

Problem 5188. Given $\triangle ABC$ with coordinates $A(-5, 0)$, $B(0, 12)$ and $C(9, 0)$. The triangle has an interior point P such that $\angle APB = \angle APC = 120^\circ$. Find the coordinates of point P .

Proposed by Kenneth Korbin, New York, NY

Solution by Ercole Suppa, Teramo, Italy

Let us construct equilateral triangles $\triangle ABD$, $\triangle AEC$ externally on the sides AB , AC of triangle $\triangle BAC$ and let denote by ω_1 , ω_2 the circumcircles of $\triangle ABD$, $\triangle AEC$. The point P is the intersection point of ω_1 , ω_2 different from O . In order to find the coordinates of D , E we use complex numbers. If we denote respectively by $a = -5$, $b = 12i$, $c = 9$ the affixes of A , B , C we get:

$$\begin{aligned} d &= a + (b - a)e^{\frac{\pi}{3}i} = \frac{-5 - 12\sqrt{3}}{2} + \frac{12 + 5\sqrt{3}}{2}i \\ e &= a + (c - a)e^{\frac{\pi}{3}i} = 2 - 7\sqrt{3}i \end{aligned}$$

so the coordinates of D , E are $D\left(\frac{-5-12\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{12+5\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$ and $E(2, -7\sqrt{3})$.

The equations of ω_1 , ω_2 are:

$$\omega_1 : 169\sqrt{3}x^2 + 169\sqrt{3}y^2 + (2028 + 845\sqrt{3})x + (-845 - 2028\sqrt{3})y + 10140 = 0$$

$$\omega_2 : 196\sqrt{3}x^2 + 196\sqrt{3}y^2 - 784\sqrt{3}x + 2744y - 8820\sqrt{3} = 0$$

and, after some ugly calculations, we get

$$P = \omega_1 \cap \omega_2 = \left(-\frac{2(-981 + 112\sqrt{3})}{2353}, -\frac{21(-896 + 263\sqrt{3})}{2353} \right)$$

□