

[CWMO 2011 question 4.] In a circle  $\Gamma_1$  centred at  $O$ ,  $AB$  and  $CD$  are two unequal chords intersecting at  $E$  inside  $\Gamma_1$ . A circle  $\Gamma_2$  centred at  $I$  is tangent to  $\Gamma_1$  internally at  $F$ , and also tangent to  $AB$  at  $G$  and  $CD$  at  $H$ . A line  $\ell$  through  $O$  intersecting  $AB$  and  $CD$  at  $P$  and  $Q$  respectively such that  $EP = EQ$ . The line  $EF$  intersects  $\ell$  at  $M$ . Prove that the line through  $M$  parallel to  $AB$  is tangent to  $\Gamma_1$ .

**Solution.** Let the extensions of  $FG$  and  $FH$  meet the circle  $\Gamma_1$  at  $G'$  and  $H'$  respectively. Let  $h$  be the homothety centred at  $F$  mapping  $\Gamma_2$  to  $\Gamma_1$ . Then  $h(I) = O$ ,  $h(G) = G'$  and  $h(H) = H'$ . As the tangent  $\alpha$  to  $\Gamma_1$  at  $G'$  is parallel to  $AB$ , it suffices to show  $\alpha$ ,  $\ell$  and  $EF$  are concurrent at  $M$ .

Note that  $\angle EPQ = \angle PQE = \angle GEI = \angle HEI$  so that  $IE$  is parallel  $OM$ . Since  $h(I) = O$ , we have  $h(E) = M$ . Then under the homothety  $h$ , the line  $AB$  goes to  $\alpha$ , the line  $EF$  goes back to  $EF$  and the line  $IE$  goes to  $\ell$ . Since lines  $AB$ ,  $EF$  and  $IE$  concur at  $E$ , the lines  $\alpha$ ,  $EF$  and  $\ell$  concur at  $M$ .

