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CIRCLES OF CURVATURE AT POINTS OF PARABOLA IN ISOTROPIC PLANE

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ABSTRACT

The authors have studied the curvature of the focal conic in the isotropic plane and the form of the circle of curvature at its points has been obtained. Hereby, we discuss several properties of such circles of curvature at the points of a parabola in the isotropic plane.

KEYWORDS

isotropic plane, parabola, circle of curvature

MATHEMATICS SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION (2020)

Primary 51N25; Secondary 51N15

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper deals with the properties of the parabola in the isotropic plane concerning a circle of curvature of its points. As every circle in the isotropic plane has the absolute point for the centre, there is no need to study the centers of the circle of curvature at the points.

The curvature of the focal conic in the isotropic plane was studied in the paper [15]. Let us recall just few notions about isotropic plane.

The isotropic plane is a real projective metric plane whose absolute figure is a pair consisting of an *absolute point* Ω and an *absolute line* ω incident with it. If any point $T = (x_0 : x_1 : x_2)$ is presented in homogeneous coordinate in the projective plane, then $\Omega = (0 : 1 : 0)$ and the line ω with $x_2 = 0$ are chosen.

Points incident to the absolute line ω are *isotropic points* and lines incident to the absolute point Ω are *isotropic lines*.

Further on, we will mention few very well known metric quantities in the isotropic plane for which we assume that $x = \frac{x_0}{x_2}$ and $y = \frac{x_1}{x_2}$.

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Two lines with the same isotropic point are *parallel lines* and two points incident with the same isotropic line are *parallel points*.

A *distance* between two non parallel points $T_1 = (x_1, y_1)$ and $T_2 = (x_2, y_2)$ is defined as $d(T_1, T_2) := x_2 - x_1$. In the case of parallel points $T_1 = (x, y_1)$ and $T_2 = (x, y_2)$, a *span* $s(T_1, T_2) := y_2 - y_1$ is defined. Both quantities are directed.

The line p in the isotropic plane is given by $y = kx + l$, $k, l \in \mathbb{R}$ and labelled by $p = (k, l)$. A distance from the point P to the line p is defined as the span $s(N, P)$, where N is the point on p parallel to P .

For two points $T_1 = (x_1, y_1)$ and $T_2 = (x_2, y_2)$ the midpoint M is of the form

$$M = \left(\frac{1}{2}(x_1 + x_2), \frac{1}{2}(y_1 + y_2) \right).$$

For two lines $p_i = (k_i, l_i)$, $i = 1, 2$, their bisector is given by equation $y = \frac{1}{2}(k_1 + k_2)x + \frac{1}{2}(l_1 + l_2)$.

A *circle*, the conic touching ω at Ω , has the equation $y = ux^2 + vx + w$, $u \neq 0$, $u, v, w \in \mathbb{R}$.

Metric quantities and notions related to the geometry in the isotropic plane can be found in [13], [14] and [6].

It is shown in [2] that every focal conic in the isotropic plane, by choosing a suitable affine coordinate system can be represented by

$$y^2 = \epsilon x^2 + x \tag{1.1}$$

where $\epsilon = -1$, $\epsilon = 0$ or $\epsilon = 1$ depending on whether the conic given in (1.1) is an ellipse, a parabola or a hyperbola. This conic has the x -axis as its axis and one focus is $O = (0, 0)$. The second focus for the ellipse and the hyperbola is of the form $O = (-\epsilon, 0)$. This conic can be parametrized as well by

$$x = \frac{1}{t^2 - \epsilon}, \quad y = \frac{t}{t^2 - \epsilon}, \tag{1.2}$$

where $t \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$. Hence, a parabola \mathcal{P} in the isotropic plane is presented in the standard form by

$$y^2 = x. \tag{1.3}$$

Focus, as well as the vertex of parabola is the origin $O = (0, 0)$, the axis \mathcal{A} of parabola is the x -axis and the directrix \mathcal{D} is y -axis. The latter one is tangent to parabola at $O = (0, 0)$. By replacing $t \rightarrow \frac{1}{t}$ and due to [15] the circle of curvature \mathcal{C} of parabola \mathcal{P} at the point $T = (t^2, t)$ is given by

$$x^2 - 6t^2x + 8t^3y - 3t^4 = 0. \tag{1.4}$$

The diameter of \mathcal{P} at T intersects its circle of curvature residually in the point $T'' = (5t^2, t)$ and for TT'' and OT due to [15, Theorem 8] the following is valid

$$TT'' = 4OT.$$

The same claim in the Euclidean plane can be found in [3] and [12].

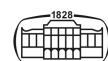
2. ON CIRCLES OF CURVATURE OF PARABOLA IN ISOTROPIC PLANE

Further on, the properties of the circles of curvature of \mathcal{P} will be discussed.

THEOREM 2.1. Let \mathcal{P} be a parabola (1.3) in the standard form in the isotropic plane and let T be one of its points. The circle of curvature of parabola \mathcal{P} at the point T intersects \mathcal{P} in the point T' , residually. Then the line TT' is tangent to one parabola, i.e. all such lines determine one parabola.

Motivation for this theorem is found in the Euclidean case in the question [10] and in corresponding solutions [5], [9], and [11].

Proof. To find the intersection point of (1.3) and (1.4) a calculation leads to $y^4 - 6t^2y^2 + 8t^3y - 3t^4 = 0$, i.e. $(y - t)^3(y + 3t) = 0$. The solution $y = t$ is the triple intersection point $T = (t^2, t)$ and the solution



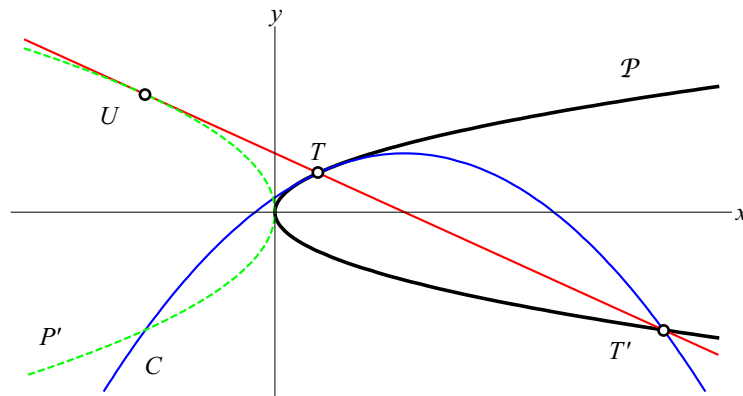


FIGURE 1. Theorem 2.1

$y = -3t$ is the point $T' = (9t^2, -3t)$, the fourth intersection point of the parabola \mathcal{P} and the circle of curvature C at the point T . The line TT' has the equation

$$y = -\frac{x}{2t} + \frac{3t}{2}. \quad (2.1)$$

Changing t , the line (2.1) touches parabola \mathcal{P}' given by

$$y^2 = -3x. \quad (2.2)$$

Namely, taking (2.1) and (2.2) and eliminating y , one gets $\left(\frac{x}{2t} + \frac{3t}{2}\right)^2 = 0$ with double solution $x = -3t^2$. Hence the point of contact of parabola \mathcal{P}' and the line TT' is the point $U = (-3t^2, 3t)$. \square

One intersection point of parabolas \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{P}' is the point $U' = (-3t^2, -3t)$. The midpoint of points T and T' is the point $M = (5t^2, -t)$ which obviously determines the parabola \mathcal{P}'' given by $y^2 = \frac{1}{5}x$. The same parabola is determined by the point T'' as well, the point symmetric to M with respect to the axis \mathcal{A} of parabola \mathcal{P} . Points T and U' are incident with the line $y = \frac{1}{t}x$ passing through the origin O . The midpoint of T' and U is the point $V' = (3t^2, 0)$ incident to the axis \mathcal{A} of parabola \mathcal{P} .

The fact that TT' determines a parabola can be found in Euclidean case in [1].

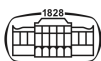
The tangent \mathcal{T} at T of the parabola \mathcal{P} is given by $y = \frac{x}{2t} + \frac{t}{2}$. Due to [15] lines \mathcal{T} and TT' are antiparallel with respect to the axis \mathcal{A} of parabola \mathcal{P} .

Analogous result in Euclidean plane can be found in [7]. The tangent \mathcal{T} intersects the axis of parabola \mathcal{P} in the point $(-t^2, 0)$. The result in the Euclidean case given in [4] is valid in isotropic plane as well. Namely, the line TT' intersects the vertex tangent, i.e. directrix, of the parabola \mathcal{P} at the point $V = \left(0, \frac{3}{2}t\right)$. Lines OT and OU form a harmonic quadruple of lines with its bisector, the axis of parabola, and the vertex tangent. Hence, the pairs of points T, U and V, V' are harmonic points.

The tangent \mathcal{T} intersects directrix $x = 0$ at the point $V'' = \left(0, \frac{1}{2}t\right)$, so the equality $OV = 3OV''$ holds. The analogous Euclidean case is given in [4]. Hereby, the claim is telling the following:

THEOREM 2.2. The span from the vertex of parabola \mathcal{P} to the tangent of the same parabola at the point T is $\frac{1}{3}$ of the span from the vertex of the parabola to the common chord of parabola and the circle of curvature of the point T .

The result given in [8] is valid in the isotropic plane as well saying:



THEOREM 2.3. The radical axis of the circles of curvature at the endpoints of any chord conjugate to a given diameter of a parabola passes through a fixed point. Furthermore, the locus of this point for different diameters is a parabola.

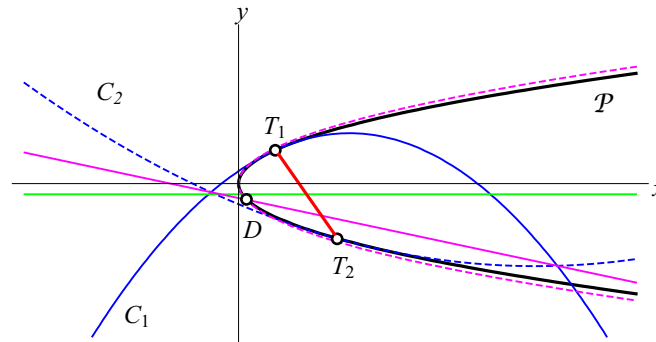


FIGURE 2. Theorem 2.3

Proof. Let $T_1 = (t_1^2, t_1)$ and $T_2 = (t_2^2, t_2)$ be two different points of the parabola \mathcal{P} , and C_1 and C_2 circles of curvature at those points. If we take $t \rightarrow t_1$ and $t \rightarrow t_2$ in (1.4) and then subtract these two equations, we get the radical axis \mathcal{P}_{12} of C_1 and C_2 with equation

$$6(t_1 + t_2)x - 8(t_1^2 + t_1 t_2 + t_2^2)y + 3(t_1^2 + t_2^2)(t_1 + t_2) = 0. \tag{2.3}$$

A diameter D of parabola \mathcal{P} that is conjugate to the line $T_1 T_2$ is given with $y = t$, where $t = \frac{1}{2}(t_1 + t_2)$. The equation (2.3) turns to

$$3tx - (8t^2 - 2t_1 t_2)y + 6t^3 - 3tt_1 t_2 = 0. \tag{2.4}$$

With given diameter D , the locus of all the radical axes \mathcal{P}_{12} with variable (mutually parallel) lines $T_1 T_2$ has the equation (2.4) and it is obviously incident to the fixed point $D = \left(2t^2, \frac{3}{2}t\right)$. It is easy to prove that the point D with variable t determines a parabole given by $y^2 = \frac{9}{8}x$. \square

The intersection point of the line (2.3) and the directrix $x = 0$ of parabola \mathcal{P} has ordinate

$$y = \frac{3(t_1 + t_2)(t_1^2 + t_2^2)}{8(t_1^2 + t_1 t_2 + t_2^2)}. \tag{2.5}$$

If $T_3 = (t_3^2, t_3)$ denotes some third point of \mathcal{P} , and C_3 denotes its circle of curvature, then the radical axis \mathcal{P}_{13} of circles C_1 and C_3 intersects the directrix of the parabola \mathcal{P} in the point having ordinate

$$y' = 3 \frac{(t_1 + t_3)(t_1^2 + t_3^2)}{8(t_1^2 + t_1 t_3 + t_3^2)}. \tag{2.6}$$

Ordinates (2.5) and (2.6) are equal under the assumption

$$t_1 t_2 t_3(t_1 + t_2 + t_3) + t_1^2 t_2^2 + t_1^2 t_3^2 + t_2^2 t_3^2 = 0. \tag{2.7}$$

Taking notations $t_1 + t_2 = s$ and $t_1 t_2 = p$, (2.7) can be written in the form

$$p^2 + t_3^2(s^2 - p) + t_3 p s = 0$$

as well, so we get

$$t_1^2 + t_1 t_2 + t_2^2 = s^2 - p = \frac{-p}{t_3^2}(p + t_3 s) = \frac{-p}{t_3^2}(t_1 t_2 + t_1 t_3 + t_2 t_3),$$

and

$$t_1^2 + t_2^2 = s^2 - 2p = \frac{-p}{t_3^2}(p + t_3 s) - p = \frac{-p}{t_3^2}(p + t_3 s + t_3^2) = \frac{-p}{t_3^2}(t_1 + t_3)(t_2 + t_3).$$



So, out of (2.5) it follows

$$y = \frac{3(t_1 + t_2)(t_1 + t_3)(t_2 + t_3)}{8(t_1 t_2 + t_1 t_3 + t_2 t_3)}. \quad (2.8)$$

We have proved the following theorem that is new result in the isotropic plane. The motivation for it was found in the result of [16] that can't be turned into the isotropic plane.

THEOREM 2.4. The radical center of circles of curvature for three points $T_1 = (t_1^2, t_1)$, $T_2 = (t_2^2, t_2)$ and $T_3 = (t_3^2, t_3)$ of the parabola \mathcal{P} , is incident to its directrix under assumption (2.7) and then it has the ordinate given by (2.8).

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