

# Theorems for the $n$ dimensional simplex which are generalizations of Ceva's theorem on the triangle

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Abstract. We show other generalizations of Ceva's theorem on the triangle to the  $n$  dimensional simplex than the theorems given in [2]. They are Theorems 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 3.1 below.

Let  $n$  be any integer  $> 2$ . Let  $P_0P_1P_2 \cdots P_n$  denote an arbitrary  $n$  dimensional simplex in Euclidean space  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , whose vertices are  $\{P_j | 0 \leq j \leq n\}$ . Let  $\mu$  denote the standard Euclidean measure (=volume) on  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . Let  $m$  denote the standard Euclidean measure on  $\mathbf{R}^{n-1}$ . Let  $T$  be any point in the interior of  $P_0P_1P_2 \cdots P_n$ . For each integer  $j$  with  $0 \leq j \leq n$ , write  $C_j = \{P_x | 0 \leq x \leq n, x \neq j\}$ . For each integer  $j$  with  $0 \leq j \leq n$ , let  $H_j$  denote the  $n-1$  dimensional hyper-plane containing all the points in  $C_j$ . For each integer  $j$  with  $0 \leq j \leq n$ , let  $P'_j$  denote the point of the intersection of line  $P_jT$  and hyper-plane  $H_j$ . For arbitrary finite points  $\{V_j | 1 \leq j \leq k\}$  in Euclidean space  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , let  $\langle \{V_j | 1 \leq j \leq k\} \rangle$  denote the minimum closed convex subset, of  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , containing all the points  $\{V_j | 1 \leq j \leq k\}$ .

## Section 1. Case of any integer $n \geq 2$ .

Recall that  $P_0P_1P_2 \cdots P_n$  denote an arbitrary  $n$  dimensional simplex in Euclidean space  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , whose vertices are  $\{P_j | 0 \leq j \leq n\}$ . Let  $j$  be any integer with

$0 \leq j \leq n$ . Recall  $C_j = \{P_x \mid 0 \leq x \leq n, x \neq j\}$ . Let  $r$  be any positive integer  $\geq 2$ . Let  $\{k_u\}_{u=1}^r$  be any sequence of positive integers with  $n+1 = \sum_{u=1}^r k_u$  and  $k_u \geq k_{u+1} \geq 2$  for all the integers  $1 \leq u \leq r-1$ . For each integer  $j$  with  $0 \leq j \leq k_1 - 2$ , write  $E_j = C_j \cap C_{j+1}$ . Write  $E_{k_1-1} = C_{k_1} \cap C_0$ . For each integer  $j$  with  $k_1 \leq j \leq k_1 + k_2 - 2$ , write  $E_j = C_j \cap C_{j+1}$ . Write  $E_{k_1+k_2-1} = C_{k_1+k_2-1} \cap C_{k_1}$ . Let  $s$  be any integer with  $1 \leq s \leq r-1$ . For each integer  $j$  with  $\sum_{u=1}^s k_u \leq j \leq \sum_{u=1}^{s+1} k_u - 2$ , write  $E_j = C_j \cap C_{j+1}$ . Put  $a_s = \sum_{u=1}^{s+1} k_u$ . Write  $E_{a_s-1} = C_{a_s-1} \cap C_{a_s-1}$ . Here we put  $a_0 = k_1$ . So, we have  $\{E_j \mid 0 \leq j \leq n\}$ . For each  $0 \leq j \leq n$  write  $Y_j = \{S \mid S \subset C_j, |S| = n-1, S \neq E_j\}$ . Then we have  $|Y_j| = n-1$ . We obtain

**Theorem 1.1.** 
$$\prod_{j=0}^n \left( \frac{\prod_{\xi \in Y_j} m(\langle \{P'_j\} \cup \xi \rangle)}{m(\langle \{P'_j\} \cup E_j \rangle)^{n-1}} \right) = 1.$$

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* By the same way as in the proof of Theorem 2 in [2] we have

$$\frac{\prod_{\xi \in Y_j} m(\langle \{P'_j\} \cup \xi \rangle)}{m(\langle \{P'_j\} \cup E_j \rangle)^{n-1}} = \frac{\prod_{\xi \in Y_j} \mu(\langle \{T, P_j\} \cup \xi \rangle)}{\mu(\langle \{T, P_j\} \cup E_j \rangle)^{n-1}}.$$

We obtain 
$$\prod_{j=0}^n \left( \prod_{\xi \in Y_j} \mu(\langle \{T, P_j\} \cup \xi \rangle) \right) = \prod_{j=0}^n \mu(\langle \{T, P_j\} \cup E_j \rangle)^{n-1}.$$

Theorem 1.1 is proven.

Theorem 1 in [2] is the case of  $r = 1$  of the above Theorem 1.1.

**Corollary of Theorem 1.1.** Let  $\tau = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & \cdots & n \\ \tau(0) & \tau(1) & \tau(2) & \cdots & \tau(n) \end{pmatrix}$  be any element of  $S_{n+1}$ .

Rewrite  $P_j$  for  $P_{\tau(j)}$  with all  $0 \leq j \leq n$  and  $P'_j$  for  $P'_{\tau(j)}$  with all  $0 \leq j \leq n$ . Then apply

Theorem 1.1. Then we have the equation for simplex  $P_{\tau(0)} P_{\tau(1)} P_{\tau(2)} \cdots P_{\tau(n)}$ .

(We have simplex  $P_0P_1P_2 \cdots P_n = P_{\tau(0)}P_{\tau(1)}P_{\tau(2)} \cdots P_{\tau(n)}$ . We can consider Theorem 1.1 for any order  $(P_{\tau(0)}, P_{\tau(1)}, P_{\tau(2)}, \dots, P_{\tau(n)}, P_{\tau(0)})$ .)

We obtain also

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & \cdots & n \\ \sigma(0) & \sigma(1) & \sigma(2) & \cdots & \sigma(n) \end{pmatrix}$  be any element of  $S_{n+1}$  that satisfies  $\sigma(j) \neq j$  for all the integers  $0 \leq j \leq n$ . For any  $0 \leq j \leq n$ , put  $F_{\sigma,j} = \{P_x \mid 0 \leq x \leq n, x \neq j, x \neq \sigma(j)\}$ ,  $\Delta_{\sigma,j} = \langle \{P'_j\} \cup F_{\sigma,j} \rangle$ , and  $\Xi_{\sigma,j} = \{S \mid S \subset C_j, |S| = n-1, S \neq F_{\sigma,j}\}$ . Then we have

$$\prod_{j=0}^n \left( \frac{\prod_{\xi \in \Xi_{\sigma,j}} m(\langle \{P'_j\} \cup \xi \rangle)}{m(\Delta_{\sigma,j})^{n-1}} \right) = 1.$$

*Proof of Theorem 1.2.* By the same way as in the proof of Theorem 2 in [2] we have

$$\frac{\prod_{\xi \in \Xi_{\sigma,j}} m(\langle \{P'_j\} \cup \xi \rangle)}{m(\Delta_{\sigma,j})^{n-1}} = \frac{\prod_{\xi \in \Xi_{\sigma,j}} \mu(\langle \{T, P_j\} \cup \xi \rangle)}{\mu(\langle \{T, P_j\} \cup \{P_x \mid 0 \leq j \leq n, x \neq j, x \neq \sigma(j)\} \rangle)^{n-1}}.$$

We obtain

$$\prod_{j=0}^n \left( \prod_{\xi \in \Xi_{\sigma,j}} \mu(\langle \{T, P_j\} \cup \xi \rangle) \right) = \prod_{j=0}^n \mu(\langle \{T, P_j\} \cup \{P_x \mid 0 \leq j \leq n, x \neq j, x \neq \sigma(j)\} \rangle)^{n-1}.$$

Theorem 1.2 is proven. (Remark. We have easily  $|\Xi_{\sigma,j}| = n-1$  for any  $0 \leq j \leq n$ .)

Any element of  $S_{n+1}$  is expressed uniquely as a product of cyclic substitutions any two of which have disjoint letters. So, if we renumber  $\{P_j\}_{j=0}^n$  suitably for each  $\sigma$ , Theorem 1.2 has the same expression that Theorem 1.1 has.

For each  $n$  dimensional simplex  $P_0P_1P_2 \cdots P_n$ , the number of the equations given in Theorem 1.2 is equal to  $d_{n+1} = \#\{\sigma \in S_{n+1} \mid \sigma(j) \neq j \text{ for any } 0 \leq j \leq n\}$ . Namely the number of the generalizations of Theorem 1.1 type of Ceva's theorem on the triangle to simplex

$P_0P_1P_2 \cdots P_n$  is equal to  $d_{n+1}$ . It is well known that  $d_{n+1} = (n+1)! \left( \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \frac{(-1)^k}{k!} \right)$ .

**Example.** Let  $n = 3$ . We have  $d_4 = 9$ . There are 9 equations of Theorem 1.1 type for any tetrahedron  $P_0P_1P_2P_3$ . The substitutions to consider are the following. As  $\sigma$  in Theorem 1.2, we have (0123), (0132), (0213), (0231), (0312), (0321), (01)(23), (02)(13), (03)(12). The cases of (0123), (0132), (0213), (0231), (0312) and (0321) are treated in Theorem 1 in [1]. The cases of (01)(23), (02)(13) and (03)(12) are treated in Theorem 2 in [1].

One may say that there are only 9 generalizations of Ceva's theorem of the triangle to the tetrahedron.

## Section 2. Theorem of another type for any integer $n > 2$ .

Let  $n$  be any integer  $> 2$ . Let  $P_0P_1P_2 \cdots P_n$  be any  $n$  dimensional simplex with vertices  $\{P_j\}_{j=0}^n$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . Let  $T$  be any point in the interior of  $P_0P_1P_2 \cdots P_n$ . Let  $b$  be any integer larger than 1. Let  $\{U_j\}_{j=0}^b$  be such any sequence of points in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  that  $U_j \in \{P_x \mid 0 \leq x \leq n\}$  for all the integers  $j$  with  $0 \leq j \leq b$ , that  $U_j \neq U_{j+1}$  for all the integers  $j$  with  $0 \leq j \leq b-1$  and that  $U_0 = U_b$ . Then let  $I(j, j+1)$  denote the intersection point of the line  $U_jU_{j+1}$  and (the hyper-plane  $\supset (\{T\} \cup \{P_x \mid 0 \leq x \leq n, P_x \neq U_j, P_x \neq U_{j+1}\})$ ) for each integer  $j \in [0, b-1]$ . For arbitrary points  $P$  and  $Q$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  we write  $d(P, Q) = \|\overline{PQ}\|$ . Notations being as above we obtain

**Theorem 2.1.** 
$$\prod_{j=0}^{b-1} \frac{d(I(j, j+1), U_{j+1})}{d(U_j, I(j, j+1))} = 1.$$

*Proof of Theorem 2.1.* First we treat the case of  $b = 3$ . Let  $\pi_0$  be the minimum  $\mathbf{R}$ -linear

submanifold in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  containing  $T$  and all the points in  $\{P_x \mid 0 \leq x \leq n, P_x \neq U_0, P_x \neq U_1, P_x \neq U_2\}$ . Let  $\pi'_0$  be the minimum  $\mathbf{R}$ -linear submanifold in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  containing  $T, U_0, U_1$  and  $U_2$ . Note that the dimension of  $\pi_0$  is  $n-2$  and that the dimension of  $\pi'_0$  is 3. We have  $\pi_0 \cap \pi'_0$  is a line (namely  $\mathbf{R}$ -linear submanifold of dimension 1). Let  $Q_0$  be the intersection point of  $\pi_0$  and the plane containing  $U_0, U_1$  and  $U_2$ . Then the lines  $U_0I(1,2), U_1I(2,3)$  and  $U_2I(0,1)$  intersect at the point  $Q_0$ . So, we can apply Ceva's theorem to the triangle  $U_0U_1U_2$ . We have Theorem 2.1 for  $b=3$ .

Now assume Theorem 2.1 is true for  $b=\text{some integer } k \geq 3$ . Then we consider the case of  $b=k+1$ .

We have  $U_{k+1} = U_0$ . If  $U_{k-1} = U_{k+1}$ , this case resolves itself into the case of  $b=k$  since  $I(k-1,k) = I(k,k+1)$ . So, we assume  $U_{k-1} \neq U_{k+1}$ . Let  $I$  denote the intersection point of the line  $U_{k-1}U_{k+1}$  and (the hyper-plane  $\supset (\{T\} \cup \{P_x \mid 0 \leq x \leq n, P_x \neq U_{k-1}, P_x \neq U_{k+1}\})$ ). By

the case of  $b=k$ , we have  $\frac{d(I, U_{k+1})}{d(U_{k-1}, I)} \prod_{j=0}^{k-2} \frac{d(I(j, j+1), U_{j+1})}{d(U_j, I(j, j+1))} = 1$ . Let  $\pi$  be the minimum

$\mathbf{R}$ -linear submanifold in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  containing  $T$  and all the points in  $\{P_x \mid 0 \leq x \leq n, P_x \neq U_{k-1}, P_x \neq U_k, P_x \neq U_{k+1}\}$ . Let  $\pi'$  be the minimum  $\mathbf{R}$ -linear submanifold in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  containing  $T, U_{k-1}, U_k$  and  $U_{k+1}$ . Note that the dimension of  $\pi$  is  $n-2$  and that the dimension of  $\pi'$  is 3. We have  $\pi \cap \pi'$  is a line (namely  $\mathbf{R}$ -linear submanifold of dimension 1). Let  $Q$  be the intersection point of  $\pi$  and the plane containing  $U_{k-1}, U_k$  and  $U_{k+1}$ . Then the lines  $U_{k-1}I(k, k+1), U_kI$  and  $U_{k+1}I(k-1, k)$  intersect at the point  $Q$ .

Apply Ceva's theorem to the triangle  $U_{k-1}U_kU_{k+1}$ . We have

$$\frac{d(I, U_{k+1})}{d(U_{k-1}, I)} = \frac{d(I(k-1, k), U_k)}{d(U_{k-1}, I(k-1, k))} \cdot \frac{d(I(k, k+1), U_{k+1})}{d(U_k, I(k, k+1))}. \quad \text{Hence}$$

$$\frac{d(I(k-1, k), U_k)}{d(U_{k-1}, I(k-1, k))} \cdot \frac{d(I(k, k+1), U_{k+1})}{d(U_k, I(k, k+1))} \prod_{j=0}^{k-2} \frac{d(I(j, j+1), U_{j+1})}{d(U_j, I(j, j+1))} = 1. \quad \text{Namely}$$

$\prod_{j=0}^k \frac{d(I(j, j+1), U_{j+1})}{d(U_j, I(j, j+1))} = 1$ . The case of  $b = k + 1$  is proven. Theorem 2.1 is proven.

(The case of  $b = 2$  is trivial.)

### Section 3. Case of $n = 4$ .

The following theorem is different from Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 in this paper and Theorem 2 in [2]. We obtain

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $n = 4$ . One has*

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{m(P'_0 P_1 P_2 P_4) m(P'_0 P_1 P_2 P_3)}{m(P'_0 P_2 P_3 P_4) m(P'_0 P_1 P_3 P_4)} \cdot \frac{m(P'_1 P_2 P_0 P_3) m(P'_1 P_2 P_3 P_4)}{m(P'_1 P_0 P_3 P_4) m(P'_1 P_2 P_0 P_4)} \\ & \frac{m(P'_2 P_3 P_0 P_4) m(P'_2 P_3 P_1 P_4)}{m(P'_2 P_0 P_1 P_4) m(P'_2 P_3 P_0 P_1)} \cdot \frac{m(P'_3 P_4 P_0 P_1) m(P'_3 P_4 P_0 P_2)}{m(P'_3 P_0 P_1 P_2) m(P'_3 P_4 P_1 P_2)} \cdot \frac{m(P'_4 P_0 P_1 P_2) m(P'_4 P_0 P_1 P_3)}{m(P'_4 P_1 P_2 P_3) m(P'_4 P_0 P_2 P_3)} \\ & = 1. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof of Theorem 3.1.* We use

$$\text{If } a : b : c : d = t : u : v : w = w : x : y : z, \text{ then } a : b : c : d = t - w : u - x : v - y : w - z.$$

Using that and computing volumes of 4 dimensional simplexes we have

$$\begin{aligned} & m(P'_0 P_1 P_3 P_4) : m(P'_0 P_1 P_2 P_4) : m(P'_0 P_1 P_2 P_3) : m(P'_0 P_2 P_3 P_4) \\ & = \mu(P_0 P'_0 P_1 P_3 P_4) : \mu(P_0 P'_0 P_1 P_2 P_4) : \mu(P_0 P'_0 P_1 P_2 P_3) : \mu(P_0 P'_0 P_2 P_3 P_4) \\ & = \mu(TP'_0 P_1 P_3 P_4) : \mu(TP'_0 P_1 P_2 P_4) : \mu(TP'_0 P_1 P_2 P_3) : \mu(TP'_0 P_2 P_3 P_4) \\ & = \mu(TP_0 P_1 P_3 P_4) : \mu(TP_0 P_1 P_2 P_4) : \mu(TP_0 P_1 P_2 P_3) : \mu(TP_0 P_2 P_3 P_4). \end{aligned}$$

By the same method,

$$\begin{aligned} & m(P'_1 P_2 P_0 P_3) : m(P'_1 P_2 P_0 P_4) : m(P'_1 P_2 P_3 P_4) : m(P'_1 P_0 P_3 P_4) \\ & = \mu(TP_1 P_2 P_0 P_3) : \mu(TP_1 P_2 P_0 P_4) : \mu(TP_1 P_2 P_3 P_4) : \mu(TP_1 P_0 P_3 P_4), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & m(P'_2 P_3 P_0 P_1) : m(P'_2 P_3 P_0 P_4) : m(P'_2 P_3 P_1 P_4) : m(P'_2 P_0 P_1 P_4) \\ & = \mu(TP_2 P_3 P_0 P_1) : \mu(TP_2 P_3 P_0 P_4) : \mu(TP_2 P_3 P_1 P_4) : \mu(TP_2 P_0 P_1 P_4), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & m(P'_3 P_4 P_0 P_1) : m(P'_3 P_4 P_0 P_2) : m(P'_3 P_4 P_1 P_2) : m(P'_3 P_0 P_1 P_2) \\ & = \mu(TP_3 P_4 P_0 P_1) : \mu(TP_3 P_4 P_0 P_2) : \mu(TP_3 P_4 P_1 P_2) : \mu(TP_3 P_0 P_1 P_2), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & m(P'_4 P_0 P_1 P_2) : m(P'_4 P_0 P_1 P_3) : m(P'_4 P_0 P_2 P_3) : m(P'_4 P_1 P_2 P_3) \\ & = \mu(TP_4 P_0 P_1 P_2) : \mu(TP_4 P_0 P_1 P_3) : \mu(TP_4 P_0 P_2 P_3) : \mu(TP_4 P_1 P_2 P_3). \end{aligned}$$

For simplicity, write

$$A = \mu(TP_0P_2P_3P_4), B = \mu(TP_1P_0P_3P_4), C = \mu(TP_2P_0P_1P_4), D = \mu(TP_3P_0P_1P_2) \text{ and } E = \mu(TP_4P_1P_2P_3).$$

Then the left side of the equation in Theorem 3.1 is equal to

$$\frac{CD}{AB} \cdot \frac{DE}{BC} \cdot \frac{AE}{CD} \cdot \frac{BA}{DE} \cdot \frac{CB}{EA} = \frac{A^2B^2C^2D^2E^2}{A^2B^2C^2D^2E^2} = 1.$$

Theorem 3.1 is proven.

Since Theorem 3.1 holds true for any 4 dimensional simplex, we have

**Corollary of Theorem 3.1.** Let  $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ \sigma(0) & \sigma(1) & \sigma(2) & \sigma(3) & \sigma(4) \end{pmatrix}$  be any element of

$S_5$ . One can replace  $P_j$  by  $P_{\sigma(j)}$  for any  $0 \leq j \leq 4$  and  $P'_j$  by  $P'_{\sigma(j)}$  for any  $0 \leq j \leq 4$  in the equation of Theorem 3.1.

Theorem 3.1 shows that Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 in Section 1 do not cover all possible generalizations of Ceva's theorem on the triangle to  $n$  dimensional simplexes with  $n \geq 4$ .

## References

- [1] K. Hatada, Generalization of Ceva's theorem on the triangle to the tetrahedron, Sci. Rep. Fac. Educ. Gifu Univ. (Nat. Sci.), 31, (2007), 7-9.
- [2] K. Hatada, Generalization of Ceva's theorem to the  $n$  dimensional simplex, Sci. Rep. Fac. Educ. Gifu Univ. (Nat. Sci.), 32, (2008), 9-12.