

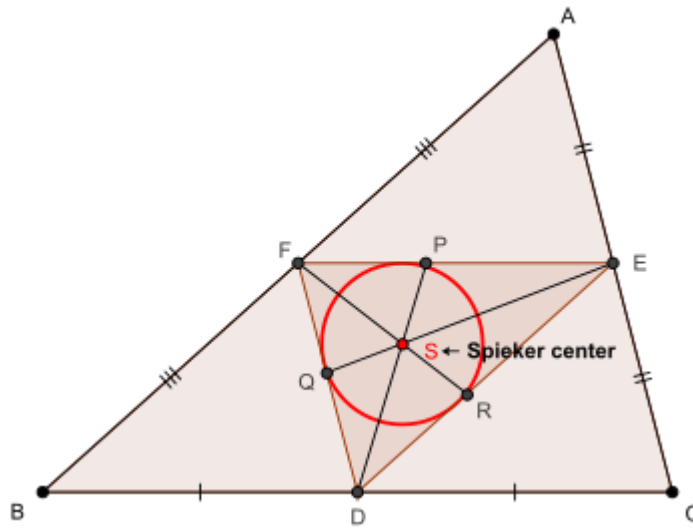
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In any ΔABC with p_a, p_b, p_c
 → Spieker cevians, the following relationship holds :

$$1 + \sqrt[3]{\prod_{\text{cyc}} \frac{n_a + p_a + w_a}{h_a}} \leq \frac{2R}{r}$$

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Let AS produced meet BC at X and $m(\angle BAX) = \alpha$ and $m(\angle CAX) = \beta$ (say)
 and inradius of $\Delta DEF = r'$ (say)

$$\text{Now, } 16[DEF]^2 = 2 \sum \left(\frac{a^2}{4}\right) \left(\frac{b^2}{4}\right) - \sum \frac{a^4}{16} = \frac{1}{16} \left(2 \sum a^2 b^2 - \sum a^4\right) = \frac{16r^2 s^2}{16}$$

$$\Rightarrow [DEF] = \frac{rs}{4} \Rightarrow r' \left(\frac{\frac{a}{2} + \frac{b}{2} + \frac{c}{2}}{2}\right) = \frac{rs}{4} \Rightarrow r' = \frac{r}{2} \rightarrow (1)$$

∴ Spieker center is incenter of ΔDEF , ∴ $m(\angle AFS) = B + \frac{C}{2} = \frac{2B + C}{2} = \frac{B + \pi - A}{2}$

$$= \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{A - B}{2} \text{ and } m(\angle AES) = C + \frac{B}{2} = \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{A - C}{2} \rightarrow (2)$$

Via (1), (2) and using cosine law on ΔAFS and ΔAES , we arrive at :

$$\begin{aligned} AS^2 &= \frac{r^2}{4 \sin^2 \frac{C}{2}} + \frac{c^2}{4} - \left(\frac{2r}{2 \sin \frac{C}{2}}\right) \left(\frac{c}{2}\right) \sin \frac{A - B}{2} \\ &= \frac{r^2}{4 \sin^2 \frac{B}{2}} + \frac{b^2}{4} - \left(\frac{2r}{2 \sin \frac{B}{2}}\right) \left(\frac{b}{2}\right) \sin \frac{A - C}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2AS^2 \stackrel{(i)}{=} \frac{r^2}{4 \sin^2 \frac{C}{2}} + \frac{c^2}{4} - \left(\frac{2r}{2 \sin \frac{C}{2}}\right) \left(\frac{c}{2}\right) \sin \frac{A - B}{2} + \frac{r^2}{4 \sin^2 \frac{B}{2}} + \frac{b^2}{4}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \left(\frac{2r}{2\sin\frac{B}{2}} \right) \left(\frac{b}{2} \right) \sin\frac{A-C}{2} \\
 \text{Now, } & \left(\frac{2r}{2\sin\frac{C}{2}} \right) \left(\frac{c}{2} \right) \sin\frac{A-B}{2} + \left(\frac{2r}{2\sin\frac{B}{2}} \right) \left(\frac{b}{2} \right) \sin\frac{A-C}{2} \\
 & = \frac{r}{2} \left(4R\cos\frac{C}{2} \sin\frac{A-B}{2} + 4R\cos\frac{B}{2} \sin\frac{A-C}{2} \right) \\
 & = Rr \left(2\sin\frac{A+B}{2} \sin\frac{A-B}{2} + 2\sin\frac{A+C}{2} \sin\frac{A-C}{2} \right) \\
 & = Rr \left(1 - 2\sin^2\frac{B}{2} + 1 - 2\sin^2\frac{C}{2} - 2 \left(1 - 2\sin^2\frac{A}{2} \right) \right) \\
 & = 2Rr \left(\frac{2a(s-b)(s-c) - b(s-c)(s-a) - c(s-a)(s-b)}{abc} \right) \\
 & = \frac{Rr}{8Rs} (2a^3 + (b+c)a^2 - 2a(b^2+c^2) - (b+c)(b-c)^2) \\
 & = \frac{4(b+c)bc\sin^2\frac{A}{2} - 2a \cdot 2bcc\cos A}{8s} = \frac{bc \left((2s-a)\sin^2\frac{A}{2} - a \left(1 - 2\sin^2\frac{A}{2} \right) \right)}{2s} \\
 & = \frac{bc \left((2s+a)\sin^2\frac{A}{2} - a \right)}{2s} = \frac{(2s+a)(s-b)(s-c)}{2s} - 2Rr \\
 & \Rightarrow - \left(\frac{2r}{2\sin\frac{C}{2}} \right) \left(\frac{c}{2} \right) \sin\frac{A-B}{2} - \left(\frac{2r}{2\sin\frac{B}{2}} \right) \left(\frac{b}{2} \right) \sin\frac{A-C}{2} \\
 & \stackrel{(*)}{=} \frac{-(2s+a)(s-b)(s-c)}{2s} + 2Rr \\
 \text{Again, } & \frac{r^2}{4\sin^2\frac{B}{2}} + \frac{r^2}{4\sin^2\frac{C}{2}} = \frac{r^2}{4} \left(\frac{ca}{(s-c)(s-a)} + \frac{ab}{(s-a)(s-b)} \right) \\
 & = \frac{r^2}{4r^2s} (ca(s-b) + ab(s-c)) = \frac{ab+ca}{4} - 2Rr \stackrel{(**)}{=} \frac{r^2}{4\sin^2\frac{B}{2}} + \frac{r^2}{4\sin^2\frac{C}{2}} \\
 & \text{(i), (*), (**)} \Rightarrow 2AS^2 = \frac{b^2+c^2+ab+ca}{4} - \frac{(2s+a)(s-b)(s-c)}{2s} \\
 & = \frac{(a+b+c)(b^2+c^2+ab+ca) - (2a+b+c)(c+a-b)(a+b-c)}{4s} \\
 & = \frac{b^3+c^3-abc+a(2b^2+2c^2-a^2)}{4s} \Rightarrow 2AS^2 \stackrel{(ii)}{=} \frac{b^3+c^3-abc+a(4m_a^2)}{4s} \\
 \text{Via sine law on } \triangle AFS, & \frac{r}{2\sin\frac{C}{2}\sin\alpha} = \frac{AS}{\cos\frac{A-B}{2}} = \frac{4s}{(a+b)\sin\frac{C}{2}} \\
 \Rightarrow c\sin\alpha & \stackrel{(***)}{=} \frac{r(a+b)}{2AS} \text{ and via sine law on } \triangle AES, b\sin\beta \stackrel{(***)}{=} \frac{r(a+c)}{2AS} \\
 \text{Now, } [BAX] + [BAX] & = [ABC] \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}p_a c\sin\alpha + \frac{1}{2}p_a b\sin\beta = rs \\
 \text{via (***) and (***)} & \Rightarrow \frac{p_a(a+b+a+c)}{4AS} = s \Rightarrow p_a = \frac{4s}{2s+a} AS
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow p_a^2 \stackrel{\text{via (ii)}}{=} \frac{16s^2}{(2s+a)^2} \cdot \frac{b^3 + c^3 - abc + a(4m_a^2)}{8s}$$

$$\therefore p_a^2 \stackrel{\text{(■)}}{=} \frac{2s}{(2s+a)^2} (b^3 + c^3 - abc + a(4m_a^2))$$

Also, $p_a^2 - m_a^2 = \frac{2s}{(2s+a)^2} (b^3 + c^3 - abc + a(4m_a^2)) - m_a^2$

$$= \frac{2s}{(2s+a)^2} (b^3 + c^3 - abc) - \left(1 - \frac{8sa}{(2s+a)^2}\right) m_a^2$$

$$= \frac{4(a+b+c)(b^3 + c^3 - abc) - (2b^2 + 2c^2 - a^2)(b+c)^2}{4(2s+a)^2}$$

$$= \frac{a^2(b-c)^2 + 4a(b+c)(b-c)^2 + 2(b^2 - c^2)^2}{4(2s+a)^2}$$

$$= \frac{(b-c)^2}{4(2s+a)^2} \left((a^2 + 2a(b+c) + (b+c)^2) + ((b+c)^2 + 2a(b+c) + a^2) - a^2 \right)$$

$$= \frac{(b-c)^2}{4(2s+a)^2} (2(a+b+c)^2 - a^2) = \frac{(b-c)^2(8s^2 - a^2)}{4(2s+a)^2}$$

$$\therefore p_a^2 - m_a^2 \stackrel{\text{(■)}}{=} \frac{(b-c)^2(8s^2 - a^2)}{4(2s+a)^2} \stackrel{s > a}{\geq} 0 \Rightarrow p_a \geq m_a \geq w_a \Rightarrow w_a \leq p_a$$

\therefore in order to prove : $\frac{p_a^2 - m_a^2}{p_a + m_a} \leq \frac{m_a^2 - w_a^2}{m_a + w_a}$, it suffices to prove :

$$\frac{p_a^2 - m_a^2}{p_a + m_a} \leq \frac{m_a^2 - w_a^2}{m_a + w_a}$$

via (■■) $\Leftrightarrow \frac{(b-c)^2(8s^2 - a^2)}{4(2s+a)^2} \leq s(s-a) + \frac{(b-c)^2}{4} - \left(s(s-a) - \frac{s(s-a)(b-c)^2}{(b+c)^2} \right)$

$$= \frac{(b-c)^2}{4} \left(1 + \frac{4s(s-a)}{(2s-a)^2} \right) = \frac{(b-c)^2}{4} \cdot \frac{(2s-a)^2 + 4s(s-a)}{(2s-a)^2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow ((2s-a)^2 + 4s(s-a))(2s+a)^2 \geq (8s^2 - a^2)(2s-a)^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 16s^3 - 12s^2a - 4sa^2 + a^3 \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow (s-a)(16s^2 + 4sa) + a^3 \geq 0 \rightarrow \text{true}$$

(strict) since $s > a$: $\frac{p_a^2 - m_a^2}{p_a + m_a} \leq \frac{m_a^2 - w_a^2}{m_a + w_a} \Rightarrow p_a + w_a \leq 2m_a$ and analogs \rightarrow (3)

Again, Stewart's theorem $\Rightarrow b^2(s-c) + c^2(s-b) = an_a^2 + a(s-b)(s-c)$

$$\Rightarrow s(b^2 + c^2) - bc(2s-a) = an_a^2 + a(s^2 - s(2s-a) + bc) \Rightarrow s(b^2 + c^2) - 2sbc$$

$$= an_a^2 + a(as - s^2) \Rightarrow s(b^2 + c^2 - a^2 - 2bc) = an_a^2 - as^2 \Rightarrow an_a^2$$

$$= as^2 + s(2bccosA - 2bc) = as^2 - 4sbc \sin^2 \frac{A}{2} = as^2 - \frac{4sbc(s-b)(s-c)(s-a)}{bc(s-a)}$$

$$= as^2 - \frac{4\Delta^2}{s-a} = as^2 - 2a \left(\frac{2\Delta}{a} \right) \left(\frac{\Delta}{s-a} \right) = as^2 - 2ah_a r_a \therefore n_a^2 = s^2 - 2r_a h_a$$

$$\therefore a^2 n_a^2 \stackrel{?}{\leq} 4(R-r)^2 s^2 \Leftrightarrow a^2 (s^2 - 2h_a r_a) \stackrel{?}{\leq} 4(R-r)^2 s^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (4R^2 \sin^2 A) s^2 - 4rs \left(4R \sin \frac{A}{2} \cos \frac{A}{2} \right) \left(\tan \frac{A}{2} \right) \stackrel{?}{\leq} 4(R^2 - 2Rr + r^2) s^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow R^2(1 - \sin^2 A) - 2Rr \left(1 - 2\sin^2 \frac{A}{2} \right) + r^2 \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0 \Leftrightarrow R^2 \cos^2 A - 2Rr \cos A + r^2 \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 &\Leftrightarrow (R\cos A - r)^2 \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0 \rightarrow \text{true} \therefore an_a \leq 2Rs - 2rs \Rightarrow \frac{n_a}{h_a} \leq \frac{2Rs}{a\left(\frac{2rs}{a}\right)} - \frac{2rs}{a\left(\frac{2rs}{a}\right)} \\
 &\Rightarrow \frac{n_a}{h_a} \leq \frac{R}{r} - 1 \text{ and analogs} \rightarrow (4) \therefore (3) \text{ and } (4) \Rightarrow \frac{n_a + p_a + w_a}{h_a} \leq \\
 &\frac{R}{r} - 1 + \frac{2m_a}{h_a} \stackrel{\text{Panaitopol}}{\leq} \frac{R}{r} - 1 + \frac{R}{r} \therefore \frac{n_a + p_a + w_a}{h_a} \leq \frac{2R}{r} - 1 \text{ and analogs} \\
 &\Rightarrow 1 + \sqrt[3]{\prod_{\text{cyc}} \frac{n_a + p_a + w_a}{h_a}} \leq 1 + \sqrt[3]{\left(\frac{2R}{r} - 1\right)^3} = \frac{2R}{r} \\
 \therefore 1 + \sqrt[3]{\prod_{\text{cyc}} \frac{n_a + p_a + w_a}{h_a}} &\leq \frac{2R}{r} \forall \Delta ABC, '' = '' \text{ iff } \Delta ABC \text{ is equilateral (QED)}
 \end{aligned}$$