities involving arbitrary nonzero integers  $m$  and  $n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} m|NK|/n &= (m - n) \cos(B - C) \cot \omega - 2m \sin A \\ m|OI|/n &= n \cos A + m \cos B + m \cos C - m \\ m|OK|/n &= (n - m) \cos A \cot \omega + m \sin A. \end{aligned}$$

**10. Tucker Circles.** Here, we extend results given in Gallatly [3]. The Tucker circle with parameter  $\theta'$  (as in [3]) has radius  $r \sin \omega \csc(\omega + \theta')$  and center given by trilinears  $\cos(A - \theta') : \cos(B - \theta') : \cos(C - \theta')$ . The method introduced in Section 2 applies to the points of intersection of a Tucker circle and the Brocard axis. In trilinears, the results are especially attractive:

$$\begin{aligned} e \cos(A - \theta') - \cos(A + \omega) &: e \cos(B - \theta') - \cos(B + \omega) \\ &: e \cos(C - \theta') - \cos(C + \omega), \\ e \cos(A - \theta') + \cos(A + \omega) &: e \cos(B - \theta') + \cos(B + \omega) \\ &: e \cos(C - \theta') + \cos(C + \omega). \end{aligned}$$

The first of these is the one whose direction from the center of the Tucker circle is the same as the direction from  $O$  to  $K$ . Remarkably like those intersections are the internal and external centers of similitude of a Tucker circle and the Brocard circle, given, respectively, by trilinears

$$\begin{aligned} e \cos(A - \theta') + \cos(A - \omega) &: e \cos(B - \theta') + \cos(B - \omega) \\ &: e \cos(C - \theta') + \cos(C - \omega), \\ e \cos(A - \theta') - \cos(A - \omega) &: e \cos(B - \theta') - \cos(B - \omega) \\ &: e \cos(C - \theta') - \cos(C - \omega). \end{aligned}$$

### References

1. N. Altshiller-Court, *College Geometry*, 2nd ed., Barnes & Noble, New York, 1952.
2. G. S. Carr, *Formula and Theorems in Pure Mathematics*, 2nd ed., Chelsea, New York, 1970 (1st edition, 1886).
3. W. Gallatly, *The Modern Geometry of the Triangle*, 2nd ed., Hodgson, London, 1913.
4. C. Kimberling, *Encyclopedia of Triangle Centers-ETC*:  
<http://faculty.evansville.edu/ck6/encyclopedia/ETC.html>
5. C. Kimberling, *Bicentric Pairs*:  
<http://faculty.evansville.edu/ck6/encyclopedia/BicentricPairs.html>
6. C. Kimberling and P. Yff, "The Circumcircle and the Line at Infinity," *Missouri Journal of Mathematical Sciences*, 9 (1997), 3–22.

7. P. Yiu, *Introduction to the Geometry of the Triangle*:  
[www.math.fau.edu/yiu/GeometryNotes020402.pdf](http://www.math.fau.edu/yiu/GeometryNotes020402.pdf)

8. P. Yiu, *A Tour of Triangle Geometry*, [www.math.fau.edu/yiu/  
TourOfTriangleGeometry/MAAFlorida37040428.pdf](http://www.math.fau.edu/yiu/TourOfTriangleGeometry/MAAFlorida37040428.pdf)

Mathematics Subject Classification (2000): 51N20

Peter J. C. Moses  
Moparmatic Co.  
1154 Evesham Road  
Astwood Bank  
Redditch  
Worcestershire B96 6DT  
England  
email: [mows@mopar.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:mows@mopar.freeserve.co.uk)

Clark Kimberling  
Department of Mathematics  
University of Evansville  
1800 Lincoln Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47722  
email: [ck6@evansville.edu](mailto:ck6@evansville.edu)