

Note on Mr Tweedie's Theorem in Geometry.

By PETER PINKERTON, M.A.

Let ABC , $A'B'C'$ (Fig. 4) be two triangles equiangular in the same sense. Let BC , $B'C'$ meet in X . Describe circles round BXB' , CXC' to meet again in O . Then it is easy to see that the triangles BOC , COA , AOB are equiangular in the same sense to the triangles $B'OC'$, $C'OA'$, $A'OB'$ respectively. Hence the triangles AOA' , BOB' , COC' are similar ;

$$\therefore \frac{AA'}{AO} = \frac{BB'}{BO} = \frac{CC'}{CO} ;$$

$\therefore a \cdot AA'$, $b \cdot BB'$, $c \cdot CC'$ are proportional to $a \cdot AO$, $b \cdot BO$, $c \cdot CO$, where a , b , c are the sides of the triangle ABC .

From O draw OP , OQ , OR perpendicular to BC , CA , AB respectively.

$$\text{Then } QR = AO \sin A \propto a \cdot AO,$$

$$RP = BO \sin B \propto b \cdot BO,$$

$$PQ = CO \sin C \propto c \cdot CO ;$$

$\therefore a \cdot AA'$, $b \cdot BB'$, $c \cdot CC'$, being proportional to $a \cdot AO$, $b \cdot BO$, $c \cdot CO$, are proportional to QR , RP , PQ .

But PQR is a triangle, unless O is on the circumcircle of ABC when PQR is the Simson line of O .

$\therefore QR + RP > PQ$, with two similar inequalities, except that *one* of the inequalities becomes an equality if O is on the circumcircle of ABC .

$\therefore a \cdot AA' + b \cdot BB' > c \cdot CC'$, with two similar inequalities ; one of the inequalities becoming an equality when O lies on the circumcircle of ABC .

Similarly in the case of an equality O lies also on the circumcircle of $A'B'C'$.

For the case of equilateral triangles $a = b = c$;

$\therefore AA' + BB' > CC'$, with two similar inequalities ; one of the three inequalities becoming an equality when O lies on the circumcircles of ABC and $A'B'C'$.

It is obvious that the theorem reduces to Ptolemy's Theorem or its converse.

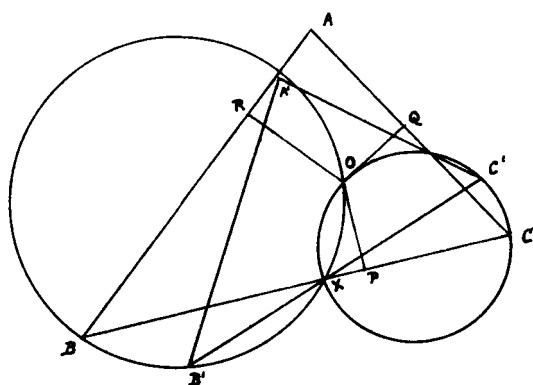


Fig. 4.