

# An inequality in the Cartesian plane

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## Problem

Let  $xOy$  the Cartesian plane and the four points  $A(1,0)$ ,  $B(-1,0)$ ,  $C(0,1)$ ,  $D(0,-1)$ . Prove that for every point  $P$ , so that  $OP \geq 1$  it holds:

$$|PA - PB| + |PC - PD| \geq 2$$

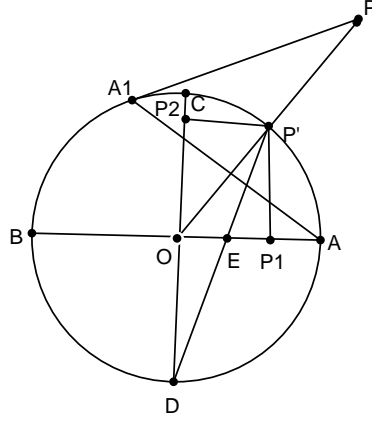
where  $|\vec{MN}|$  is denoted by  $MN$ .

## Proof.

We consider the circle  $g=(O,1)$  and  $A(1,0)$ ,  $B(-1,0)$ ,  $C(0,1)$ ,  $D(0,-1)$  the intersections on the  $Ox$  and  $Oy$  axes and  $x_1, y_1$  the Cartesian coordinates of the point  $P' = OP \cap g$ .

We draw the perpendiculars  $P'P_1$  to  $AB$  and  $P'P_2$  to  $CD$ . Let  $E$  be the intersection of the lines  $P'D$  and  $AB$ . The triangles  $DOE$  and  $P'P_2C$  are similar, hence it follows:

$$OD \cdot CP_2 = OE \cdot P'P_2 = OE \cdot OP_1. \quad (1)$$



From the triangle  $AP'B$  follows:

$$BP'^2 - AP'^2 = 2AB \cdot OP_1 \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{BP'}{AP'} = \frac{BE}{AE} \quad (3)$$

From (3) we take

$$\frac{BP'}{AP'} = \frac{1 + OE}{1 - OE}$$

and then

$$OE = \frac{BP' - AP'}{AP' + BP'} \quad (4)$$

From (1), (2) and (4) we easily take:

$$OE \cdot OP_1 = \frac{(BP' - AP')^2}{4} \quad (5)$$

From (1),(5) follows:

$$1 - x_1 = \frac{(BP' - AP')^2}{4}$$

and then

$$|BP' - AP'| = 2\sqrt{1 - x_1}$$

and similarly

$$|CP' - DP'| = 2\sqrt{1 - y_1}$$

and by the equivalence

$$(1 - x_1)(1 - y_1) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \sqrt{1 - x_1} + \sqrt{1 - y_1} \geq 1$$

follows that

$$|P'A - P'B| + |P'C - P'D| \geq 2. \quad (6)$$

Suppose now that  $BP > AP$ . We take a the point  $A_1$  symmetric of the point  $A$  relative to the line  $OP'$ . The quadrilateral  $PA_1BA$  is trapezium therefore, it is very simple to see that:  $PB + PA_1 > P'B + PA_1$  or  $PB + P'A > PA + P'B$  and finally

$$PB - PA > P'B - P'A$$

Similarly

$$PC - PD > P'C - P'D$$

therefore, from (6) we take:

$$|PA - PB| + |PC - PD| \geq 2$$