

# 韋達定理在三角與解析幾何中的應用

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衆所周知，韋達定理在中學數學中有著廣泛的應用，特別在代數中的應用最爲多多，這裡不去贅述。本文著重討論它在三角與解析幾何中的應用。

韋達定理：設  $n$  次代數方程  $a_0x^n + a_1x^{n-1} + a_2x^{n-2} + \cdots + a_{n-1}x + a_n = 0$  ( $a_i (i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n)$  爲複數，且  $a_0 \neq 0$ ) 的  $n$  個根爲  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ ，則

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n &= -\frac{a_1}{a_0}, \\x_1x_2 + x_1x_3 + \cdots + x_{n-1}x_n &= \frac{a_2}{a_0}, \\x_1x_2x_3 + x_1x_2x_4 + \cdots + x_{n-2}x_{n-1}x_n \\&= -\frac{a_3}{a_0}, \\&\dots\dots\dots \\x_1x_2x_3 \cdots x_n &= (-1)^n \frac{a_n}{a_0}\end{aligned}$$

某些三角恆等式，如  $\prod_{i=1}^n \tan \frac{i\pi}{2n+1} = \sqrt{2n+1}$ ， $\sum_{i=1}^n \cos^2 \frac{i\pi}{2n+1} = \frac{2n-1}{4}$  等都可利用韋達定理來證明。

例1: 設  $n$  爲任一正整數，則

$$\begin{aligned}\text{(i)} \quad &\sin \frac{\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \sin \frac{2\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \sin \frac{3\pi}{2n+1} \cdots \\&\sin \frac{n\pi}{2n+1} = \frac{\sqrt{2n+1}}{2^n},\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{(ii)} \quad &\cos \frac{\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \cos \frac{2\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \cos \frac{3\pi}{2n+1} \cdots \\&\cos \frac{n\pi}{2n+1} = \frac{1}{2^n}.\end{aligned}$$

證: (i) 考察方程

$$\sin(2n+1)x = 0, \quad (1)$$

顯然， $x_i = \frac{i\pi}{2n+1} (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$  是方程 (1) 的一組特解。由棣模弗公式，有

$$\begin{aligned}&\sin(2n+1)x \\&= C_1^{2n+1} \sin x \cos^{2n} x - C_3^{2n+1} \sin^3 x \cos^{2(n-1)} x \\&\quad + C_5^{2n+1} \sin^5 x \cos^{2(n-2)} x \\&\quad - C_7^{2n+1} \sin^7 x \cos^{2(n-3)} x + \cdots \\&\quad + (-1)^n C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} \sin^{2n+1} x \\&= \sin x [C_1^{2n+1} \cos^{2n} x - C_3^{2n+1} \sin^2 x \cos^{2(n-1)} x \\&\quad + C_5^{2n+1} \sin^4 x \cos^{2(n-2)} x \\&\quad - C_7^{2n+1} \sin^6 x \cos^{2(n-3)} x + \cdots \\&\quad + (-1)^n C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} \sin^{2n} x]. \quad (2)\end{aligned}$$

以  $1 - \sin^2 x$  代換 (2) 式中的  $\cos^2 x$ ，有

$$\begin{aligned}&\sin(2n+1)x \\&= \sin x [C_1^{2n+1} (1 - \sin^2 x)^n \\&\quad - C_3^{2n+1} \sin^2 x (1 - \sin^2 x)^{n-1}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & +C_5^{2n+1} \sin^4 x(1 - \sin^2 x)^{n-2} \\
 & -C_7^{2n+1} \sin^6 x(1 - \sin^2 x)^{n-3} \\
 & + \dots + (-1)^n C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} \sin^{2n} x] \\
 = & \sin x [C_1^{2n+1} C_0^n - (C_1^{2n+1} C_1^n \\
 & + C_3^{2n+1} C_0^{n-1}) \sin^2 x \\
 & + (C_1^{2n+1} C_2^n + C_3^{2n+1} C_1^{n-1} \\
 & + C_5^{2n+1} C_0^{n-2}) \sin^4 x \\
 & - (C_1^{2n+1} C_3^n + C_3^{2n+1} C_2^{n-1} \\
 & + C_5^{2n+1} C_1^{n-2} + C_7^{2n+1} C_0^{n-3}) \sin^6 x \\
 & + \dots + (-1)^n (C_1^{2n+1} + C_3^{2n+1} \\
 & + C_5^{2n+1} + C_7^{2n+1} + \dots \\
 & + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1}) \sin^{2n} x].
 \end{aligned}$$

令  $y = \sin^2 x$ , 則方程

$$\begin{aligned}
 & C_1^{2n+1} C_0^n - (C_1^{2n+1} C_1^n + C_3^{2n+1} C_0^{n-1})y \\
 & + (C_1^{2n+1} C_2^n + C_3^{2n+1} C_1^{n-1} \\
 & + C_5^{2n+1} C_0^{n-2})y^2 - (C_1^{2n+1} C_3^n \\
 & + C_3^{2n+1} C_2^{n-1} + C_5^{2n+1} C_1^{n-2} \\
 & + C_7^{2n+1} C_0^{n-3})y^3 + \dots \\
 & + (-1)^n (C_1^{2n+1} + C_3^{2n+1} + C_5^{2n+1} \\
 & + C_7^{2n+1} + \dots + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1})y^n = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

的  $n$  個根為  $y_i = \sin^2 \frac{i\pi}{2n+1}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ )。

由韋達定理, 有

$$\begin{aligned}
 & y_1 y_2 y_3 \dots y_n \\
 = & \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \sin^2 \frac{2\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \sin^2 \frac{3\pi}{2n+1} \\
 & \dots \sin^2 \frac{n\pi}{2n+1} \\
 = & C_1^{2n+1} C_0^n / (C_1^{2n+1} + C_3^{2n+1} + C_5^{2n+1} \\
 & + C_7^{2n+1} + \dots + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1}),
 \end{aligned}$$

而  $C_1^{2n+1} C_0^n = 2n + 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 2^{2n+1} & = (1 + 1)^{2n+1} \\
 & = C_0^{2n+1} + C_1^{2n+1} + C_2^{2n+1} \\
 & \quad + C_3^{2n+1} + C_4^{2n+1} + C_5^{2n+1} \\
 & \quad + \dots + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1}, \\
 0 & = (1 - 1)^{2n+1} = C_0^{2n+1} - C_1^{2n+1} \\
 & \quad + C_2^{2n+1} - C_3^{2n+1} + C_4^{2n+1} \\
 & \quad - C_5^{2n+1} + \dots + C_{2n}^{2n+1} \\
 & \quad - C_{2n+1}^{2n+1},
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & C_1^{2n+1} + C_3^{2n+1} + C_5^{2n+1} + \dots + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} \\
 = & C_0^{2n+1} + C_2^{2n+1} + C_4^{2n+1} + \dots + C_{2n}^{2n+1} \\
 = & \frac{2^{2n+1}}{2} = 2^{2n},
 \end{aligned}$$

故

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \sin^2 \frac{2\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \sin^2 \frac{3\pi}{2n+1} \\
 & \dots \sin^2 \frac{n\pi}{2n+1} = \frac{2n+1}{2^{2n}},
 \end{aligned}$$

即

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sin \frac{\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \sin \frac{2\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \sin \frac{3\pi}{2n+1} \dots \\
 & \sin \frac{n\pi}{2n+1} = \frac{\sqrt{2n+1}}{2^n}.
 \end{aligned}$$

(ii) 在 (2) 式中, 以  $1 - \cos^2 x$  代換  $\sin^2 x$ , 有

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sin(2n+1)x \\
 = & \sin x [C_1^{2n+1} \cos^{2n} x - C_3^{2n+1} \\
 & (1 - \cos^2 x) \cos^{2(n-1)} x + C_5^{2n+1} \\
 & (1 - \cos^2 x)^2 \cos^{2(n-2)} x - C_7^{2n+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (1 - \cos^2 x)^3 \cos^{2(n-3)} x + \dots \\
 & + (-1)^n C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} (1 - \cos^2 x)^n] \\
 = & \sin x [(C_1^{2n+1} + C_3^{2n+1} + C_5^{2n+1} \\
 & + C_7^{2n+1} + \dots + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1}) \cos^{2n} x \\
 & - (C_3^{2n+1} C_1^1 + C_5^{2n+1} C_1^2 + C_7^{2n+1} C_1^3 \\
 & + \dots + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} C_1^n) \cos^{2(n-1)} x \\
 & + (C_5^{2n+1} C_2^2 + C_7^{2n+1} C_2^3 + \dots \\
 & + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} C_2^n) \cos^{2(n-2)} x - (C_7^{2n+1} C_3^3 \\
 & + \dots + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} C_3^n) \cos^{2(n-3)} x + \dots \\
 & + (-1)^n C_{2n+1}^{2n+1}].
 \end{aligned}$$

令  $y = \cos^2 x$ , 則方程

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (C_1^{2n+1} + C_3^{2n+1} + C_5^{2n+1} + C_7^{2n+1} \\
 & + \dots + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1}) y^n - (C_3^{2n+1} C_1^1 \\
 & + C_5^{2n+1} C_1^2 + C_7^{2n+1} C_1^3 \\
 & + \dots + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} C_1^n) y^{n-1} \\
 & + (C_5^{2n+1} C_2^2 + C_7^{2n+1} C_2^3 + \dots \\
 & + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} C_2^n) y^{n-2} - (C_7^{2n+1} C_3^3 + \dots \\
 & + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} C_3^n) y^{n-3} + \dots + (-1)^n C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

的  $n$  個根為  $y_i = \cos^2 \frac{i\pi}{2n+1}$ , ( $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$ )。

由韋達定理, 有

$$\begin{aligned}
 & y_1 y_2 y_3 \cdots y_n \\
 = & \cos^2 \frac{\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \cos^2 \frac{2\pi}{2n+1} \\
 & \cdot \cos^2 \frac{3\pi}{2n+1} \cdots \cos^2 \frac{n\pi}{2n+1} \\
 = & C_{2n+1}^{2n+1} / (C_1^{2n+1} + C_3^{2n+1} + C_5^{2n+1} \\
 & + C_7^{2n+1} + \dots + C_{2n+1}^{2n+1}) \\
 = & \frac{1}{2^{2n}},
 \end{aligned}$$

即

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \cos \frac{\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \cos \frac{2\pi}{2n+1} \cdot \cos \frac{3\pi}{2n+1} \\
 & \cdots \cos \frac{n\pi}{2n+1} \\
 = & \frac{1}{2^n}.
 \end{aligned}$$

解析幾何是以代數方法處理幾何問題, 而代數方法的論證和推導往往可以利用韋達定理巧妙地完成。

例2: 從橢圓  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  外一點作橢圓的兩切線, 若兩切線的夾角為直角, 求這一動點的軌跡方程。

解: 設  $P(x_0, y_0)$  為橢圓外一點, 過  $P$  點作橢圓的兩條切線, 切點為  $P_1(x_1, y_1)$ ,  $P_2(x_2, y_2)$ , 則

$$\frac{x_1^2}{a^2} + \frac{y_1^2}{b^2} = 1, \quad \frac{x_2^2}{a^2} + \frac{y_2^2}{b^2} = 1,$$

且切線方程為

$$\frac{x_1 x}{a^2} + \frac{y_1 y}{b^2} = 1, \quad \frac{x_2 x}{a^2} + \frac{y_2 y}{b^2} = 1.$$

因  $P$  為兩切線的交點, 故有

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{x_0 x_1}{a^2} + \frac{y_0 y_1}{b^2} = 1, \\
 & \frac{x_0 x_2}{a^2} + \frac{y_0 y_2}{b^2} = 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

由方程組  $\begin{cases} \frac{x_1^2}{a^2} + \frac{y_1^2}{b^2} = 1 \\ \frac{x_0 x_1}{a^2} + \frac{y_0 y_1}{b^2} = 1 \end{cases}$  消去  $y_1$  得

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (b^2 x_0^2 + a^2 y_0^2) x_1^2 - 2a^2 b^2 x_0 x_1 \\
 & + a^4 (b^2 - y_0^2) = 0,
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

再由方程組  $\begin{cases} \frac{x_2^2}{a^2} + \frac{y_2^2}{b^2} = 1 \\ \frac{x_0 x_2}{a^2} + \frac{y_0 y_2}{b^2} = 1 \end{cases}$  消去  $y_2$  得

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (b^2 x_0^2 + a^2 y_0^2) x_2^2 - 2a^2 b^2 x_0 x_2 \\
 & + a^4 (b^2 - y_0^2) = 0,
 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

若  $x_1 + x_2$ , 據 (1) 及 (2) 可知  $x_1$  及  $x_2$  為方程

$$(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2)x^2 - 2a^2b^2x_0x + a^4(b^2 - y_0^2) = 0, \quad (3)$$

的兩個根。

由韋達定理, 得

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + x_2 &= 2a^2b^2x_0/(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2), \\ x_1x_2 &= a^4(b^2 - y_0^2)/(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2). \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

若  $x_1 = x_2$ , 則由對稱性知  $y_0 = 0$ , 又據  $\frac{x_0x_1}{a^2} + \frac{y_0y_1}{b^2} = 1$  則得  $x_0x_1 = a^2$ , 因而  $x_1 + x_2 = 2x_1 = \frac{2a^2}{x_0}$ ,  $x_1x_2 = x_1^2 = \frac{a^4}{x_0^2}$ , 故此時 (4) 亦成立。

同理可知: 不論  $y_1 \neq y_2$  或  $y_1 = y_2$ , 恆有

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 + y_2 &= 2a^2b^2y_0/(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2), \\ y_1y_2 &= b^4(a^2 - x_0^2)/(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

若兩切線無鉛垂方向者, 則因二者互相垂直, 故

$$\frac{y_0 - y_1}{x_0 - x_1} \cdot \frac{y_0 - y_2}{x_0 - x_2} = -1,$$

從而

$$(x_0 - x_1)(x_0 - x_2) + (y_0 - y_1)(y_0 - y_2) = 0,$$

即

$$\begin{aligned} x_0^2 - x_0(x_1 + x_2) + x_1x_2 + y_0^2 - y_0(y_1 + y_2) \\ + y_1y_2 = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

若兩切線恰為鉛垂切線及水平切線, 則  $P$  之坐標為  $(x_0, y_0) = (\pm a, \pm b)$ , 而

$P_1(x_1, y_1)$  及  $P_2(x_2, y_2)$  則為橢圓之相鄰二頂點, 故顯然有

$$(x_0 - x_1)(x_0 - x_2) + (y_0 - y_1)(y_0 - y_2) = 0,$$

遂知此時 (6) 亦成立。

將 (4) 及 (5) 代入 (6), 可推得

$$\begin{aligned} &x_0^2 - 2a^2b^2x_0^2/(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2) \\ &+ a^4(b^2 - y_0^2)/(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2) \\ &+ y_0^2 - 2a^2b^2y_0^2/(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2) \\ &+ b^4(a^2 - x_0^2)/(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2) = 0, \\ &(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2)x_0^2 - 2a^2b^2x_0^2 \\ &+ a^4(b^2 - y_0^2) + (b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2)y_0^2 \\ &- 2a^2b^2y_0^2 + b^4(a^2 - x_0^2) = 0, \\ &(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2)(x_0^2 + y_0^2) - a^2b^2(x_0^2 + y_0^2) \\ &- (a^2b^2x_0^2 + a^4y_0^2) - (a^2b^2y_0^2 + b^4x_0^2) \\ &+ (a^4b^2 + a^2b^4) = 0, \\ &(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2 - a^2b^2)(x_0^2 + y_0^2) \\ &- a^2(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2) - b^2(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2) \\ &+ a^2b^2(a^2 + b^2) = 0, \\ &(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2 - a^2b^2)(x_0^2 + y_0^2) \\ &- (b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2 - a^2b^2)(a^2 + b^2) = 0, \\ &(b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2 - a^2b^2) \\ &[(x_0^2 + y_0^2) - (a^2 + b^2)] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

因  $P(x_0, y_0)$  在橢圓  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  外, 故  $b^2x_0^2 + a^2y_0^2 - a^2b^2 > 0$ , 遂知所求軌跡包含於圓  $x^2 + y^2 = a^2 + b^2$  (落於圓周上)。

反之, 設  $P(x_0, y_0)$  為圓  $x^2 + y^2 = a^2 + b^2$  上任一點, 過  $P$  所作橢圓  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  的兩條切線為  $PP_1$  及  $PP_2$ , 其中  $P_1(x_1, y_1)$

及  $P_2(x_2, y_2)$  爲切點。若  $x_0 = x_1$ , 則  $PP_1$  爲鉛垂切線, 故  $x_0 = \pm a$ , 而  $y_0 = \pm b$  (注意  $x_0^2 + y_0^2 = a^2 + b^2$ ), 遂知  $PP_2$  爲水平切線; 同理可知: 若  $x_0 = x_2$ , 則  $PP_2$  爲鉛垂切線, 而  $PP_1$  爲水平切線。若  $(x_0 - x_1)(x_0 - x_2) \neq 0$ , 則由 (4),(5) 及  $x_0^2 + y_0^2 = a^2 + b^2$  可推得 (6) 式, 故

$$(x_0 - x_1)(x_0 - x_2) + (y_0 - y_1)(y_0 - y_2) = 0,$$

以  $(x_0 - x_1)(x_0 - x_2)$  除之, 並移項, 即有

$$\frac{y_0 - y_1}{x_0 - x_1} \cdot \frac{y_0 - y_2}{x_0 - x_2} = -1,$$

故切線  $PP_1$  與  $PP_2$  垂直。

綜上, 遂知: 所求軌跡即以原點爲圓心, 以  $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$  爲半徑之圓, 其方程爲

$$x^2 + y^2 = a^2 + b^2.$$

例3: 給定雙曲線  $x^2 - \frac{y^2}{2} = 1$ 。過點  $A(1, 1)$  能否作直線  $m$ , 使  $m$  與所給雙曲線交兩點  $P_1$  及  $P_2$ , 且點  $A$  是線段  $P_1P_2$  的中點。這樣的直線  $m$  如果存在, 求出它的方程; 如果不存在, 說明理由。

解: 若  $m$  存在, 可設其方程爲

$$y = kx + b. \quad (1)$$

由方程組  $\begin{cases} x^2 - \frac{y^2}{2} = 1 \\ y = kx + b \end{cases}$  消去  $y$ , 得

$$(2 - k^2)x^2 - 2kbx - (b^2 + 2) = 0, \quad (2)$$

設  $P_1$  及  $P_2$  的坐標分別爲  $(x_1, y_1)$  及  $(x_2, y_2)$ , 則  $x_1, x_2$  爲方程 (2) 的兩個根。

由韋達定理, 得

$$x_1 + x_2 = 2kb/(2 - k^2).$$

因線段  $P_1P_2$  的中點爲  $A(1, 1)$ , 故

$$1 = (x_1 + x_2)/2 = kb/(2 - k^2). \quad (3)$$

將  $x = kb/(2 - k^2)$ ,  $y = 1$  代入 (1), 得

$$1 = k \frac{kb}{2 - k^2} + b = 2b/(2 - k^2). \quad (4)$$

由 (4)  $\div$  (3) 知  $k = 2$ , 代入 (4) 即得  $b = -1$ 。將  $k = 2$ ,  $b = -1$  代入 (2), 得

$$2x^2 - 4x + 3 = 0. \quad (5)$$

根據  $m$  存在的假設, 方程 (5) 應有兩個實根, 但顯然, 其判別式  $\Delta < 0$ , 矛盾, 因此直線  $m$  不存在。

例4: 若長爲  $l(l \geq 1)$  的線段  $AB$  的兩個端點在拋物線  $y = x^2$  上移動, 試求其中點  $M$  到  $x$  軸的最短距離。

解: 設  $AB$  所在的直線方程爲  $y = kx + b$ , 其與拋物線  $y = x^2$  的交點爲  $A(m, m^2)$ ,  $B(n, n^2)$ 。

$$\text{由 } \begin{cases} y = kx + b \\ y = x^2 \end{cases} \text{ 得 } x^2 - kx - b = 0.$$

由韋達定理, 得

$$m + n = k, \quad mn = -b. \quad (1)$$

設線段  $AB$  的中點爲  $M(x, y)$ , 則

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \frac{m^2 + n^2}{2} = \frac{(m + n)^2 - 2mn}{2} \\ &= \frac{k^2}{2} + b. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

由題意,  $l^2 = (m - n)^2 + (m^2 - n^2)^2$ , 即

$$[(m + n)^2 - 4mn][1 + (m + n)^2] = l^2. \quad (3)$$

將 (1) 代入 (3), 得  $(k^2 + 4b)(1 + k^2) = l^2$ ,  
即

$$b = \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{l^2}{1 + k^2} - k^2 \right). \quad (4)$$

將 (4) 代入 (2), 得

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \frac{k^2}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{l^2}{1 + k^2} - k^2 \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left( k^2 + \frac{l^2}{1 + k^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 + k^2 + \frac{l^2}{1 + k^2} - 1 \right). \end{aligned}$$

因  $(1 + k^2) \cdot \frac{l^2}{1 + k^2} = l^2$  為定值, 故當  
 $1 + k^2 = \frac{l^2}{1 + k^2}$ , 即  $k = \pm\sqrt{l-1}$  時,  $y$   
取最小值

$$\frac{1}{4} \left( l - 1 + \frac{l^2}{l} \right) = \frac{1}{4} (2l - 1).$$

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