

# The Parasix Configuration and Orthocorrespondence

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**Abstract.** We introduce the parasix configuration, which consists of two congruent triangles. The conditions of these triangles to be orthologic with  $ABC$  or a circumcevian triangle, to form a cyclic hexagon, to be equilateral or to be degenerate reveal a relation with orthocorrespondence, as defined in [1].

## 1. The parasix configuration

Consider a triangle  $ABC$  of reference with finite points  $P$  and  $Q$  not on its sidelines. Clark Kimberling [2, §§9.7,8] has drawn attention to configurations defined by six triangles. As an example of such configurations we may create six triangles using the lines  $\ell_a$ ,  $\ell_b$  and  $\ell_c$  through  $Q$  parallel to sides  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  respectively. The triples of lines  $(\ell_a, b, c)$ ,  $(a, \ell_b, c)$  and  $(a, b, \ell_c)$  bound three triangles which we refer to as the *great paratriple*. Figure 1a shows the *A-triangle* of the great paratriple. On the other hand, the triples  $(a, \ell_b, \ell_c)$ ,  $(\ell_a, b, \ell_c)$  and  $(\ell_a, \ell_b, c)$  bound three triangles which we refer to as the *small paratriple*. See Figure 1b.

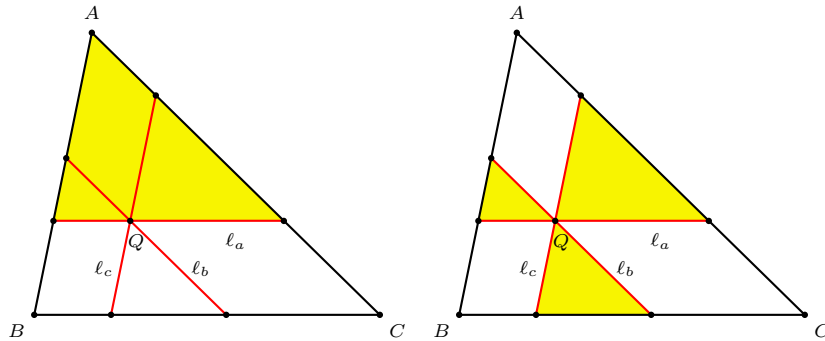
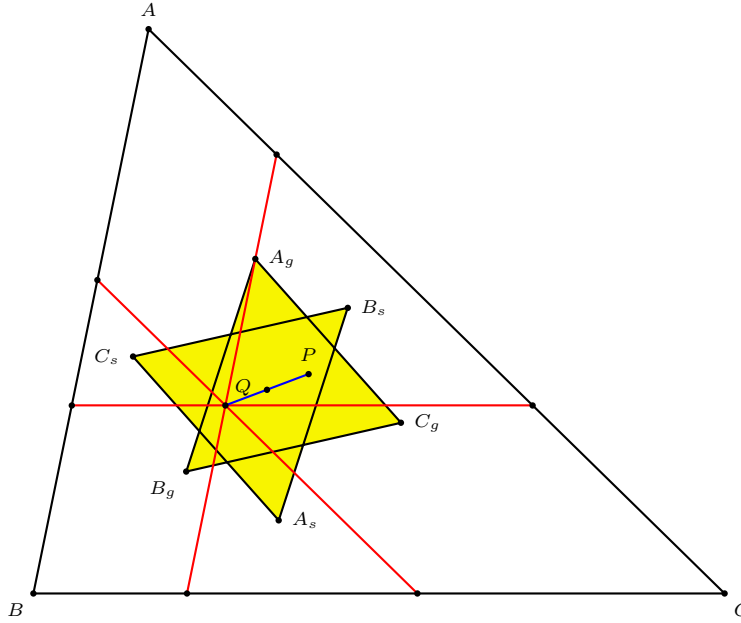


Figure 1a

Figure 1b

Clearly these six triangles are all homothetic to  $ABC$ , and it is very easy to find the homothetic images of  $P$  in these triangles,  $A_g$  in the *A-triangle* bounded by  $(\ell_a, b, c)$  in the great paratriple, and  $A_s$  in the *A-triangle* bounded by  $(a, \ell_b, \ell_c)$  in the small paratriple; similarly for  $B_g, C_g, B_s, C_s$ . These six points form the *parasix configuration of  $P$  with respect to  $Q$* , or shortly *Parasix( $P, Q$ )*. See Figure 2. If in homogeneous barycentric coordinates with reference to  $ABC$ ,  $P = (u : v : w)$  and  $Q = (f : g : h)$ , then these are the points

Figure 2. Parasix( $P, Q$ )

$$\begin{aligned}
 A_g &= (u(f + g + h) + f(v + w) : v(g + h) : w(g + h)), \\
 B_g &= (u(f + h) : g(u + w) + v(f + g + h) : w(f + h)), \\
 C_g &= (u(f + g) : v(f + g) : h(u + v) + w(f + g + h)); \\
 A_s &= (uf : g(u + w) + v(f + g) : h(u + v) + w(f + h)), \\
 B_s &= (u(f + g) + f(v + w) : vg : h(u + v) + w(g + h)), \\
 C_s &= (u(f + h) + f(v + w) : g(u + w) + v(g + h) : wh).
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

- Proposition 1.** (1) *Triangles  $A_g B_g C_g$  and  $A_s B_s C_s$  are symmetric about the midpoint of segment  $PQ$ .*  
(2) *The six points of a parasix configuration lie on a central conic.*  
(3) *The centroids of triangles  $A_g B_g C_g$  and  $A_s B_s C_s$  trisect the segment  $PQ$ .*

*Proof.* It is clear from the coordinates given above that the segments  $A_g A_s$ ,  $B_g B_s$ ,  $C_g C_s$ ,  $PQ$  have a common midpoint

$$(f(u + v + w) + u(f + g + h) : \dots : \dots).$$

The six points therefore lie on a conic with this common midpoint as center. For (3), it is enough to note that the centroids  $G_g$  and  $G_s$  of  $A_g B_g C_g$  and  $A_s B_s C_s$  are the points

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_g &= (2u(f + g + h) + f(u + v + w) : \dots : \dots), \\
 G_s &= (u(f + g + h) + 2f(u + v + w) : \dots : \dots).
 \end{aligned}$$

It follows that vectors  $\overrightarrow{PG_g} = \frac{1}{3} \overrightarrow{PQ}$  and  $\overrightarrow{PG_s} = \frac{2}{3} \overrightarrow{PQ}$ .  $\square$

While  $\text{Parasix}(P, Q)$  consists of the two triangles  $A_g B_g C_g$  and  $A_s B_s C_s$ , we write  $\tilde{A}_g \tilde{B}_g \tilde{C}_g$  and  $\tilde{A}_s \tilde{B}_s \tilde{C}_s$  for the two corresponding triangles of  $\text{Parasix}(Q, P)$ . From (1) we easily derive their coordinates by interchanging the roles of  $f, g, h$ , and  $u, v, w$ . Note that  $\tilde{C}_s = G_g$  and  $\tilde{C}_g = G_s$ .

Let  $P_A$  and  $Q_A$  be the the points where  $AP$  and  $AQ$  meet  $BC$  respectively, and let  $AP : PP_A = t_P : 1 - t_P$  while  $AQ : QQ_A = t_Q : 1 - t_Q$ . Then it is easy to see that

$$AA_g : A_g P_A = A\tilde{A}_g : \tilde{A}_g Q_A = t_P t_Q : 1 - t_P t_Q$$

so that the line  $A_g \tilde{A}_g$  is parallel to  $BC$ . By Proposition 1,  $A_s \tilde{A}_s$  is also parallel to  $BC$ .

**Proposition 2.** (a) *The lines  $A_g \tilde{A}_g, B_g \tilde{B}_g$  and  $C_g \tilde{C}_g$  bound a triangle homothetic to  $ABC$ . The center of homothety is the point*

$$(f(u + v + w) + u(g + h) : g(u + v + w) + v(h + f) : h(u + v + w) + w(f + g)).$$

*The ratio of homothety is*

$$1 - \frac{fu + gv + hw}{(f + g + h)(u + v + w)}.$$

(b) *The lines  $A_s \tilde{A}_s, B_s \tilde{B}_s$  and  $C_s \tilde{C}_s$  bound a triangle homothetic to  $ABC$  with center of homothety  $(u f : v g : w h)$ <sup>1</sup> The ratio of homothety is*

$$1 - \frac{fu + gv + hw}{(f + g + h)(u + v + w)}.$$

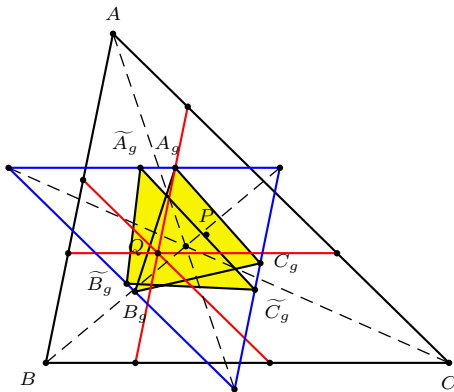


Figure 3a

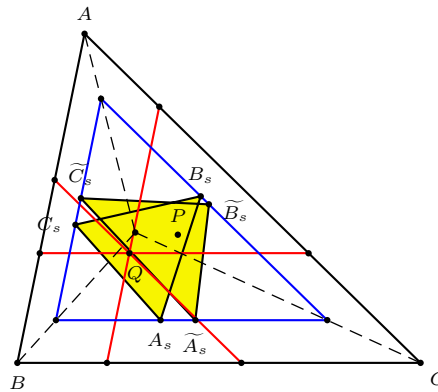


Figure 3b

<sup>1</sup>This point is called the barycentric product of  $P$  and  $Q$ . Another construction was given by P. Yiu in [4]. These homothetic centers are collinear with the midpoint of  $PQ$ .

**2. Parasix loci**

We present a few line and conic loci associated with parasix configurations. For  $P = (u : v : w)$ , we denote by

(i)  $\mathcal{L}_P$  the trilinear polar of  $P$ , which has equation

$$\frac{x}{u} + \frac{y}{v} + \frac{z}{w} = 0;$$

(ii)  $\mathcal{C}_P$  the circumconic with perspector  $P$ , which has equation

$$\frac{u}{x} + \frac{v}{y} + \frac{w}{z} = 0.$$

2.1. *Area of parasix triangles.* The parasix triangles  $A_gB_gC_g$  and  $A_sB_sC_s$  have a common area

$$\frac{ghu + hfv + fgw}{(f + g + h)^2(u + v + w)}. \tag{2}$$

**Proposition 3.** (a) *For a given  $Q$ , the locus of  $P$  for which the triangles  $A_gB_gC_g$  and  $A_sB_sC_s$  have a fixed (signed) area is a line parallel to  $\mathcal{L}_P$ .*

(b) *For a given  $P$ , the locus of  $Q$  for which the triangles  $A_gB_gC_g$  and  $A_sB_sC_s$  have a fixed (signed) area is a conic homothetic to  $\mathcal{C}_P$  at its center.*

In particular, the parasix triangles degenerate into two parallel lines if and only if

$$\frac{u}{f} + \frac{v}{g} + \frac{w}{h} = 0. \tag{*}$$

This condition can be construed in two ways:  $P \in \mathcal{L}_Q$ , or equivalently,  $P \in \mathcal{C}_P$ . See §6.

2.2. *Perspectivity with the pedal triangle.*

**Proposition 4.** (a) *Given  $P$ , the locus of  $Q$  so that  $A_sB_sC_s$  is perspective to the pedal triangle of  $Q$  is the line<sup>2</sup>*

$$\sum_{\text{cyclic}} S_A(S_Bv - S_Cw)(-uS_A + vS_B + wS_C)x = 0.$$

This line passes through the orthocenter  $H$  and the point

$$\left( \frac{1}{S_A(-uS_A + vS_B + wS_C)} : \dots : \dots \right),$$

which can be constructed as the perspector of  $ABC$  and the cevian triangle of  $P$  in the orthic triangle.

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<sup>2</sup>Here we adopt J.H. Conway's notation by writing  $S$  for *twice* of the area of triangle  $ABC$  and  $S_A = S \cdot \cot A = \frac{b^2 + c^2 - a^2}{2}$ ,  $S_B = S \cdot \cot B = \frac{c^2 + a^2 - b^2}{2}$ ,  $S_C = S \cdot \cot C = \frac{a^2 + b^2 - c^2}{2}$ .

These satisfy  $S_{AB} + S_{BC} + S_{CA} = S^2$ . The expressions  $S_{AB}$ ,  $S_{BC}$ ,  $S_{CA}$  stand for  $S_AS_B$ ,  $S_BS_C$ ,  $S_CS_A$  respectively.

2.3. *Parallelogy.* A triangle is said to be parallelogic to a second triangle if the lines through the vertices of the triangle parallel to the corresponding opposite sides of the second triangle are concurrent.

**Proposition 5.** (a) *Given  $P = (u : v : w)$ , the locus of  $Q$  for which  $ABC$  is parallelogic to  $A_gB_gC_g$  (respectively  $A_sB_sC_s$ ) is the line  $(v + w)x + (w + u)y + (u + v)z = 0$ , which can be constructed as the trilinear polar of the isotomic conjugate of the complement of  $P$ .*

(b) *Given  $Q = (f : g : h)$ , the locus of  $P$  for which  $ABC$  is parallelogic to  $A_gB_gC_g$  (respectively  $A_sB_sC_s$ ) is the line  $(g + h)x + (h + f)y + (f + g)z = 0$ , which can be constructed as the trilinear polar of the isotomic conjugate of the complement of  $Q$ .*

2.4. *Perspectivity with  $ABC$ .* Clearly  $A_gB_gC_g$  is perspective to  $ABC$  at  $P$ . The perspectrix is the line  $gh(g + h)x + fh(f + h)y + fg(f + g)z = 0$ , parallel to the trilinear polar of  $Q$ . Given  $P$ , the locus of  $Q$  such that  $A_sB_sC_s$  is perspective to  $ABC$  is the cubic

$$(v + w)x(wy^2 - vz^2) + (u + w)y(uz^2 - wx^2) + (u + v)z(vx^2 - uy^2) = 0,$$

which is the isocubic with pivot  $(v + w : w + u : u + v)$  and pole  $P$ . For  $P = K$ , the symmedian point, this is the isogonal cubic with pivot  $X_{141} = (b^2 + c^2 : c^2 + a^2 : a^2 + b^2)$ .

### 3. Orthology

Some interesting loci associated with the orthology of triangles attracted our attention because of their connection with the orthocorrespondence defined in [1]. We recall that two triangles are orthologic if the perpendiculars from the vertices of one triangle to the opposite sides of the corresponding vertices of the other triangle are concurrent.

First, consider the locus of  $Q$ , given  $P$ , such that the triangles  $A_gB_gC_g$  and  $A_sB_sC_s$  are orthologic to  $ABC$ . We can find this locus by simple calculation since this is also the locus such that  $A_gB_gC_g$  is perspective to the triangle of the infinite points of the altitudes, with coordinates

$$H_A^\infty = (-a^2, S_C, S_B), \quad H_B^\infty = (S_C, -b^2, S_A), \quad H_C^\infty = (S_B, S_A, -c^2).$$

The lines  $A_gH_A^\infty$ ,  $V_gH_B^\infty$  and  $C_gH_C^\infty$  concur if and only if  $Q$  lies on the line

$$(S_Bv - S_Cw)x + (S_Cw - S_Au)y + (S_Au - S_Bv)z = 0, \quad (3)$$

which is the line through the centroid  $G$  and the orthocorrespondent of  $P$ , namely, the point<sup>3</sup>

$$P^\perp = (u(-S_Au + S_Bv + S_Cw) + a^2vw : \dots : \dots).$$

The line (3) is the orthocorrespondent of the line  $HP$ . See [1, §2.4].

<sup>3</sup>The lines perpendicular at  $P$  to  $AP$ ,  $BP$ ,  $CP$  intersect the respective sidelines at three collinear points. The orthocorrespondent of  $P$  is the trilinear pole  $P^\perp$  of the line containing these three intersections.

For the second locus problem, we let  $Q$  be given, and ask for the locus of  $P$  such that the triangles  $A_gB_gC_g$  and  $A_sB_sC_s$  are orthologic to  $ABC$ . The computations are similar, and again we find a line as the locus:

$$S_A(g - h)x + S_B(h - f)y + S_C(f - g)z = 0.$$

This is the line through  $H$ , and the two anti-orthocorrespondents of  $Q$ . See [1, Figure 2]. It is the anti-orthocorrespondent of the line  $GQ$ .

Given  $P$ , for both  $A_gB_gC_g$  and  $\tilde{A}_g\tilde{B}_g\tilde{C}_g$  to be orthologic to  $ABC$ , the point  $Q$  has to be the intersection of the line  $GP^\perp$  ((3) above) and

$$S_A(v - w)x + S_B(w - u)y + S_C(u - v)z = 0,$$

the anti-orthocorrespondent of  $GP$ . This is the point

$$\tau(P) = (S_A(c^2 - b^2)u^2 + (S_{AC} - S_{BB})uv - (S_{AB} - S_{CC})uw + a^2(c^2 - b^2)vw \\ \vdots \dots \vdots).$$

The point  $\tau(P)$  is not well defined if all three coordinates of  $\tau(P)$  are equal to zero, which is the case exactly when  $P$  is either  $K$ , the orthocenter  $H$ , or the centroid  $G$ . The pre-images of these points are lines:  $GH$  (the Euler line),  $GK$ , and  $HK$  for  $K$ ,  $G$  and  $H$  respectively. Outside these lines the mapping  $P \mapsto \tau(P)$  is an involution. Note that  $P$  and  $\tau(P)$  are collinear with the symmedian point  $K$ .

The fixed points of  $\tau$  are the points of the Kiepert hyperbola

$$(b^2 - c^2)yz + (c^2 - a^2)xz + (a^2 - b^2)xy = 0.$$

More precisely, the line joining  $\tau(P)$  to  $H$  meets  $GP$  on the Kiepert hyperbola. Therefore we may characterize  $\tau(P)$  as the intersection of the line  $PK$  with the polar of  $P$  in the Kiepert hyperbola.<sup>4</sup>

In the table below we give the first coordinates of some well known triangle centers and their images under  $\tau$ . The indexing of triangle centers follows [3].

$P$	first coordinate	$\tau(P)$	first coordinate
$X_1$	$a$	$X_9$	$a(s - a)$
$X_7$	$(s - b)(s - c)$	$X_{948}$	$(s - b)(s - c)F$
$X_8$	$s - a$		$a^2 + (b + c)^2$
$X_{19}$			$aG$
$X_{34}$			$a(s - b)(s - c)(a^2 + (b + c)^2)$
$X_{37}$		$X_{72}$	$a(b + c)S_A$
$X_{42}$	$a^2(b + c)$	$X_{71}$	$a^2(b + c)S_A$
$X_{57}$	$a/(s - a)$	$X_{223}$	$a(s - b)(s - c)F$
$X_{58}$		$X_{572}$	$a^2G$

<sup>4</sup>This is also called the *Hirst inverse* of  $P$  with respect to  $K$ . See the glossary of [3].

Here,

$$F = a^3 + a^2(b + c) - a(b + c)^2 - (b + c)(b - c)^2,$$

$$G = a^3 + a^2(b + c) + a(b + c)^2 + (b + c)(b - c)^2,$$

We may also wonder, given  $P$  outside the circumcircle, for which  $Q$  are the  $\text{Parasix}(P, Q)$  triangles  $A_g B_g C_g$  and  $A_s B_s C_s$  orthologic to the circumcevian triangle of  $P$ . The  $A$ -vertex of the circumcevian triangle of  $P$  has coordinates

$$(-a^2yz : (b^2z + c^2y)y : (b^2z + c^2y)z).$$

Hence we find that the lines from the vertices of the circumcevian triangle of  $P$  perpendicular to the corresponding sides of  $A_g B_g C_g$  concur if and only if

$$(uyz + vxz + wxy)L = 0, \tag{4}$$

where

$$L = \sum_{\text{cyclic}} (c^2v^2 + 2S_Avw + b^2w^2)((c^2S_Cv - b^2S_Bw)u^2 + a^2((c^2v^2 - b^2w^2)u + (S_Bv - S_Cw)vw))x.$$

The first factor in (4) represents the circumconic with perspector  $P$ , and when  $Q$  is on this conic,  $\text{Parasix}(P, Q)$  is degenerate, see §6 below. The second factor  $L$  yields the locus we are looking for, a line passing through  $P^\perp$ .<sup>5</sup>

A point  $X$  lies on the line  $L = 0$  if and only if  $P$  lies on a bicircular circumquintic through the in- and excenters<sup>6</sup>. For the special case  $X = G$  this quintic decomposes into  $\mathcal{L}_\infty$  (with multiplicity 2) and the McCay cubic.<sup>7</sup> In other words, for any  $P$  on the McCay cubic, the circumcevian triangle of  $P$  is orthologic to the  $\text{Parasix}(P, Q)$  triangles if and only if  $Q$  lies on the line  $GP^\perp$ .

#### 4. Concyclic $\text{Parasix}(P, Q)$ -hexagons

We may ask, given  $P$ , for which  $Q$  the parasix configuration yields a cyclic hexagon. This is equivalent to the circumcenter of  $A_g B_g C_g$  being equal to the midpoint of segment  $PQ$ . Now the midpoint of  $PQ$  lies on the perpendicular bisector of  $B_g C_g$  if and only if  $Q$  lies on the line

$$-(w(S_Au + S_Bv - S_Cw) + c^2uv)y + (v(S_Au - S_Bv + S_Cw)v + b^2wu)z = 0,$$

which is indeed the cevian line  $AP^\perp$ . Remarkably, we find the same cevian line as locus for  $Q$  satisfying the condition that  $B_g C_g \perp AP$ .

**Proposition 6.** *The following statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $\text{Parasix}(P, Q)$  yields a cyclic hexagon.

<sup>5</sup>The line  $L = 0$  is not defined when  $P$  is an in/excenter. This means that, for any  $Q$ , triangles  $A_g B_g C_g$  and  $A_s B_s C_s$  in  $\text{Parasix}(P, Q)$  are orthologic to the circumcevian triangle of  $P$ . This is not surprising since  $P$  is the orthocenter of its own circumcevian triangle. For  $P = X_3$ ,  $L = 0$  is the line  $GK$ , while for  $P = X_{13}, X_{14}$ , it is the parallel at  $P$  to the Euler line.

<sup>6</sup>This quintic has equation  $Q_Ax + Q_By + Q_Cz = 0$  where  $Q_A$  represents the union of the circle center  $A$ , radius 0 and the Van Rees focal which is the isogonal pivotal cubic with pivot the infinite point of  $AH$  and singular focus  $A$ .

<sup>7</sup>The McCay cubic is the isogonal cubic with pivot  $O$  given by the equation  $\sum_{\text{cyclic}} a^2 S_A x (c^2 y^2 - b^2 z^2) = 0$ .

- (2)  $A_gB_gC_g$  and  $A_sB_sC_s$  are homothetic to the antipedal triangle of  $P$ .
- (3)  $Q$  is the orthocorrespondent of  $P$ .

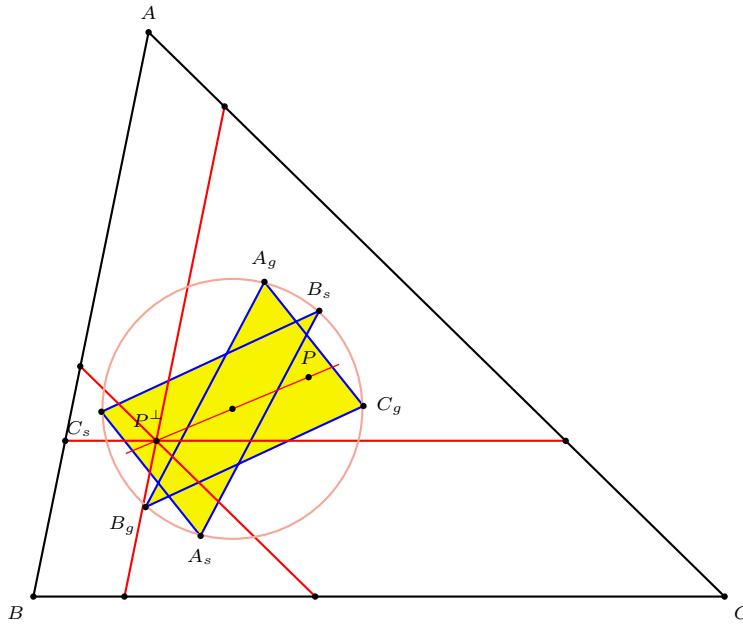


Figure 4

The center of the circle containing the 6 points is the midpoint of  $PQ$ .

The homothetic centers and the circumcenter of the cyclic hexagon are collinear.

A nice example is the circle around Parasix( $H, G$ ). It is homothetic to the circumcircle and nine point circle through  $H$  with factors  $\frac{1}{3}$  and  $\frac{2}{3}$  respectively. The center of the circle divides  $OH$  in the ratio  $2 : 1$ .<sup>8</sup> The antipedal triangle of  $H$  is clearly the anticomplementary triangle of  $ABC$ . The two homothetic centers divide the same segment in the ratios  $5 : 2$  and  $3 : 2$  respectively.<sup>9</sup> See Figure 5.

As noted in [1],  $P = P^\perp$  only for the Fermat-Torricelli points  $X_{13}$  and  $X_{14}$ . The vertices of parasix( $X_{13}, X_{13}$ ) and Parasix( $X_{14}, X_{14}$ ) form regular hexagons. See Figure 6.

### 5. Equilateral triangles

The last example raises the question of finding, for given  $P$ , the points  $Q$  for which the triangles  $A_gB_gC_g$  and  $A_sB_sC_s$  are equilateral. We find that the  $A$ -median of  $A_gB_gC_g$  is also an altitude in this triangle if and only if  $Q$  lies on the

<sup>8</sup>This is also the midpoint of  $GH$ , the center of the orthocentroidal circle, the point  $X_{381}$  in [3].

<sup>9</sup>These have homogeneous barycentric coordinates  $(3a^4 + 2a^2(b^2 + c^2) - 5(b^2 - c^2)^2 : \dots : \dots)$  and  $(a^4 - 2a^2(b^2 + c^2) + 3(b^2 - c^2)^2 : \dots : \dots)$  respectively. They are not in the current edition of [3].



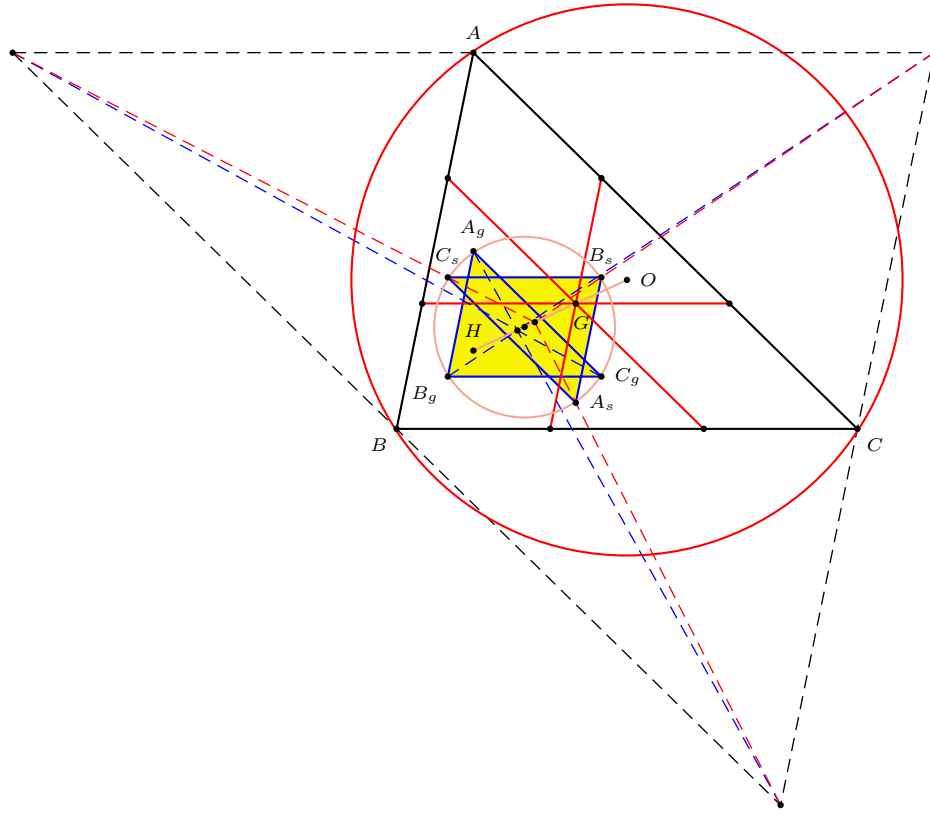


Figure 5. Parasix( $H, G$ )

conic

$$-2((S_A u + S_B v - S_C w)w + c^2 uv)xy + 2((S_A u - S_B v + S_C w)v + b^2 uw)xz - (c^2 u^2 + a^2 w^2 + 2S_B uw)y^2 + (b^2 u^2 + a^2 v^2 + 2S_C vw)z^2 = 0.$$

We find an analogous conic for the  $B$ -median of  $A_g B_g C_g$  to be an altitude. The two conics intersect in four points: two imaginary points and the points

$$Q_{1,2} = \left( (-S_A u + S_B v + S_C w)u + a^2 vw \pm \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3}Su(u + v + w) : \dots : \dots \right).$$

**Proposition 7.** *Given  $P$ , there are two (real) points  $Q$  for which triangles  $A_g B_g C_g$  and  $A_s B_s C_s$  are equilateral. These two points divide  $PP^\perp$  harmonically.*

The points  $Q_{1,2}$  from Proposition 7 can be constructed in the following way, using the fact that  $P, G_s, G_g$  and  $P^\perp$  are collinear.

Start with a point  $G'$  on  $PP^\perp$ . We shall construct an equilateral triangle  $A'B'C'$  with vertices on  $AP, BP$  and  $CP$  respectively and centroid at  $G'$ . This triangle must be homothetic to one of the equilateral triangles  $A_g B_g C_g$  of Proposition 7 through  $P$ .

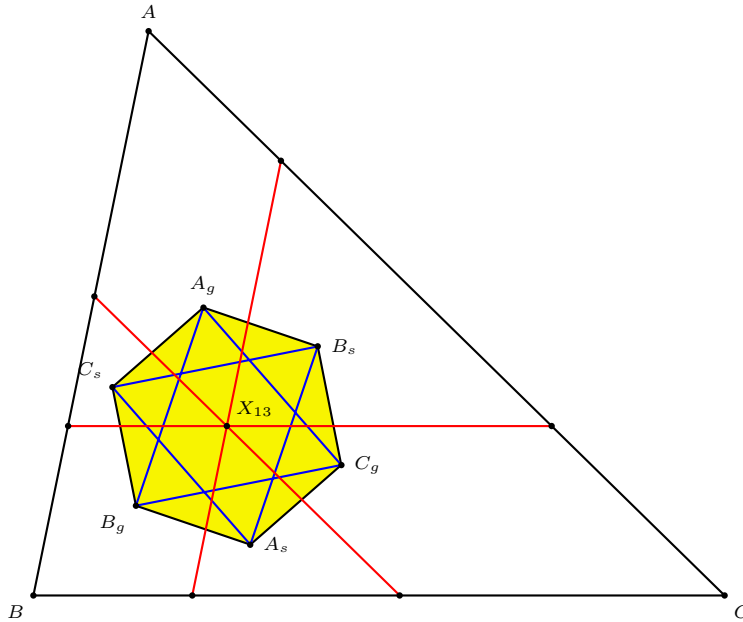


Figure 6. The parasix configuration  $\text{Parasix}(X_{13}, X_{13})$

Consider the rotation  $\rho$  about  $G'$  through  $\pm\frac{2\pi}{3}$ . The image of  $AP$  intersects  $BP$  in a point  $B'$ . Now let  $C'$  be the image of  $B'$  and  $A'$  the image of  $C'$ . Then  $A'B'C'$  is equilateral,  $A'$  lies on  $AP$ ,  $G'$  is the centroid and  $C'$  must lie on  $CP$ .

The homothety with center  $A$  that maps  $P$  to  $A'$  also maps  $BC$  to a line  $\ell_a$ . Similarly we find  $\ell_b$  and  $\ell_c$ . These lines enclose a triangle  $A''B''C''$  homothetic to  $ABC$ . We of course want to find the case for which  $A''B''C''$  degenerates into one point, which is the  $Q$  we are looking for. Since all possible equilateral  $AB'C'$  of the same orientation are homothetic through  $P$ , the triangles  $A''B''C''$  are all homothetic to  $ABC$  through the same point. So the homothety center of  $A''B''C''$  and  $ABC$  is the point  $Q$  we are looking for.

### 6. Degenerate parasix triangles

We begin with a simple interesting fact.

**Proposition 8.** *Every line through  $P$  intersects the circumconic  $C_P$  at two real points.*

*Proof.* For the special case of the symmedian point  $K$  this is clear, since  $K$  is the interior of the circumcircle. Now, there is a homography  $\varphi$  fixing  $A, B, C$  and transforming  $P = (u : v : w)$  into  $K = (a^2 : b^2 : c^2)$ . It is given by

$$\varphi(x : y : z) = \left( \frac{a^2}{u}x : \frac{b^2}{v}y : \frac{c^2}{w}z \right),$$

and is a projective transformation mapping  $C_P$  into the circumcircle and any line through  $P$  into a line through  $K$ . If  $\ell$  is a line through  $P$ , then  $\varphi(\ell)$  is a line through  $K$ , intersecting the circumcircle at two real points  $q_1$  and  $q_2$ . The circumcircle and

the circumconic  $\mathcal{C}_P$  have a fourth real point  $Z$  in common, which is the trilinear pole of the line  $PK$ . For any point  $M$  on  $\mathcal{C}_P$ , the points  $Z, M, \varphi(M)$  are collinear. The second intersections of the lines  $Zq_1$  and  $Zq_2$  are common points of  $\ell$  and the circumconic  $\mathcal{C}_P$ .  $\square$

In §2, we have seen that the parasix triangles are degenerate if and only if  $P \in \mathcal{L}_Q$  or equivalently,  $Q \in \mathcal{C}_P$ . This means that for each line  $\ell_P$  through  $P$  intersecting the circumconic  $\mathcal{C}_P$  at  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$ , the triangles of  $\text{Parasix}(P, Q_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , are degenerate.

**Theorem 9.** *For  $i = 1, 2$ , the two lines containing the degenerate triangles of the parasix configuration  $\text{Parasix}(P, Q_i)$  are parallel to a tangent from  $P$  to the inscribed conic  $\mathcal{C}_\ell$  with perspector the trilinear pole of  $\ell_P$ . The two tangents for  $i = 1, 2$  are perpendicular if and only if the line  $\ell_P$  contains the orthocorrespondent  $P^\perp$ .*

For example, for  $P = K$ , the symmedian point, the circumconic  $\mathcal{C}_P$  is the circumcircle. The orthocorrespondent is the point

$$K^\perp = (a^2(a^4 - b^4 + 4b^2c^2 - c^4) : \dots : \dots)$$

on the Euler line. The line  $\ell$  joining  $K$  to this point has equation

$$\frac{(b^2 - c^2)(b^2 + c^2 - 2a^2)}{a^2}x + \frac{(c^2 - a^2)(c^2 + a^2 - 2b^2)}{b^2}y + \frac{(a^2 - b^2)(a^2 + b^2 - 2c^2)}{c^2}z = 0.$$

The inscribed conic  $\mathcal{C}_\ell$  has center

$$(a^2(b^2 - c^2)(a^4 - b^4 + b^2c^2 - c^4) : \dots : \dots).$$

The tangents from  $K$  to the conic  $\mathcal{C}_\ell$  are the Brocard axis  $OK$  and its perpendicular at  $K$ .<sup>10</sup> The points of tangency are

$$\left( \frac{a^2(2a^2 - b^2 - c^2)}{b^2 - c^2} : \frac{b^2(2b^2 - c^2 - a^2)}{c^2 - a^2} : \frac{c^2(2c^2 - a^2 - b^2)}{a^2 - b^2} \right)$$

on the Brocard axis and

$$\left( \frac{a^2(b^2 - c^2)}{2a^2 - b^2 - c^2} : \frac{b^2(c^2 - a^2)}{2b^2 - c^2 - a^2} : \frac{c^2(a^2 - b^2)}{2c^2 - a^2 - b^2} \right)$$

on the perpendicular tangent. See Figure 7. The line  $\ell$  intersects the circumcircle at the point

$$X_{110} = \left( \frac{a^2}{b^2 - c^2} : \frac{b^2}{c^2 - a^2} : \frac{c^2}{a^2 - b^2} \right)$$

and the Parry point

$$X_{111} = \left( \frac{a^2}{b^2 + c^2 - 2a^2} : \frac{b^2}{c^2 + a^2 - 2b^2} : \frac{c^2}{a^2 + b^2 - 2c^2} \right).$$

The lines containing the degenerate triangles of  $\text{Parasix}(K, X_{110})$  are parallel to the Brocard axis, while those for  $\text{Parasix}(K, X_{111})$  are parallel to the tangent from  $K$  which is perpendicular to the Brocard axis.

<sup>10</sup>The infinite points of these lines are respectively  $X_{511}$  and  $X_{512}$ .

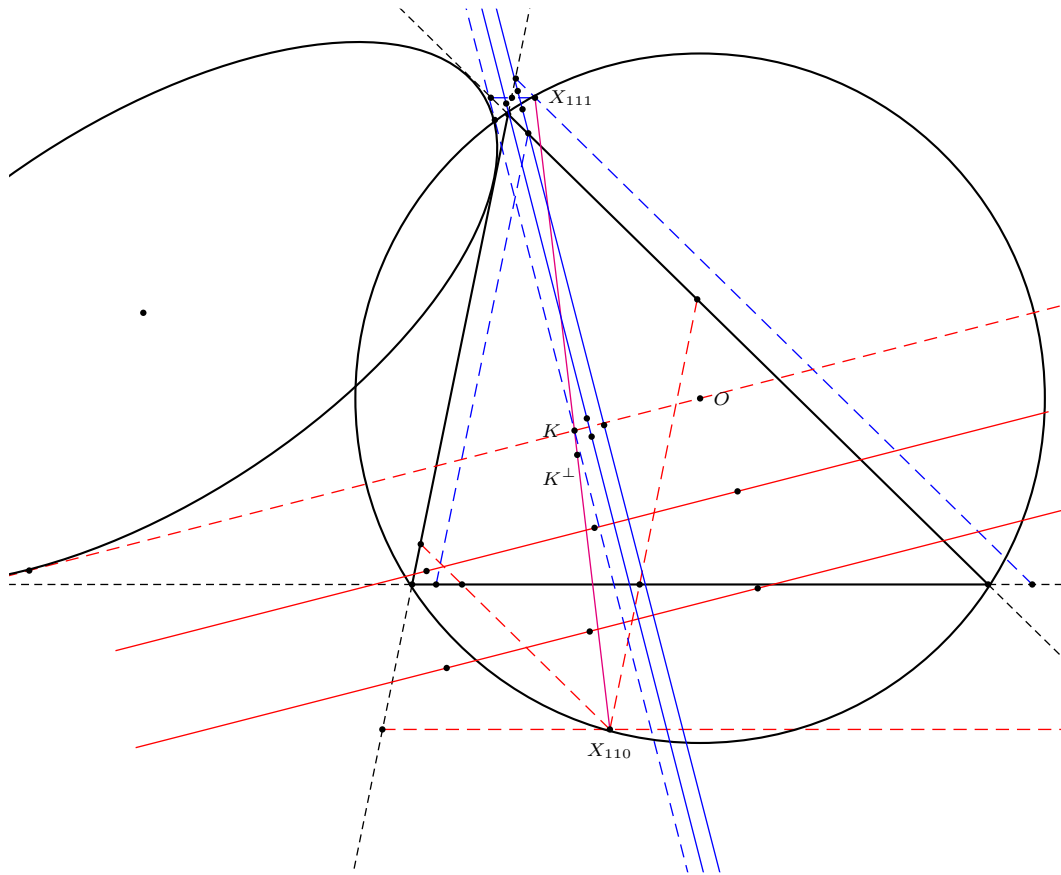


Figure 7. Degenerate  $\text{Parasix}(K, X_{110})$  and  $\text{Parasix}(K, X_{111})$

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