



## RELATED BY SIMILARITY I: PORISTIC TRIANGLES AND 3-PERIODICS IN THE ELLIPTIC BILLIARD

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**Abstract.** Discovered by William Chapple in 1746, the Poristic family is a set of variable-perimeter triangles with common Incircle and Circumcircle. By definition, the family has constant Inradius-to-Circumradius ratio. Interestingly, this invariance also holds for the family of 3-periodics in the Elliptic Billiard, though here Inradius and Circumradius are variable and perimeters are constant. Indeed, we show one family is mapped onto the other via a varying similarity transform. This implies that any scale-free quantities and invariants observed in one family must hold on the other.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The *Poristic family* was discovered by William Chapple in 1746 and was later studied by Euler and Poncelet [1, 3, 10]. It is a 1d of set of variable-perimeter triangles (blue) with fixed Incircle and Circumcircle, Figure 1. By definition its Inradius-to-Circumradius  $r/R$  ratio is constant. Interestingly, the same ratio is invariant for the family of constant-perimeter 3-periodics in the Elliptic Billiard [5, 16].

Our main contribution is to show that one family is mapped onto the other via a (varying) similarity transform whose parameters we derive explicitly. Therefore, all scale-free (e.g., area and length ratios) quantities and invariants verified for one family must hold for the other.

In a companion article [15] we show that the Brocard Porism and the Homothetic Poncelet family are also related to each other via a variable similarity transform.

**Article Summary:** we start with preliminaries in Section 2 and then present the following results:

- Theorem 3.1: The Caustic to the Excentral Triangles of the Poristic Family is the MacBeath Inconic of the Excentrals.
- Theorem 3.2: The Inconic  $I'_3$  to the Poristic Excentrals centered on its Circumcenter is a rigidly rotating ellipse.
- Theorem 3.3: The Incenter-centered Circumconic  $E_1$  to the Poristic Triangles is also rigidly rotating and of the same aspect ratio as  $I'_3$ .

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**Keywords and phrases:** poristic, porism, billiard, invariant, inconic, circumconic, locus.

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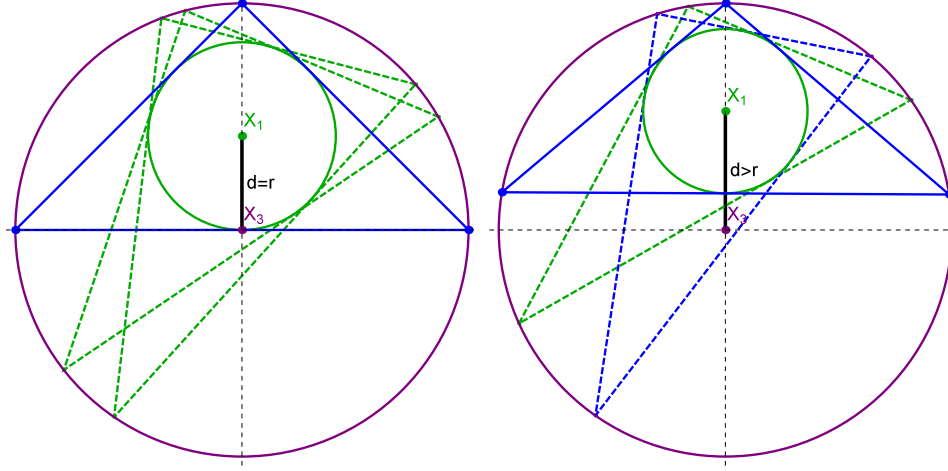


FIGURE 1. Poristic Triangle family (blue): fixed Incircle (green) and Circumcircle (purple). **Left:** With  $d = r$ ,  $r/R = \sqrt{2}-1$ , all Poristic triangles are acute (dashed green,  $X_3$  is interior) except for the one shown (blue) which is a right-triangle. If  $d < r$  (not shown),  $X_3$  will lie in the Incircle (green) and the whole family is acute. **Right:** If  $d > r$ ,  $X_3$  can be both interior or exterior to the triangle, and the family will contain both acute (dashed green) and obtuse (dashed blue) triangles. **Video:** [13, PL#01].

- Theorem 4.1: Poristic and Elliptic Billiard Triangle families are related by a varying similarity transform.

All figures reference illustrative videos in the format [13, PL#nn], where “nn” stands for the position within a playlist. For convenience, all videos mentioned are compiled on Table 4 in Section 5. Table 6 in Appendix A lists all symbols used below.

**1.1. Related Work.** Weaver [19] proved the Antiorthic Axis<sup>1</sup> of this family is stationary. In Appendix B we revisit and add to some of Weaver’s original work [19].

Odehnal showed the locus of the Excenters is a circle centered on  $X_{40}$  and of radius  $2R$  [10]. He also lists several Triangle centers which are stationary. Both circular and elliptic loci are described for Triangle Centers and vertices of derived Triangles. For example, the locus of the Mittenpunkt  $X_9$  is a circle, of known radius and center [10, page 17]; the locus of the vertices of the Tangential Triangle is an ellipse, etc.

Pamfilos studies the family of triangles with fixed circumcircle and 9-point circle [12]. He identifies the poristic intouch triangles as one such family. Since these are homothetic to the excentrals with homothety center  $X_{57}$  [6] and since the latter is stationary in the poristic family [10], poristic excentrals will share all properties identified by Pamfilos for the intouch poristics, e.g., fixed circumcircle and 9-point circle, invariant product of cosines, etc. [12].

We previously studied and Circum- and Inconics associated with the family of 3-periodics in the Elliptic Billiard [14], identifying certain semi-axes and focal length ratios to be invariant. The following works prove that the locus of the incenter, barycenter, and circumcenter of elliptic billiard 3-periodics are ellipses [17, 18, 4].

<sup>1</sup>The line passing through the intersections of reference and Excentral sidelines [20].



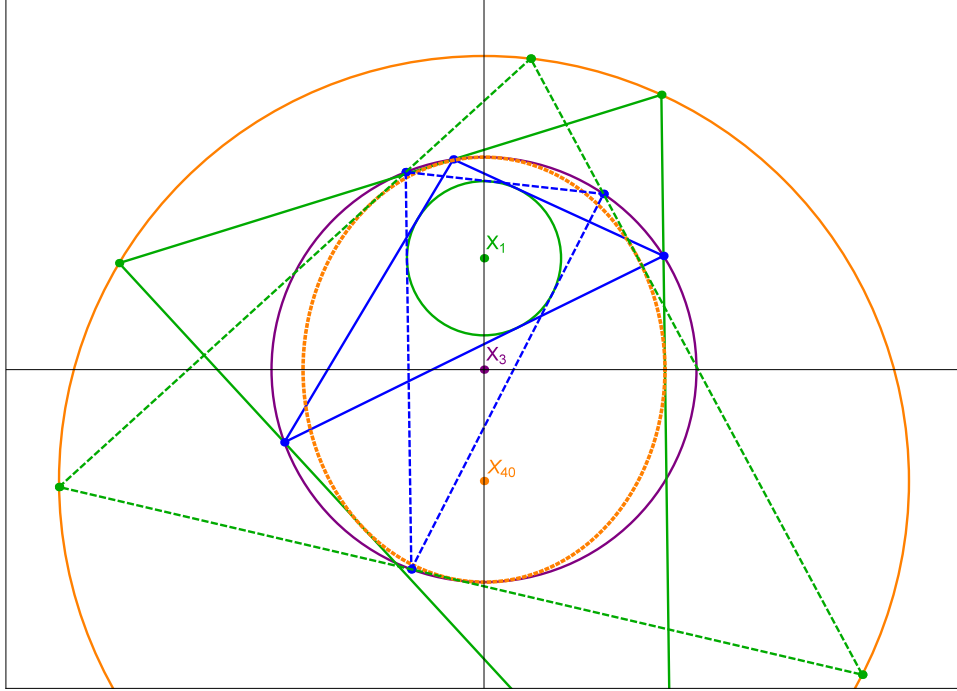


FIGURE 2. The centers of the Incircle (solid green) and Circumcircle (purple) are  $X_1$  and  $X_3$ , respectively. A Poristic triangle (solid blue) and its excentral (solid green) with  $r/R \simeq 0.3266$ . The same are shown (dashed) at a distinct configuration. Odehnal observed the locus of the Excenters is a circle (orange) centered on  $X_{40}$  with radius  $2R$  [10]. Also shown (dotted orange) is the Caustic to the Excentrals, which is the MacBeath Inconic with centers and foci at  $X_i, i = 5, 4, 3$  of the Excentrals and  $X_j, j = 3, 1, 40$  of the Poristics. Notice  $X_{40}$  is the reflection of  $X_1$  about  $X_3$ . **Video:** [13, PL#02].

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

When referring to Triangle Centers we use Kimberling's notation [7]. Given a generic triangle, let  $d = |X_1X_3|$ . Let the origin be placed at  $X_3$ , with  $x$  running along  $X_1X_3$  and  $y$  along  $(X_3 - X_1)^t$ . Note: in all of our figures, for compactness,  $x$  is shown vertical. First proven by Chapple [1] though known as a theorem by Euler is the relation:

$$(1) \quad d = \sqrt{R(R - 2r)}$$

Let  $\rho$  denote the invariant ratio  $r/R$ . For  $d$  to be real in (1),  $R/r \geq 2$ , i.e.:

$$\rho = r/R \in (0, 1/2]$$

**Proposition 2.1.** *The Poristic family will contain obtuse triangles if  $d > r$ .*

This stems from the fact that when  $d < r$ ,  $X_3$  is always within the Poristic triangles, Figure 1.

## 3. CONIC INVARIANTS

Some of the results in this section were obtained with the aid of a Computer Algebra System (CAS).



**3.1. Excentral Caustic.** Let  $I'_5$  be the MacBeath Inconic [20] to the Excentral Triangles, with center and foci on the latter's<sup>2</sup>  $X'_5, X'_4, X'_3$ , i.e.,  $X_3, X_1, X_{40}$ , of the Poristic family, Figure 2.

Let  $\mu'_5$  and  $\nu'_5$  be the major and minor semiaxes of  $I'_5$ .

**Theorem 3.1.**  $\mu'_5 = R$  and  $\nu'_5 = \sqrt{R^2 - d^2}$  are invariant and  $I'_5$  is stationary, i.e., it is the Caustic to the family of Excentral Triangles.

**Proof.** The sides of the excentral triangle  $\ell'_i, i = 1, 2, 3$  are defined in (3). Observe the translation  $(d, 0)$  in the parametrization of the vertices  $P_i(t), i = 1, 2, 3$  given by equation (2) and so  $X_3 = (d, 0)$ . It is straightforward to verify these are tangent to the ellipse:

$$\frac{(x - d)^2}{R^2} + \frac{y^2}{R^2 - d^2} = 1$$

with center  $X_3 = (d, 0)$  and foci  $X_{40} = (0, 0)$  and  $X_1 = (2d, 0)$ .

Applying (1) to  $\mu'_5/\nu'_5 = R/\sqrt{R^2 - d^2}$  obtain:

**Corollary 3.1.** The aspect ratio of  $I'_5$  is given by:

$$\frac{\mu'_5}{\nu'_5} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\rho}}$$

Let  $C'$  be the circle centered on  $X_3$  and of radius  $2R$ . Let  $I_5$  be the ellipse centered on  $X_5$  and with foci on  $X_4$  and  $X_3$ .

**Corollary 3.2.** The conic pair  $(C', I_5)$  is associated with a  $N = 3$  Poncelet family with stationary  $X_5$ .

This stems from the fact that this pair is the Excentral and Caustic to the Poristic family (taken as reference triangles).

**3.2. Excentral  $X_3$ -Centered Inconic.** Let  $I'_3$  be the Inconic to the Excentral Triangles centered on their stationary  $X_3$  ( $X_{40}$  of the Poristic family). Let  $\mu'_3$  and  $\nu'_3$  be the major and minor semiaxes of  $I'_3$ .

**Theorem 3.2.**  $\mu'_3 = R + d$  and  $\nu'_3 = R - d$  are invariant over the Poristic family, i.e.,  $I'_3$  rigidly rotates about  $X_{40}$ .

**Proof.** See Appendix C.

As before, applying (1) to  $\mu'_3/\nu'_3 = (R + d)/(R - d)$  yields:

**Corollary 3.3.** The aspect ratio of  $I'_3$  is invariant and given by:

$$\frac{\mu'_3}{\nu'_3} = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 2\rho}}{\rho} - 1$$

**Proposition 3.1.** The non-concentric conic pair  $(C', I'_3)$  is associated with a  $N = 3$  Poncelet family with stationary  $X_3$ .

This fact was made originally in [14]:

**Remark 3.1.**  $I'_3$  contains  $X_{100}$ .

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<sup>2</sup> $X'_i$  refers to Triangle Centers of the Excentral Triangle.



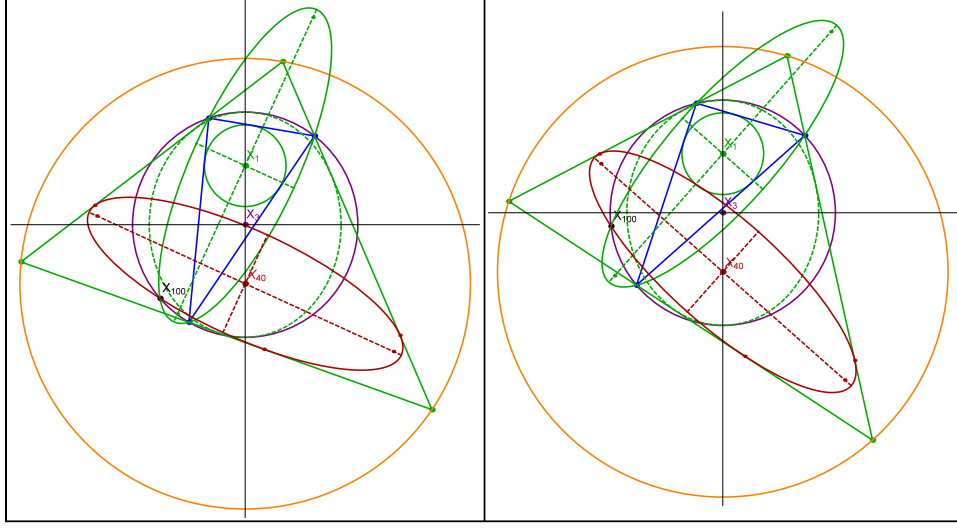


FIGURE 3. Inconic Invariants: two configurations shown of the Poristic Triangle family (blue). The Incircle (green) and Circumcircle (purple) are fixed, and  $r/R = 0.3627$ . The Excentral Caustic  $I'_5$  (dashed green) is the (stationary) MacBeath Inconic with center and foci at  $X_i = 5, 4, 3$  of the Excentral, i.e.,  $X_j, j = 3, 1, 40$  of the Poristic (blue) triangles. The ratio of its semi-axes  $\mu'_5/\mu_5 = 1/\sqrt{2\rho}$ . Also shown is  $I'_3$ , the Inconic to the Excentrals centered on its  $X_3$ , i.e.,  $X_{40}$  of the Poristic family (one of the foci of  $I'_5$ ). Over the family, its semiaxes are invariant at  $R + d$  and  $R - d$ , i.e., this is a rigidly-rotating ellipse about  $X_{40}$ . Also shown is  $E_1$  (green ellipse), the  $X_1$ -centered circumconic, an  $90^\circ$ -rotated copy of  $I'_3$ . **Video:** [13, PL#03]

**3.3. The  $X_1$ -Centered Circumconic.** Let  $E_1$  be the Circumconic the Poristic triangles centered on  $X_1$ .

Let  $\eta_1$  and  $\zeta_1$  be the major and minor semiaxes of  $E_1$ .

**Theorem 3.3.**  $\eta_1 = R + d$  and  $\zeta_1 = R - d$  are invariant over the Poristic family, i.e.,  $E_1$  rigidly rotates about  $X_1$ .

**Proof.** See Appendix D

**Corollary 3.4.** The aspect ratio of  $E_1$  is invariant and identical to the aspect ratio of  $I'_3$ .

**Proposition 3.2.**  $E_1$  contains  $X_{100}$ .

**Proof.**  $E_1$  is the set of trilinear triples  $p : q : r$  such that:

$$E_1 : (s_2 + s_3 - s_1)/p + (s_1 + s_3 - s_2)/q + (s_1 + s_2 - s_3)/r = 0.$$

In trilinear coordinates  $X_{100} = [1/(s_2 - s_3) : 1/(s_3 - s_1) : 1/(s_1 - s_2)]$  and so  $E_1(X_{100}) = 0$ .

Two configurations for  $I'_5$ ,  $E_1$ ,  $I'_3$  are shown in Figure 3.

**3.4.  $X_{10}$ -circumconic.** Let  $\eta_{10}, \zeta_{10}$  be the major, minor semi-axes of  $E_{10}$ , the  $X_{10}$ -centered Circumconic. The locus of  $X_{10}$  over the Poristic family is a circle centered on  $X_{1385}$  with radius  $R/4 - r/2$  [10, page 56]. Let  $\eta'_5$  and  $\zeta'_5$  be the major, minor semi-axes of  $E'_5$ , the Circumconic to the Excentrals centered on their  $X_5$  (i.e.,  $X_3$  of the Poristics). Referring to Figure 4:



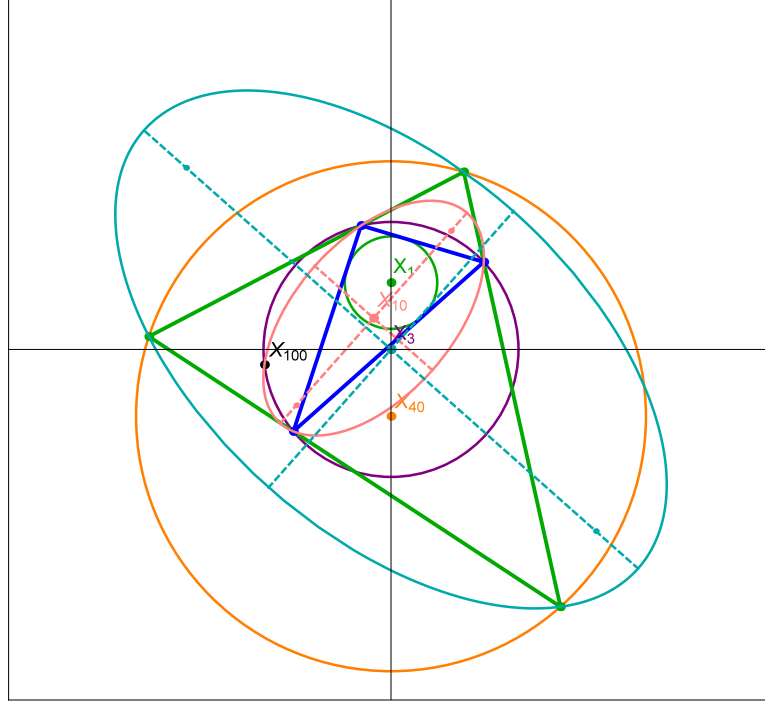


FIGURE 4. The Circumconic  $E_{10}$  (pink) to the Poristic triangles (blue) is centered on the Spieker Center  $X_{10}$ . Its aspect ratio is invariant over the Poristic family and equal to that of the Circumconic to the Excentral  $E'_5$  (light blue), centered on its  $X_5$  ( $X_3$  of the Poristics).

**Video:** [13, PL#04]

**Proposition 3.3.**  $\eta_{10}/\zeta_{10}$  is invariant and equal to  $\eta'_5/\zeta'_5$ . These are given by:

$$\frac{\eta'_5}{\zeta'_5} = \frac{\eta_{10}}{\zeta_{10}} = \sqrt{\frac{R+d}{R-d}}.$$

**Proof.** We used a similar approach: generate candidate ratio at isosceles configuration and verify with CAS the ratio is independent of  $t$ .

#### 4. CONNECTION WITH ELLIPTIC BILLIARDS

The Circumbilliard to a generic triangle is the Circumconic which renders the triangle a 3-periodic orbit, i.e., it will be centered on  $X_9$  [14]. Consider the Circumbilliard of a Poristic triangle, Figure 5 and let its semiaxes be denoted by  $a_9, b_9$ .

**Proposition 4.1.** The perimeter  $L(t)$  of a Poristic triangle is given by:

$$L(t) = \frac{(3R^2 - 4dR \cos t + d^2) \sqrt{3R^2 + 2dR \cos t - d^2}}{R\sqrt{R^2 - 2dR \cos t + d^2}}$$

**Proof.** Follows directly computing  $L(t) = |P_1 - P_2| + |P_2 - P_3| + |P_3 - P_1|$  using equation (2) and the relation  $r = (R^2 - d^2)/2R$ . The long expressions involving square roots were manipulated using a CAS.



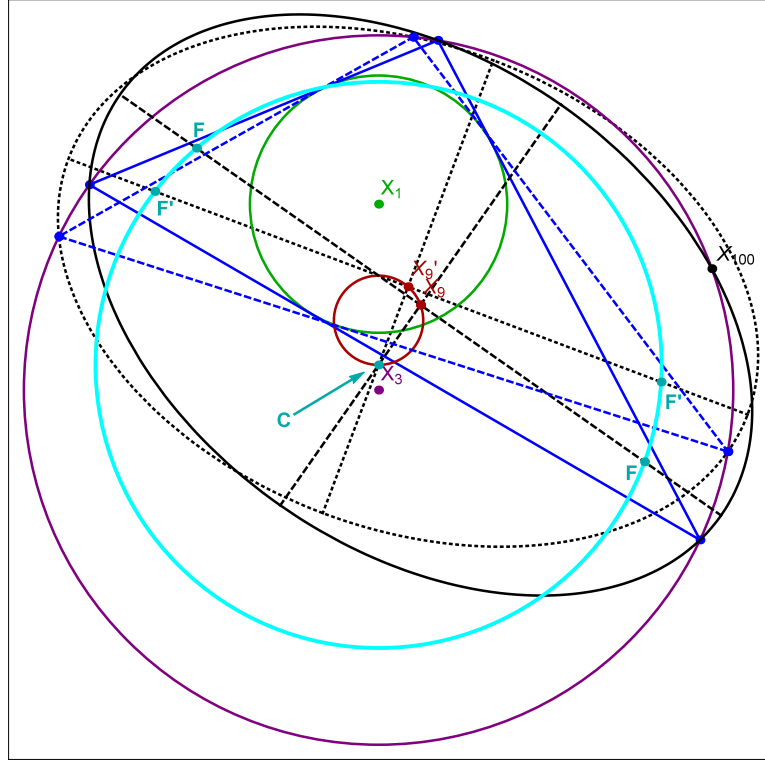


FIGURE 5. Two Poristic triangles (blue and dashed blue) are shown. Also shown are their Circumbilliards (black and dotted black), centered on  $X_9(t)$ . The locus of  $X_9$  is a circle (red) [10]. It turns out the locus of the CB foci  $F$  (cyan) is also a circle centered at  $C$  and of radius  $r_9$  (see Proposition 4.3).  $F'$  denote the foci of the CB of the second (dashed blue) Poristic triangle. **Video:** [13, PL#05].

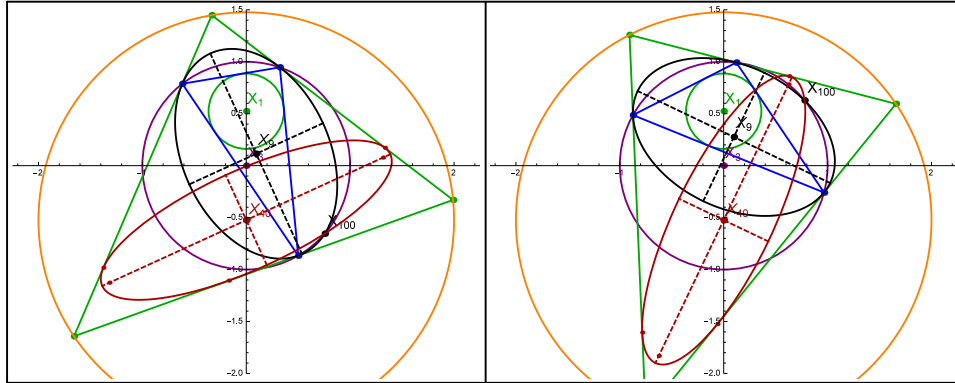


FIGURE 6. Two configurations (left and right) of the Poristic family (blue) for  $R = 1, r = 0.36266$ . The Incircle and Circumcircle appear green and purple. The Excentral Triangle (green) is shown inscribed in the circular locus (orange) of its vertices [10]. Also shown is  $I_3'$  (red, inconic to the Excentrals centered on its Circumcenter) and  $E_9$ , the Circumbilliard to the Poristic triangles (black). Over the family, (i)  $E_9, I_3', E_1$  (latter not shown) have invariant aspect ratios, with the latter two identical; (ii) their axes remain parallel; (iii) all meet the Circumcircle at  $X_{100}$ . **Video:** [13, PL#06,07].



**Theorem 4.1.** *The 3-periodic family is the image of the Poristic family under a one-dimensional family of similarity transformations (rigid rotation, translation, and uniform dilation).*

**Proof.** Let  $\Delta(t) = \{P_1(t), P_2(t), P_3(t)\}$  be a Poristic triangle given by (2) translated by  $(-d, 0)$  and consider the circumellipse  $E_9(t)$  centered on  $X_9(t) = (x_9(t), y_9(t))$  with  $a_9(t)$  and  $b_9(t)$  the major, minor semiaxes.

Odehnal showed that the locus of the Mittenpunkt  $X_9$  is a circle whose radius is  $Rd^2R/(9R^2 - d^2)$  and center is  $X_1 + (X_1 - X_3)(2R - r)/(4R + r) = d(3R^2 + d^2)/(9R^2 - d^2)$  [10, page 17]. In fact, using the characterization of  $X_9$  as the intersection of lines passing through the vertices of the excentral triangle and the medium points of the triangle  $\Delta(t)$ , it follows that  $X_9(t)$  is parametrized by:

$$X_9(t) = \left[ \frac{d(4d \cos^2 t (R \cos t - d) - r(3d \cos t + R) - r^2)}{(4R + r)(d \cos t - R + r)}, \frac{4Rd^2 \sin t (R^2 - (2R \cos t - d)^2)}{(R^2 + d^2 - 2dR \cos t)(9R^2 - d^2)} \right]$$

Let  $\theta(t)$  be the angle between  $a_9(t)$  and the line  $X_1X_3$ , Figure 6. Using the vertices  $P_1(t)P_2(t)P_3(t)$ , translated by  $(-d, 0)$  and the center  $X_9(t)$  we can obtain the equation of the Circumellipse  $E_9(t)$ . Developing the calculations it follows that the angle of rotation  $\theta(t)$  is given by:

$$\tan \theta(t) = \frac{(1 - \cos t)(R + d - 2R \cos t)}{(2R \cos t + R - d) \sin t}$$

Consider the following transformation:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= L(t)(\cos \theta(t)u + \sin \theta(t)v + x_9(t)) \\ y &= L(t)(-\sin \theta(t)u + \cos \theta(t)v + y_9(t)). \end{aligned}$$

By construction, the family of Poristic triangles  $\Delta(t)$  is the image of the 3-periodic family of the elliptic billiard defined by:

$$\begin{aligned} E(u, v) &= \frac{u^2}{a_9^2} + \frac{v^2}{b_9^2} - 1 = 0 \\ a_9 &= L(t) \frac{R\sqrt{3R^2 + 2dR - d^2}}{9R^2 - d^2} = L(t) \frac{\sqrt{2}\sqrt{\rho + 1 + \sqrt{1 - 2\rho}}}{2\rho + 8}, \\ b_9 &= L(t) \frac{R\sqrt{R - d}}{\sqrt{3R + d}(3R - d)} = L(t) \frac{\sqrt{2}\sqrt{\rho + 1 - \sqrt{1 - 2\rho}}}{2\rho + 8} \\ c_9 &= \sqrt{a_9^2 - b_9^2} = L(t) \frac{2R\sqrt{dR}}{9R^2 - d^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the similarity transform is given by  $\theta(t), X_9(t), L(t)$ .

**Corollary 4.1.** *The ratios  $a_9(t)/L(t)$ ,  $b_9(t)/L(t)$ , and  $c_9(t)/L(t)$  are invariant over the Poristic family.*

**Proposition 4.2.** *The aspect ratio of the Circumbilliard is invariant over the Poristic family and given by:*

$$\frac{a_9(t)}{b_9(t)} = \sqrt{\frac{(R + d)(3R - d)}{(R - d)(3R + d)}} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho^2 + 2(\rho + 1)\sqrt{1 - 2\rho} + 2}{\rho(\rho + 4)}}$$

**Proof.** The following expression for  $r/R$  was derived for the 3-periodic family of an  $a, b$  Elliptic Billiard [5, Equation 7]:

$$\rho = \frac{r}{R} = \frac{2(\delta - b^2)(a^2 - \delta)}{c^4}$$



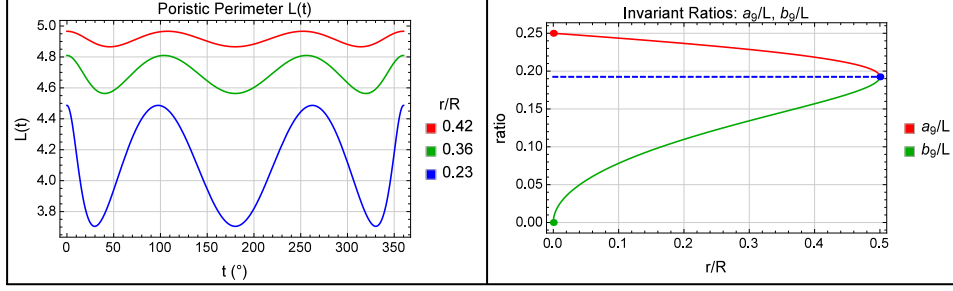


FIGURE 7. **Left:** Perimeter of Poristic triangles vs. parameter  $t$  (of one tangent to Incircle) for various value of  $r/R$ ; **Right:** Invariant Circumbilliard semi-axis ratios  $a_9(t)/L(t), b_9(t)/L(t)$  vs  $r/R \in [0, 1/2]$ . The dashed blue line represents their limit values of  $\sqrt{3}/9 \approx 0.19245$  when  $r/R = 1/2$  (equilateral triangles). The red and green dots show that as  $r/R \rightarrow 0$ ,  $a_9 \rightarrow 1/4$  and  $b_9 \rightarrow 0$ .

where  $\delta = \sqrt{a^4 - a^2b^2 + b^4}$ , and  $c^2 = a^2 - b^2$ . Solving the above for  $a/b$  yields the result.

Figure 7 illustrates the variable perimeter and invariant aspect ratio for the CB of the Poristic family for various values of  $r/R$ .

**Corollary 4.2.** *The axes of the  $I'_3$  are parallel to Circumbilliard's.*

This stems from the fact that  $E'_3$  for 3-periodics has parallel axes to the CB [14] and the fact that it will be preserved under the similarity transform.

**Corollary 4.3.** *The axes of the  $E_{10}$  and  $E'_6$  are parallel to Circumbilliard's axes.*

This stems from the fact that the axes of  $E'_6$  are parallel to those of  $E_{10}$ , and that the latter has parallel axes to the Circumbilliard [14], see Figure 8.

**Corollary 4.4.** *The aspect ratio for  $I'_5$  and  $I'_3$  is the invariant and the same for both Poristic and Billiard families.*

This also stems from the fact that these are true for the EB [14] and that the aspect ratios are preserved by the similarity transform.

Let  $F$  be the Feuerbach Hyperbola and  $J_{exc}$  be the Excentral Jerabek Hyperbola, Figure 9. Let their focal lengths be  $\gamma$  and  $\gamma'$ .

**Corollary 4.5.** *The focal length ratio  $\gamma'/\gamma = \sqrt{2/\rho}$  is invariant and the same for both Poristic and Billiard families.*

Again, this ratio is invariant for 3-periodics [14] and must be also invariant for the Poristic family.

With the aid of CAS, the following can be shown:

**Proposition 4.3.** *Over the Poristic family, the foci of the Circumbilliard describe a circle with center  $[(R-d)d/(3R+d), 0]$  and radius  $r_9$  given by:*

$$r_9 = \frac{4d(R-d)\sqrt{dR}}{(3R-d)\sqrt{(3R-d)(R+d)}}$$

Let  $\eta'_6, \zeta'_6$  be the major, minor of the  $E'_6$ , the Circumconic to the Excentrals centered on their  $X_6$  ( $X_9$  of the Poristics). Referring to Figure 8:



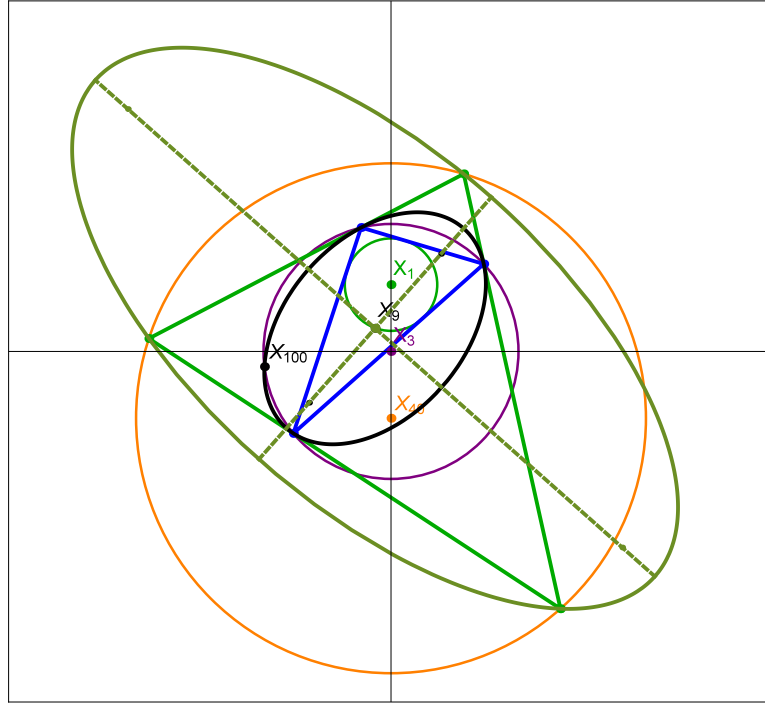


FIGURE 8. The Circumconic to the Excentral  $E'_6$  (olive green), centered on its  $X_6$  is concentric and axis-parallel to the CB (black). Both conserve their aspect ratio. The locus of the foci of the former is *not* an ellipse, whereas that of the CB is. **Video:** [13, PL#08].

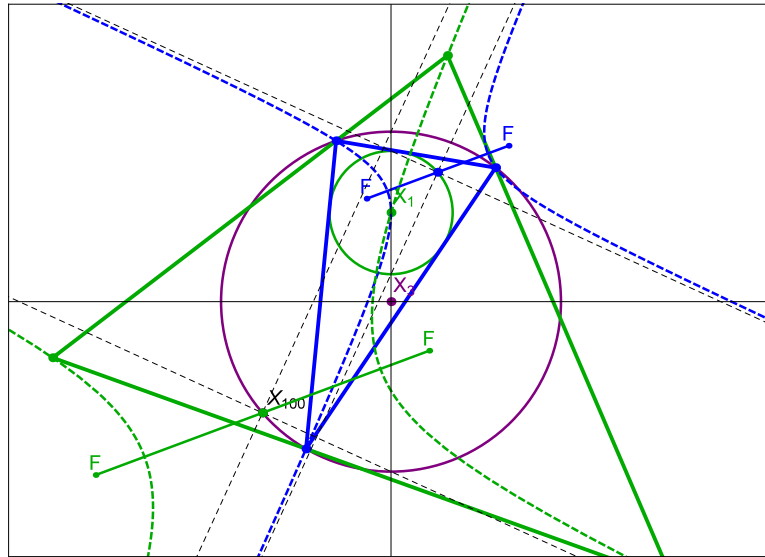


FIGURE 9. Feuerbach (dashed blue) and Jerabek Circumhyperbolas (dashed green) to a Poristic triangle (blue) and its Excentral (green). Their asymptotes (dashed gray) are parallel (and parallel to the axes of the CB, not shown). Also shown are their foci (blue, green “F”), and their parallel focal axes (solid blue and green). The ratio  $\gamma/\gamma'$  of their focal lengths is invariant over the family. **Video:** [13, PL#10,11].



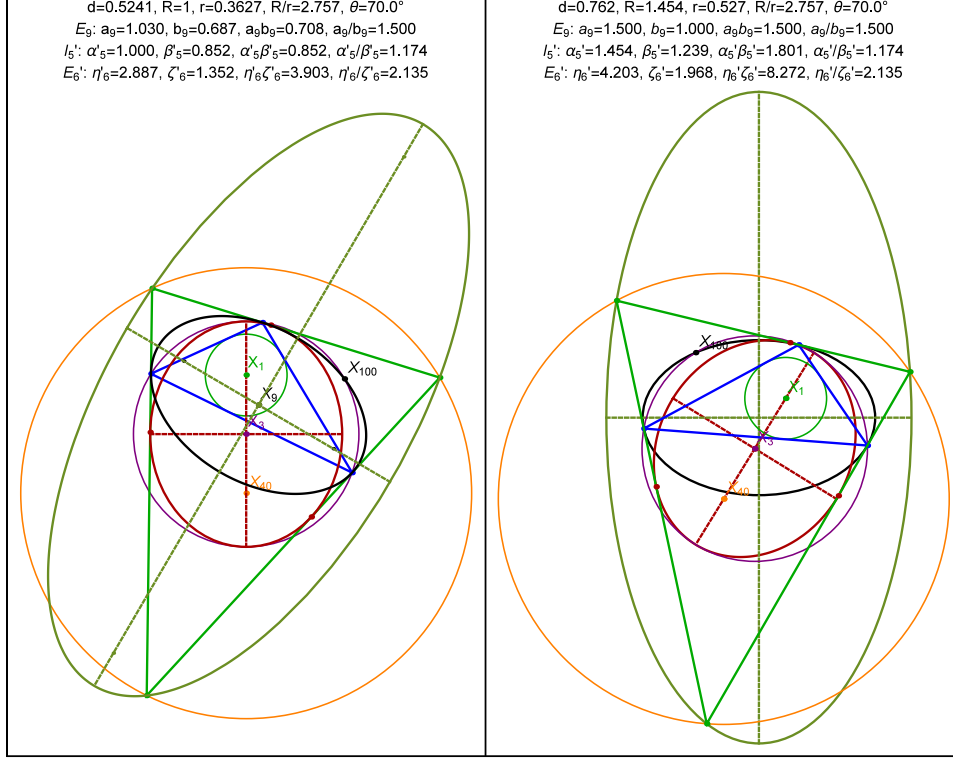


FIGURE 10. **Left:** Poristic triangle (blue), stationary Incircle (green) and Circumcircle (purple). Varying Poristic CB (black), whose aspect ratio is constant. Stationary Excentral MacBeath Inconic and Caustic  $I'_5$  (red), circular Excentral locus (orange), and Excentral (MacBeath) Circumconic  $E'_6$  (olive green), all with invariant aspect ratios. **Right:** same objects observed on a stationary Elliptic Billiard system: Incircle and Circumcircle are varying (though  $r/R$  is invariant).  $I'_5$  is moving though its aspect ratio is invariant and equal to its counterpart in the Poristic system. Conversely,  $E'_6$  is now stationary and is the locus of the Excenters [4]. Notice the Excentral Circumcircle (orange) is movable. **Video:** [13, PL#09]

**Proposition 4.4.** *The  $E'_6$  is concentric and has parallel axes to the Circumbilliard. Furthermore, its aspect ratio is given by:*

$$\frac{\eta'_6}{\zeta'_6} = \frac{b_9^2 + \delta}{a_9} \frac{b_9}{a_9^2 + \delta} = \sqrt{\frac{(R+d)(3R+d)}{(3R-d)(R-d)}}$$

$$\delta = \sqrt{a_9^4 - a_9^2 b_9^2 + b_9^4}.$$

This stems from the fact that  $E'_6$  for 3-periodics is the locus of the Excenters, shown to be an ellipse with said aspect ratio [4].

## 5. CONCLUSION

Table 1 summarizes properties and invariants for the various circum- and inconics mentioned above. A comparison between basic parameters in the Poristic family and 3-Periodics in the Elliptic Billiard appear on Table 2. Finally, shape invariances of conics in either family are compared on Table 3 and illustrated in Figure 10.



conic	poristic	EB	$X_{100}$	ctr	note
$E_1$	axes	ratio	y	$X_1$	center on $F_{med}$
$E_9$	ratio	axes	y	$X_9$	(Circum-) EB, center on $F_{med}$
$E_{10}$	ratio	ratio	y	$X_{10}$	center on $F_{med}$
$I_9$	ratio	axes	–	$X_9$	Mandart Inellipse, EB Caustic
$E'_3$	axes	ratio	y	$X_{40}$	Excentral Circumcircle
$E'_5$	ratio	ratio	–	$X_3$	same ratio as $E_{10}$
$E'_6$	ratio	axes	–	$X_9$	MacBeath Circumconic
$I'_3$	axes	ratio	y	$X_{40}$	90°-rotated copy of $E_1$
$I'_5$	axes	ratio	–	$X_3$	McBeath Inconic, Excentral Caustic

TABLE 1. Table of conics, all with mutually parallel axes (except for  $I'_5$ ). Columns “poristic” and “EB” define whether for that family the aspect ratio is invariant.  $E_k$  (resp.  $I_k$ ) stands for the Circumellipse (resp. Inellipse) centered on  $X_k$ .  $E'_k, I'_k$  refer to Excentral conics.

qty.	poristic	EB
$d$	y	–
$r$	y	–
$R$	y	–
$r/R$	y	y
$R \pm d$	y	–
$\frac{R+d}{R-d}$	y	y
$L$	–	y
$J$	–	y

TABLE 2. Column “poristic” (resp. EB) indicates if the named quantity is invariant in the given family. Only  $r/R$  and  $(R+d)/(R-d) = f(r/R)$  are invariant on both.

object	ctr	semiaxes	poristic	EB	note
Incircle	$X_1$	$r$	y	–	poristic exc. caustic EB exc locus
Circumcircle	$X_3$	$R$	y	–	
$I'_5$	$X_3$	$R, \sqrt{R^2 - d^2}$	y	–	
$E'_6$	$X_9$	$(b_9^2 + \delta)/a_9, (a_9^2 + \delta)/b_9$	–	y	
Exc. Circumcircle	$X_{40}$	$2R$	y	–	
Elliptic Billiard	$X_9$	$a_9, b_9$	–	y	

TABLE 3. Various position and axes for conics in each Poristic and 3-periodic (EB) families. A “y” in the “poristic” or “EB” columns indicates shape invariance.

Videos mentioned above have been placed on a [playlist](#) [13]. Table 4 contains quick-reference links to all videos mentioned, with column “PL#” providing video number within the playlist.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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id	Sec.	Title	youtu.be/...
01	1,B	Poristic family, circular locus of excenters, and Antiorthic axis	DS4ryndDK6Q
02	3	Poristic Circumbilliard (CB) has invariant aspect ratio	yEu2aPiJwQo
03	3	$E_1$ and $I'_3$ have constant, parallel, and identical semi-axes	OVHBjdHXbJc
04	3	$E_{10}$ and $E'_5$ have axes parallel to the Poristic CB as well as invariant, identical aspect ratio	-4AAUSFxmvo
05	4	Loci of center & foci of Poristic CB are circles	LGgh11LMGGY
06	4	$I'_3$ has constant semi-axes, parallel to those of the Poristic CB	OVHBjdHXbJc
07	4	$I'_3$ and $I'_5$ of 3-Periodics in the EB have invariant aspect ratio.	CHbrZvx1I8w
08	4	$E'_6$ has invariant aspect ratio and its axes coincide with those of the Poristic CB	Fy4T-dmu-8s
09	4	Side-by-side Poristic and Elliptic Billiard Excentral MacBeath Inconic & Circumconics	Nvjrx6XKSFw
10	4	$F$ and $J_{exc}$ Circumhyperbolas have invariant focal length ratio over 3-periodic family I	bn1tq6NU_y0
11	4	$F$ and $J_{exc}$ Circumhyperbolas have invariant focal length ratio over 3-periodic family II	Pz4tUiYZCA

TABLE 4. Videos mentioned in the paper. Column “PL#” indicates the entry within the playlist [13]

## APPENDIX A. TABLE OF SYMBOLS

Tables 5 and 6 lists most Triangle Centers and symbols mentioned in the paper.

## APPENDIX B. WEAVER INVARIANTS

**B.1. Antiorthic Axis.** The Antiorthic axis  $\mathcal{L}_1$  is stationary, and  $X_{1155}$  is stationary intersection of  $\mathcal{L}_1$  with  $\mathcal{L}_{650} = X_1X_3$ , Figure 11. The anthiortic axis is given by:

$$x = \frac{3R^2 - d^2}{2d}$$

**B.2. A possible correction to Weaver’s 2nd order invariant.** Assume the origin<sup>3</sup> is on  $X_3$ . In [19, Theorem III] it is proposed that a circle  $C_w$  centered on  $[-R, 0]$  and of radius  $\sqrt{Rd(R+d)(R+d+r)}/d$  has the same power with respect to the Antiorthic axis  $\mathcal{L}_1$  as the Incircle. We have found this not to be the case. Let  $I_1 : (x-d)^2 + y^2 = r^2$  denote the Incircle. Referring to Figure 12(left), let  $C'_w$  be circle centered on  $[-R, 0]$  and of radius:

<sup>3</sup>In Weaver’s paper, the origin is on  $X_1$ , so the center of  $C_w$  is at  $[-R-d, 0]$ .



Center	Meaning	Note
$X_1$	Incenter	Trilinear Pole of $\mathcal{L}_1$ , focus of $I'_5$
$X_3$	Circumcenter	Focus of $I_5$
$X_4$	Orthocenter	Focus of $I_5$
$X_5$	Center of the 9-Point Circle	Center of $I_5$
$X_6$	Symmedian Point	
$X_9$	Mittenpunkt	Center of (Circum)billiard
$X_{10}$	Spieker Point	Incenter of Medial
$X_{40}$	Bevan Point	Focus of $I'_5$
$X_{100}$	Anticomplement of $X_{11}$	Lies on $E_i, i = 1, 3, 9, 10$ and $I'_3$
$X_{650}$	Cross-difference of $X_1, X_3$	Generates $X_1X_3$
$X_{651}$	Isogonal Conjug. of $X_{650}$	Trilinear Pole of $\mathcal{L}_{650} = X_1X_3$
$X_{1155}$	Schröder Point	Intersection of $X_1X_3$ with Antiorthic Axis
$\mathcal{L}_1$	Antiorthic Axis	Line $X_{44}X_{513}$ [8]
$\mathcal{L}_{650}$	OI Axis	Line $X_1X_3$

TABLE 5. Kimberling Centers and Central Lines mentioned in paper

Symbol	Meaning	Note
$P_i, s_i$	Vertices and sidelengths of Poristic triangles	
$P'_i$	Vertices of the Excentral triangle	
$X_i, X'_i$	Kimberling Center $i$ of Poristic, Excentral	
$a_c, b_c$	Semi-axes of confocal Caustic	
$r, R, \rho$	Inradius, Circumradius, $r/R$	$\rho$ is invariant
$d$	Distance $ X_1X_3 $	$\sqrt{R(R-2r)}$
$a_9, b_9$	Semi-axes of Poristic CB	
$\delta$	Constant associated w/ the CB	$\sqrt{a_9^4 - a_9^2 b_9^2 + b_9^4}$
$E_i$	Circumellipse centered on $X_i$	Axes parallel to $E_9$ if $X_i$ on $F_{med}$
$E'_i$	Excentral Circumellipse centered on $X'_i$	
$\eta_i, \zeta_i$	Major and minor semiaxis of $E_i$	Invariant ratio for $i = 1, 3, 9, 10$
$\eta'_i, \zeta'_i$	Major and minor semiaxis of $E'_i$	Invariant ratio for $i = 3, 5, 6$
$I_i$	Inellipse on $X_i$	$I_3$ ; MacBeath $I_5$ ; Mandart $I_9$
$I'_i$	Excentral Inellipse centered on $X'_i$	$I'_3$ ; MacBeath $I'_5$
$\mu_i, \nu_i$	Major and minor semiaxis of $I_i$	
$\mu'_i, \nu'_i$	Major and minor semiaxis of $I'_i$	Invariant ratio for $i = 3, 5$
$F_{exc}$	$F$ of Excentral Triangle	Center $X_{3659}$ [9]
$J_{exc}$	$J$ of Excentral Triangle	Center $X_{100}$ , Perspector $X_{649}$
$F_{med}$	$F$ of Medial	Center $X_{3035}$ [9]
$\lambda', \lambda$	Focal lengths of $J_{exc}, F$	Invariant ratio

TABLE 6. Symbols used in paper

$$r'_w = \left( \frac{d+R}{2R} \right) \sqrt{\frac{(3R-d)(4R^2-Rd-d^2)}{d}}$$

**Proposition B.1.**  $C'_w$  and  $I_1$  have the same power with respect to  $\mathcal{L}_1$ .

**Proof.** Translate the vertices of the Poristic family in (2) by  $(-d, 0)$ . It is straightforward to show that the Antiorthic axis  $\mathcal{L}_1$  is given by  $x =$



$$d=0.7000, R=1, r=0.2550, R/r=3.922, \theta=85.0^\circ$$

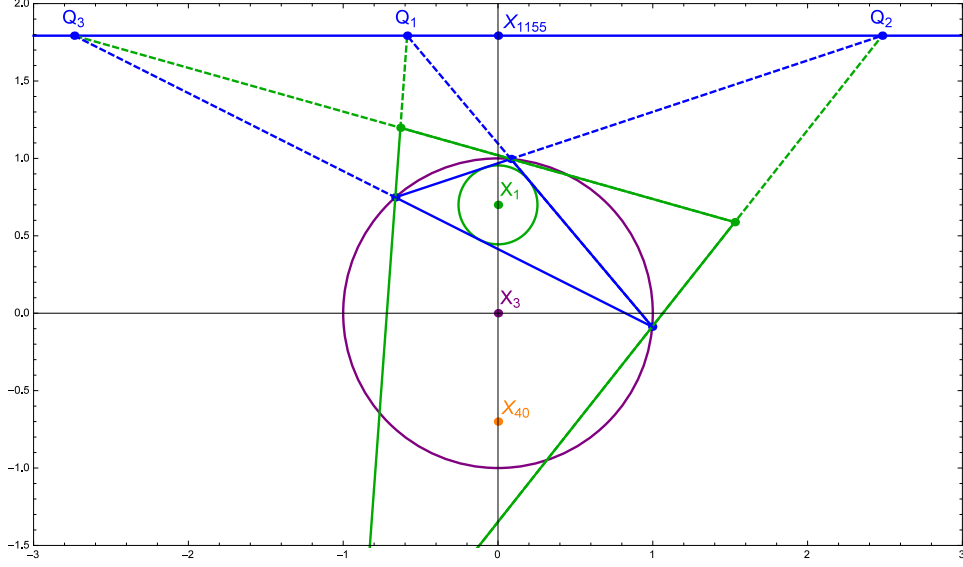


FIGURE 11. A result by Weaver [19] is that over the Poristic family, the Antiorthic Axis  $L_1$  is Invariant. Odehnal observed  $X_{1155}$  was one of the many stationary Triangle centers along  $L_{663} = X_1X_3$ . This point happens to lie at the latter's intersection with  $L_1$ . **Video:** [13, PL#01].

$(3R^2 - d^2)/(2d)$ . The power  $P_w$  of  $P_0 = [(3R^2 - d^2)/(2d), 0]$  with respect to the circle  $C'_w : (x + R)^2 + y^2 = r_w'^2$  is given by:

$$P_w(P_0, C'_w) = |P_0 - [-R, 0]|^2 - r_w'^2 = \frac{(d + R)^2(3R - d)^2}{4d^2} - r_w'^2.$$

Also,

$$P_w(P_0, I_1) = |P_0 - [d, 0]|^2 - r^2 = \frac{(R^2 - d^2)^2(9R^2 - d^2)}{4R^2d^2}.$$

Therefore,  $\mathcal{L}_1$  is the radical axis of the pair of circles  $C'_w$  and  $I_1$  if, and only if,

$$\frac{(d + R)^2(3R - d)^2}{4d^2} - r_w'^2 = \frac{(R^2 - d^2)^2(9R^2 - d^2)}{4R^2d^2}.$$

Solving the equation above leads to the result.

Additionally, we derive a circle whose power with respect to  $\mathcal{L}_\infty$  is equal to the Circumcircle's, Figure 12(right). Let  $C''_w$  be a circle centered on  $[-R, 0]$  and of radius:

$$r_w'' = \sqrt{\frac{(3R - d)(d + R)R}{d}}$$

**Proposition B.2.**  $C''_w$  has the same power with respect to  $\mathcal{L}_1$  as (i) the Circumcircle  $C$ , and (ii)  $C_e$ , centered on  $X_{40}$  and of radius  $2R$  (locus of the Excenters).



**Proof.** Translate the verices of the Poristic family in (2) by  $(-d, 0)$ . Also,  $\mathcal{L}_1$  is the radical axis (see [2, Chapter 2]) of the pair of circles

$$C_e : (x + d)^2 + y^2 = 4R^2, \quad C : x^2 + y^2 = R^2.$$

In fact, the power  $P_w$  of  $P_0 = ((3R^2 - d^2)/(2d), 0)$  with respect to the circles  $C_e$  and  $C$  is given by:

$$P_w(P_0, C_e) = |P_0 - (-d, 0)|^2 - 4R^2 = \frac{Rr(4R + r)}{R - 2r} = P_w(P_0, C).$$

Consider the pair of circles

$$C''_w : (x + R)^2 + y^2 = r''_w{}^2, \quad C : x^2 + y^2 = R^2$$

Analogously,  $P_w(P_0, C''_w) = P_w(P_0, C)$  if, and only if,  $r''_w{}^2 = (3R - d)(d + R)R/d$ .

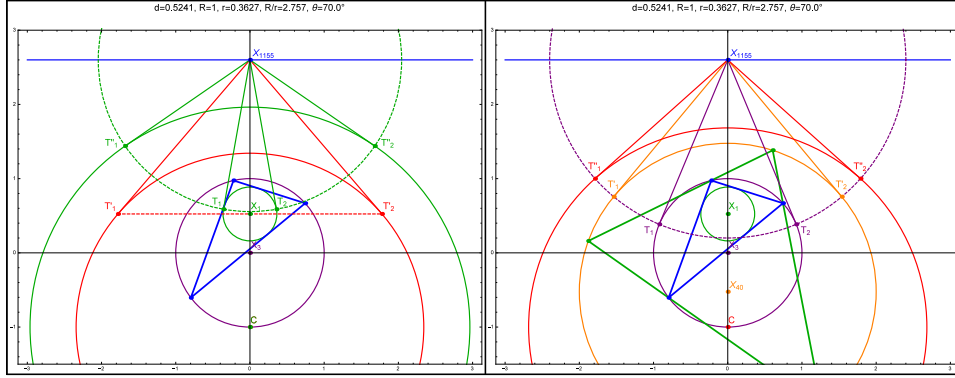


FIGURE 12. **Left:** Circle  $C_w$  proposed in [19, Theorem III] (red) does not have the same power as the Incircle  $I_1$  (green) with respect to  $\mathcal{L}_1$  (blue): rather, its tangency points  $T'_1, T'_2$  from  $X_{1155}$  are collinear with  $X_1$ . We derived a new equal power circle  $C'_w$  (green) of radius  $r'_w$  (see text): its tangency points  $T'_1, T'_2$  are concyclic with  $T_1, T_2$ . Note: both  $C_w, C'_w$  are centered on  $C = [-R, 0]$ . **Right:** the following three circles have the same power with respect to  $\mathcal{L}_1$ : (i) the Circumcircle  $C$ , (ii)  $C_e$ , the  $X_{40}$ -centered circular locus of the Excenters of radius  $2R$  (orange), and (iii)  $C''_w$ , centered on  $[-R, 0]$  and of radius  $r''_w$  (red), see text. Notice tangency point  $T_i, T'_i, T''_i, i = 1, 2$  are concyclic.

### APPENDIX C. $I'_3$ AXIS INVARIANCE

Here we reproduce a proof that the axes of  $I'_3$  are invariant and equal to  $R \pm d$ , kindly contributed by Odehnal [11].

Let  $X_{40}$  be the origin and the x-axis run along  $X_3X_1$ , Figure 13. Parametrize Poristic triangles  $\Delta(t) = P_1P_2P_3$  by their tangency point on the Incircle [10]:

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= [\cos t(d \cos t + r) - \omega \sin t + d, (d \cos t + r) \sin t + \omega \cos t] \\ P_2 &= [\cos t(d \cos t + r) + \omega \sin t + d, (d \cos t + r) \sin t - \omega \cos t] \\ (2) \quad P_3 &= \left[ \frac{R(2dR - (R^2 + d^2) \cos t)}{R^2 - 2dR \cos t + d^2} + d, \frac{R(d^2 - R^2) \sin t}{R^2 - 2dR \cos t + d^2} \right] \\ \omega &= \sqrt{R^2 - (d \cos t + r)^2} \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma C.1.** Let  $\ell_i : a_i x + b_i y + c_i = 0$  ( $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ ) be three tangents lines of a conic  $E : Ax^2 + 2Bxy + Cy^2 + D = 0$  centered at  $(0, 0)$ . Then, the coefficients  $A, B, C, D$  are given by:



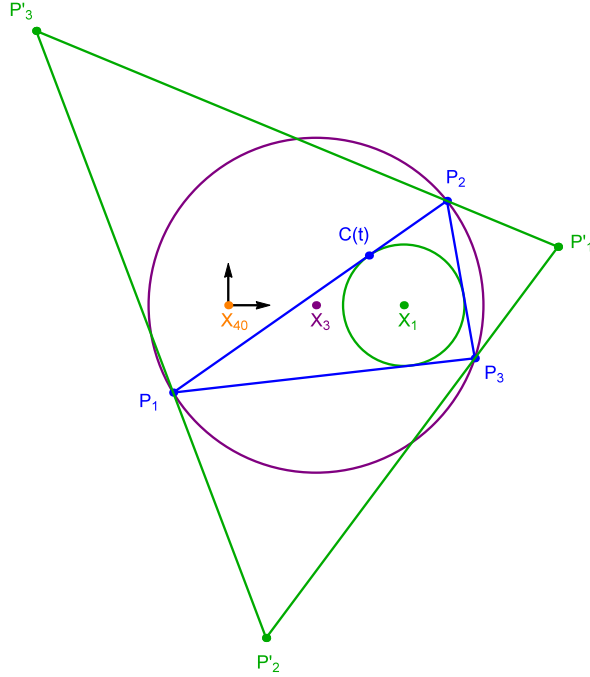


FIGURE 13. Coordinate System used in this Appendix: the origin is on  $X_{40}$  and the positive x-axis runs along  $X_3X_1$ . The Poristic family is parametrized by a first tangency point  $C(t)$  on the Incircle.

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= a_2a_3c_1^2\delta_{23} - a_1a_3c_2^2\delta_{13} + a_1a_2c_3^2\delta_{12} \\
 B &= \frac{1}{2} \left( (a_2b_3 + a_3b_2)c_1^2\delta_{23} - (a_1b_3 + a_3b_1)c_2^2\delta_{13} + (a_1b_2 + a_2b_1)c_3^2\delta_{12} \right) \\
 C &= b_2b_3c_1^2\delta_{23} - b_1b_3c_2^2\delta_{13} + b_1b_2c_3^2\delta_{12} \\
 D &= \frac{1}{4}(\delta_{12}\delta_{13}\delta_{23})^{-1} (\delta_{23}c_1 + \delta_{13}c_2 - \delta_{12}c_3) (\delta_{23}c_1 - \delta_{13}c_2 - \delta_{12}c_3) \\
 &\quad (\delta_{23}c_1 - \delta_{13}c_2 + \delta_{12}c_3) (\delta_{23}c_1 + \delta_{13}c_2 + \delta_{12}c_3)
 \end{aligned}$$

Here  $\delta_{ij} = a_ib_j - a_jb_i$ .

**Proof.** The condition of tangency of  $\ell_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) with  $E$  is given by the discriminant equation

$$(AC - B^2)c_i^2 + (Ab_i^2 - 2Ba_ib_i + Ca_i^2)D = 0.$$

Solving the system leads to the result stated.

**Lemma C.2.** *The three sides of the excentral triangle  $\Delta'(t) = \{P'_1(t), P'_2(t), P'_3(t)\}$  are given by the straight lines*

$$\begin{aligned}
 \ell'_1(t) : & ((d \sin t - \omega) \sin t - r \cos t)x - ((d \cos t + r) \sin t - \omega \cos t)y \\
 & + R^2 - d^2 = 0 \\
 (3) \quad \ell'_2(t) : & ((d \sin t + \omega) \sin t - r \cos t)x - ((d \cos t + r) \sin t + \omega \cos t)y \\
 & + R^2 - d^2 = 0 \\
 \ell'_3(t) : & (R \cos t - d)x + R \sin t y - 2dR \cos t + R^2 + d^2 = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$



**Proof.** Direct calculations of the external bisector lines passing through the vertices  $P_1(t)$ ,  $P_2(t)$  and  $P_3(t)$  given by equation (2).

**Proposition C.1.**  $I'_3$  is given implicitly by the equation:

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} I'_3(x, y, t) = & ((R^2 - d^2)^2 - 8dR^2(R \cos t - d) \sin^2 t) x^2 \\ & + ((R^2 - d^2)^2 - 4dR \cos t((R \cos t - d)^2 - R^2 \sin^2 t)) y^2 \\ & + 4dR \sin t(2R \cos t - R - d)(2R \cos t + R - d) xy \\ & - (R^2 - d^2)^2(R^2 + d^2 - 2dR \cos t) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Proof.** Consider the Poristic defined by the circles  $(x - d)^2 + y^2 = R^2$  and  $(x - 2d)^2 + y^2 = r^2$ . By [10] we know that the inconic  $I'_3(t)$ , tangent to the sides of the excentral triangle  $\Delta'(t)$ , is centered in  $X_{40} = (0, 0)$ . Applying lemmas C.1 and C.2, and using the Euler relation  $R^2 - d^2 = 2rR$ , the equation (4) is obtained. This expression was confirmed using CAS.

Consider a rotation of the coordinates of (4) by angle  $\theta$  defined by:

$$\tan 2\theta = \frac{\sin t(R^2 - (2R \cos t - d)^2)}{\cos t((2R \cos t - d)^2 - 3R^2) + 2dR}.$$

This re-expresses (4) in canonical form:

$$(5) \quad (R^2 + d^2 - 2dR \cos t) ((R + d)^2 u^2 + (R - d)^2 v^2 - (R^2 - d^2)^2) = 0.$$

Clearly, the semiaxis lengths of (5) are  $R \pm d$  which is the goal of this proof.

#### APPENDIX D. $E_1$ AXIS INVARIANCE

**Proposition D.1.** The semiaxes of  $E_1$  are  $\eta_1 = R + d$  and  $\zeta_1 = R - d$ .

**Proof.** Using the parametrization of the triangle  $P_1(t), P_2(t), P_3(t)$  given by equation (2) and that  $E_1$  pass through the vertices  $P_i(t)$  ( $i=1,2,3$ ) and centered in  $X_1 = (2d, 0)$  it is obtained:

$$\begin{aligned} E_1(x, y) = & ((R^2 - d^2)^2 - 4dR \cos t(R \cos t - d)^2 - R^2 \sin^2 t) x^2 \\ & + ((R^2 - d^2)^2 - 8dR^2(R \cos t - d) \sin^2 t) y^2 \\ & - 4dR \sin t(2R \cos t - R - d)(2R \cos t + R - d) xy \\ & + 4d(4dR \cos t((R \cos t - d)^2 - R^2 \sin^2 t) - (R^2 - d^2)^2)x \\ & + 8Rd^2 \sin t(2R \cos t + R - d)(2R \cos t - R - d)y \\ & - 2dR \cos t(16d^2 R \cos t(R \cos t - d) - (R^2 - d^2)(R^2 + 7d^2)) \\ & - (R^2 - 3d^2)(R^2 - d^2) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Proceeding as in the proof of Theorem 3.2 it is direct to verify that the canonical form of the above equation is  $u^2/(R + d)^2 + v^2/(R - d)^2 = 1$ .



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