



# The Circle

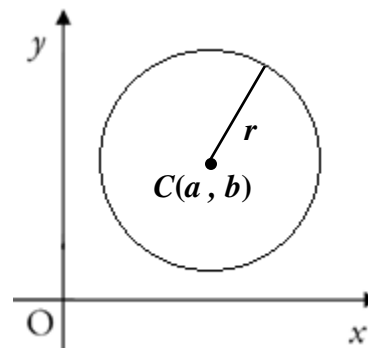
SPTA Mathematics - Higher Notes



## Equation of a Circle:

- To find the equation of a circle you need 2 things:

- Coordinates of the centre,  $(a, b)$
- The radius,  $r$



- The equation of a Circle is given by:  $(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$
- The equation of a Circle with centre the origin is given by:  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$
- You will need to remember these two formulae covered in the STRAIGHT LINE topic earlier:

You do not need to expand the brackets unless the question specifies to do so but you must always square the radius!!

- Distance Formula:  $\sqrt{(x_B - x_A)^2 + (y_B - y_A)^2}$

- Midpoint Formula:  $\left(\frac{x_A + x_B}{2}, \frac{y_A + y_B}{2}\right)$

Must know!!

- **CONGRUENT** – Objects which are the **EXACT** same size and shape.

## Examples:

1. Write down the equation of the circle with:

- a) Centre  $(0, 0)$  and radius = 6:

$$x^2 + y^2 = 6^2$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 + y^2 = 36$$

- b) Centre  $(5, -2)$  and radius = 3.5:

$$(x - 5)^2 + (y - (-2))^2 = 3.5^2$$

$$\Rightarrow (x - 5)^2 + (y + 2)^2 = 12.25$$

- c) Centre  $(3, 0)$  and radius =  $4\sqrt{3}$ :

$$(x - 3)^2 + (y - 0)^2 = (4\sqrt{3})^2$$

$$\Rightarrow (x - 3)^2 + y^2 = (\sqrt{48})^2$$

$$\Rightarrow (x - 3)^2 + y^2 = 48$$

d) Centre (3 , 6) passing through (-1 , 4) : Radius =  $\sqrt{(x_B - x_A)^2 + (y_B - y_A)^2}$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{(-1 - 3)^2 + (4 - 6)^2}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{(-4)^2 + (-2)^2}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{16 + 4}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{20}$$

No need to square root it as going to square it for the equation!!

so  $(x - 3)^2 + (y - 6)^2 = (\sqrt{20})^2$

$$(x - 3)^2 + (y - 6)^2 = 20$$

2. State the Centre and Radius of these circles:

a)  $(x - 8)^2 + (y + 3)^2 = 36$

Centre (8 , -3) & Radius =  $\sqrt{36} = 6$

b)  $x^2 + y^2 = 144$

Centre (0 , 0) & Radius =  $\sqrt{144} = 12$

c)  $(x + 7)^2 + (y - 4)^2 = 18$

Centre (-7 , 4) & Radius =  $\sqrt{18} = 3\sqrt{2}$

Normally leave as a SURD

3. Find the equation of the circle when the points A(-5 , 3) and B(3 , 1) are the endpoints of the diameter.

$$\text{Midpoint } AB = \left( \frac{x_A + x_B}{2}, \frac{y_A + y_B}{2} \right)$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{(x_M - x_A)^2 + (y_M - y_A)^2}$$

$$\text{Midpoint } AB = \left( \frac{-5+3}{2}, \frac{3+1}{2} \right)$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{(-1 - (-5))^2 + (2 - 3)^2}$$

$$\text{Midpoint } AB = (-1, 2)$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{4^2 + (-1)^2}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{16 + 1}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{17}$$

so  $(x - (-1))^2 + (y - 2)^2 = (\sqrt{17})^2$

$$(x + 1)^2 + (y - 2)^2 = 17$$

4. a) Prove that the triangle  $ABC$  is right angled when  $A(-3, -2)$ ,  $B(3, -1)$  and  $C(2, 5)$ ,

$$AB = \sqrt{(x_B - x_A)^2 + (y_B - y_A)^2}$$

$$AB = \sqrt{(3 - (-3))^2 + (-1 - (-2))^2}$$

$$AB = \sqrt{6^2 + 1^2}$$

$$AB = \sqrt{36 + 1}$$

$$AB = \sqrt{37}$$

Could use  
gradients  
instead

$$BC = \sqrt{(2 - 3)^2 + (5 - (-1))^2}$$

$$BC = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 6^2}$$

$$BC = \sqrt{1 + 36}$$

$$BC = \sqrt{37}$$

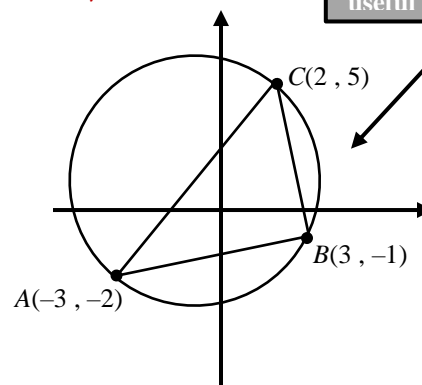
$$AC = \sqrt{(2 - (-3))^2 + (5 - (-2))^2}$$

$$AC = \sqrt{5^2 + 7^2}$$

$$AC = \sqrt{25 + 49}$$

$$AC = \sqrt{74}$$

If no diagram is  
given it may be  
useful to sketch one!



Since  $AC^2 = AB^2 + BC^2$  the triangle is right angled.

- b) Hence find the equation of the circle passing through these 3 points.

From part (a), we can see that  $AC$  is the diameter of the circle.

Angle in a semicircle  
from Nat 5

$$\text{Midpoint } AC = \left( \frac{x_A + x_C}{2}, \frac{y_A + y_C}{2} \right)$$

$$\text{Midpoint } AC = \left( \frac{-3 + 2}{2}, \frac{-2 + 5}{2} \right)$$

$$\text{Midpoint } AC = \left( -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2} \right)$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{(x_M - x_A)^2 + (y_M - y_A)^2}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{(-1 - (-3))^2 + (2 - (-2))^2}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{4^2 + (-1)^2}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{16 + 1}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{17}$$

so  $(x - (-1))^2 + (y - 2)^2 = (\sqrt{17})^2$

$$(x + 1)^2 + (y - 2)^2 = 17$$

## General Equation of a Circle:

- The equation of a circle can also be given in the following form (earlier equation expanded!!):  
 $x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0$  where the centre is  $(-g, -f)$  and the radius is  $\sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$
- As soon as you see an equation of a circle in a question it is **ALWAYS** worthwhile stating the centre & radius, regardless of what format the equation is given in or what the question is asking!!

## Examples:

5. Find the radius and centre of:  $x^2 + y^2 + 4x - 8y + 7 = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} 2g &= 4 & 2f &= -8 & c &= 7 \\ g &= 2 & f &= -4 \end{aligned}$$

so centre is  $(-2, 4)$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{2^2 + (-4)^2 - 7}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{4 + 16 - 7}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{13} \text{ units}$$

You should use  $g$  and  $f$   
NOT the centre

6. Find the radius and centre of:  $2x^2 + 2y^2 - 6x + 10y - 2 = 0$

$$x^2 + y^2 - 3x + 5y - 1 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2g &= -3 & 2f &= 5 & c &= -1 \\ g &= \frac{-3}{2} & f &= \frac{5}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{so centre is } \left(\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{5}{2}\right)$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{-3}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^2 - (-1)}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} + \frac{25}{4} + 1}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{\frac{38}{4}} = \frac{\sqrt{38}}{2} \text{ units}$$

The equation must be in the form:  
 $x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0$   
so divide the original by 2

7. Explain why  $x^2 + y^2 - 4x + 2y + 42 = 0$  is not an equation of a circle.

$$\begin{array}{lll} 2g = -4 & 2f = 2 & c = 42 \\ g = -2 & f = 1 & \end{array}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + 1^2 - 42}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{4 + 1 - 42}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{-37}$$

since root of a negative is not possible, the equation above does not represent a circle.

so centre is (2, -1)

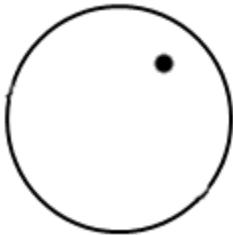
Did not require the centre  
for this question.

This is not totally accurate,  
but at higher it is fine!!

Now attempt Exercise 2 from the Circles booklet

## Points Inside/Outside/On Circles:

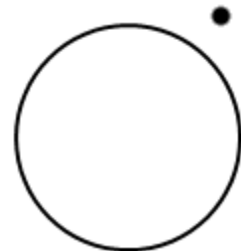
- A point can lie **INSIDE** a Circle, **ON** a Circle or **OUTSIDE** a Circle as follows:



INSIDE the circle



ON the circle



OUTSIDE the circle

- To determine where a point lies in relation to the circle we compare the distance from the **CENTRE** of the circle to the point with the **RADIUS** of the Circle.
  - Distance = Radius → Point lies **ON** the Circle.
  - Distance > Radius → Point lies **OUTSIDE** the Circle.
  - Distance < Radius → Point lies **INSIDE** the Circle.
- If asked to **PROVE** or **SHOW** that a point lies **ON** the circle you could sub the coordinate into the equation instead to get zero if it does lie on the circle (See example 14(a) later on).

## Examples:

8. Where does each point below lie in relation to the Circle given:

a)  $(x - 8)^2 + (y + 3)^2 = 36$  Pt A(3, -10)

Centre (8, -3) & Radius =  $\sqrt{36} = 6$

$$AC = \sqrt{(8 - 3)^2 + (-3 - (-10))^2}$$

$$AC = \sqrt{5^2 + 7^2}$$

$$AC = \sqrt{25 + 49}$$

$$AC = \sqrt{74} \approx 8.6 \quad \text{So Point A lies OUTSIDE the Circle since } 8.6 > 6$$

b)  $(x + 5)^2 + (y - 2)^2 = 117$  Pt B(1, -4)

Centre (-5, 2) & Radius =  $\sqrt{117} \approx 10.8$

$$BC = \sqrt{(-5 - 1)^2 + (2 - (-4))^2}$$

$$BC = \sqrt{(-6)^2 + 6^2}$$

$$BC = \sqrt{36 + 36}$$

$$BC = \sqrt{72} \approx 8.5 \quad \text{So Point B lies INSIDE the Circle since } \sqrt{72} < \sqrt{117}$$

c)  $x^2 + y^2 + 4x - 8y + 7 = 0$  Pt D(1, 2)

$$\begin{array}{lll} 2g = 4 & 2f = -8 & c = 7 \\ g = 2 & f = -4 & \end{array}$$

so centre is (-2, 4)

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$$

$$BC = \sqrt{(-2 - 1)^2 + (4 - 2)^2}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{2^2 + (-4)^2 - 7}$$

$$BC = \sqrt{(-3)^2 + 2^2}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{4 + 16 - 7}$$

$$BC = \sqrt{9 + 4}$$

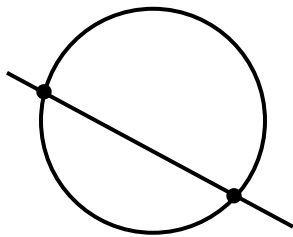
$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{13} \approx 3.6$$

$$BC = \sqrt{13}$$

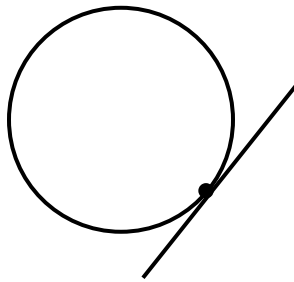
$$\text{So Point D lies ON the Circle since } \sqrt{13} = \sqrt{13}$$

## Intersection of Circles with Lines:

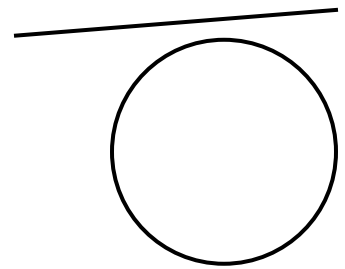
- Straight lines can intersect (meet) circles at either 2, 1 or zero points as follows:



2 Points of intersection  
 $b^2 - 4ac > 0$



1 Point of intersection  
So Tangent to the circle  
 $b^2 - 4ac = 0$



No Points of intersection  
 $b^2 - 4ac < 0$

- To determine the nature of the points of intersection we use the SUBSTITUTION method of Simultaneous equations from Naionalt 5.

Discriminant  
from National 5

## Examples:

9. Find where the line  $y = 4x$  meets the circle with equation  $x^2 + y^2 = 34$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Substitute } y = 4x \text{ into the circle } x^2 + y^2 &= 34 \Rightarrow x^2 + (4x)^2 = 34 \\
 &\Rightarrow x^2 + 16x^2 = 34 \\
 &\Rightarrow 17x^2 = 34 \\
 &\Rightarrow x^2 = 2 \\
 &\Rightarrow x = \pm\sqrt{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

When  $x = \pm\sqrt{2}$ :  $y = \pm 4\sqrt{2}$  So Points of Intersection are:  $(\sqrt{2}, 4\sqrt{2})$  and  $(-\sqrt{2}, -4\sqrt{2})$

10. Find the points where the line  $2x + y - 6 = 0$  intersects the circle  $x^2 + y^2 - 2x + 2y - 8 = 0$

$$2x + y - 6 = 0 \Rightarrow y = -2x + 6 \quad \text{Substitute } y = -2x + 6 \text{ into the circle :}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + y^2 - 2x + 2y + 8 = 0 &\Rightarrow x^2 + (-2x + 6)^2 - 2x + 2(-2x + 6) - 8 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow x^2 + (4x^2 - 24x + 36) - 2x - 4x + 12 - 8 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow 5x^2 - 30x + 40 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow x^2 - 6x + 8 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow (x - 2)(x - 4) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow x - 2 = 0 \quad x - 4 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow x = 2, 4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{When } x = 2: y = -2(2) + 6 \Rightarrow y = 2 \quad \text{so Pt } (2, 2)$$

$$\text{When } x = 4: y = -2(4) + 6 \Rightarrow y = -2 \quad \text{so Pt } (4, -2)$$

11. Prove that the line  $x + y = 4$  is a tangent to the circle  $x^2 + y^2 + 6x + 2y - 22 = 0$  and find the point of contact.

$$x + y = 4 \Rightarrow y = -x + 4 \quad \text{Substitute } y = -x + 4 \text{ into the circle :}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + y^2 + 6x + 2y - 22 = 0 &\Rightarrow x^2 + (-x + 4)^2 + 6x + 2(-x + 4) - 22 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow x^2 + x^2 - 8x + 16 + 6x - 2x + 8 - 22 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow 2x^2 - 4x + 2 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow x^2 - 2x + 1 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow (x - 1)(x - 1) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow x - 1 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow x = 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{When } x = 1: y = -1 + 4 \Rightarrow y = 3 \quad \text{so Pt } (1, 3)$$

Since only one point of contact the line is a tangent to the circle at the point  $(1, 3)$

The Discriminant  
could be used at  
this point as  
shown below





**OR** using the **DISCRIMINANT**:

$$x^2 - 2x + 1 = 0 \quad \text{so } a = 1, b = -2, c = 1$$

$$b^2 - 4ac = (-2)^2 - 4(1)(1)$$

$$= 4 - 4$$

$$= 0 \quad \text{since } b^2 - 4ac = 0 \text{ the line is a tangent to the circle.}$$

$$x^2 - 2x + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x - 1)(x - 1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x - 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 1$$

$$\text{When } x = 1: y = -1 + 4 \Rightarrow y = 3 \quad \text{so Pt } (1, 3)$$

In example 11 above it is probably more sensible to use the first method as you need to find the Point of Intersection anyway. If only asked to prove the Line is a Tangent then either method is suitable.

**12.** Determine whether the line  $x + y = 4$  intersects the circle  $x^2 + y^2 + 2x - 3y + 2 = 0$

$$x - y = 5 \Rightarrow x = y + 5 \quad \text{Substitute } x = y + 5 \text{ into the circle :}$$

Can change to  $x =$  or  $y =$ 

$$x^2 + y^2 + 2x - 3y + 2 = 0 \Rightarrow (y + 5)^2 + y^2 + 2(y + 5) - 3y + 2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y^2 + 10y + 25 + y^2 + 2y + 10 - 3y + 2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2y^2 + 9y + 37 = 0$$

$$2y^2 + 9y + 37 = 0 \quad \text{so } a = 2, b = 9, c = 37$$

$$b^2 - 4ac = 9^2 - 4(2)(37)$$

$$= 81 - 296$$

$$= -215 \quad \text{since } b^2 - 4ac < 0 \text{ the line does NOT intersect the circle.}$$

13. The line with equation  $x - 3y = k$  is a tangent to the circle  $x^2 + y^2 - 6x + 8y + 15 = 0$   
Find the possible values of  $k$

Change to  $x =$  to avoid fractions

$x - 3y = k \Rightarrow x = 3y + k$       Substitute  $x = 3y + k$  into the circle :

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + y^2 - 6x + 8y + 15 = 0 &\Rightarrow (3y + k)^2 + y^2 - 6(3y + k) + 8y + 15 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow 9y^2 + 6ky + k^2 + y^2 - 18y - 6k + 8y + 15 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow 10y^2 + 6ky - 10y + k^2 - 6k + 15 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow 10y^2 + (6k - 10)y + (k^2 - 6k + 15) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

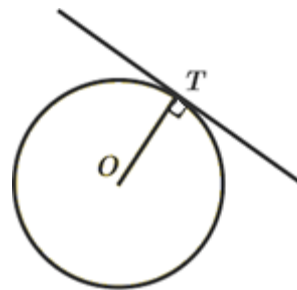
so  $a = 10$ ,  $b = 6k - 10$ ,  $c = k^2 - 6k + 15$

Since the line is a tangent  $b^2 - 4ac = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow (6k - 10)^2 - 4(10)(k^2 - 6k + 15) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow 36k^2 - 120k + 100 - 40k^2 + 240k - 600 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow -4k^2 + 120k - 500 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow k^2 - 30k + 125 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow (k - 5)(k - 25) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow k - 5 = 0 \quad k - 25 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow k = 5, 25 \end{aligned}$$

## Equation of a Tangent to a Circle:

- You can find the equation of a tangent to a circle if you know the point of contact as follows:
  - Find the centre of the circle
  - Find the gradient of the radius to the point of contact,  $m_{RAD}$ ,
  - Find the perpendicular gradient for the tangent using,  $m_{TAN} \times m_{RAD} = -1$
  - Use  $y - b = m(x - a)$  to find the tangent's equation.
- Remember: **CONGRUENT** – Objects which are the **EXACT** same size and shape.



## Examples:

14. a) Prove that the point  $A(2, -1)$  lies on the circle  $x^2 + y^2 + 8x - 3y - 24 = 0$

Sub the point into the circle equation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 2^2 + (-1)^2 + 8(2) - 3(-1) - 24 \\
 &= 4 + 1 + 16 + 3 - 24 \\
 &= 0 \quad \text{hence point lies on the circle.}
 \end{aligned}$$

Use substitution for this one!!

- b) Find the equation of the tangent to the circle at this point.

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 2g = 8 & 2f = -3 & c = -24 \\
 g = 4 & f = -\frac{3}{2} & \text{so centre is } C(-4, \frac{3}{2})
 \end{array}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{4^2 + \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 + 24}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{16 + \frac{9}{4} + 24}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{42\frac{1}{4}}$$

Did not require the radius for this question.

$$\begin{aligned}
 m_{AC} &= \frac{y_C - y_A}{x_C - x_A} \\
 &= \frac{-4 - 2}{\frac{3}{2} - (-1)} \\
 &= \frac{-6}{\frac{5}{2}} \\
 &= -\frac{12}{5}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since perpendicular

$$m_{Rad} \times m_{Tan} = -1$$

$$\text{so } m_{Tan} = \frac{5}{12}$$

$$y - b = m(x - a)$$

$$y - 2 = \frac{5}{12}(x - (-1))$$

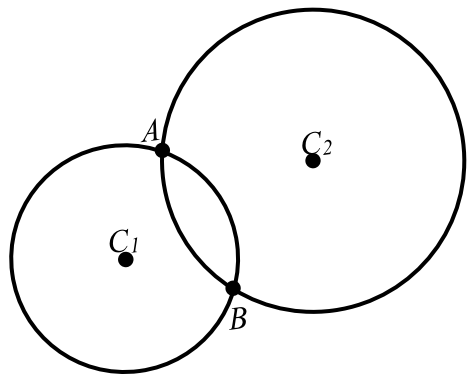
$$12y - 24 = 5x + 5$$

$$12y = 5x + 29$$

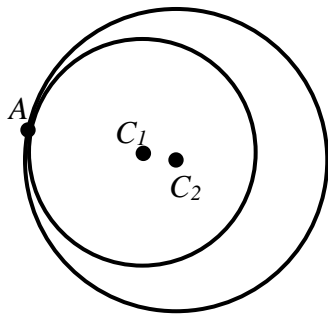
Now attempt Exercise 5 from the Circles booklet

## Intersection of Circles:

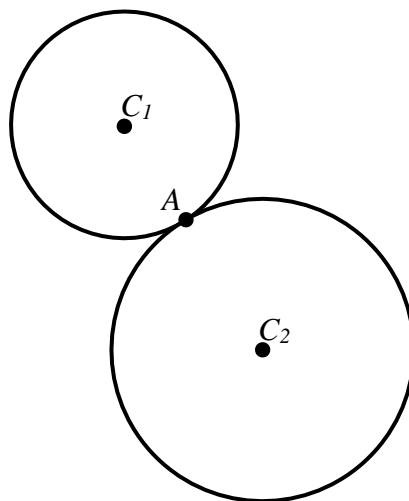
- 2 Circles can touch or intersect in 3 ways:



2 Points of intersection  
Circles cross over.  
Distance between centres is  
less than sum of the 2 Radii.



1 Point of intersection  
Circles touch **INTERNALLY**  
Distance between centres  
equals difference of the 2 Radii.



1 Point of intersection  
Circles touch **EXTERNALLY**  
Distance between centres  
equals sum of the 2 Radii.

## Examples:

15. Circle  $P$  has centre  $(-4, -1)$  and radius 2 units.

Circle  $Q$  has equation  $x^2 + y^2 - 2x + 6y + 1 = 0$ .

Show that circles  $P$  and  $Q$  do not touch.

$$\begin{array}{lll} 2g = -2 & 2f = 6 & c = 1 \\ g = -1 & f = 3 & \text{so centre is } C(1, -3) \end{array}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 3^2 - 1}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{9} = 3$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{(x_Q - x_P)^2 + (y_Q - y_P)^2}$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{(1 - (-4))^2 + (-3 - (-1))^2}$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{5^2 + (-2)^2}$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{25 + 4} = \sqrt{29}$$

Since  $R_1 + R_2 = 3 + 2 = 5 < \sqrt{29}$  the circles do **NOT** touch.

16. Circle  $R$  has equation  $x^2 + y^2 - 2x - 4y - 4 = 0$  and

Circle  $S$  has equation  $(x - 4)^2 + (y - 6)^2 = 4$

Show that circles  $R$  and  $S$  touch externally.

$$2g = -2 \quad 2f = -4 \quad c = -4$$

$$g = -1 \quad f = -2$$

so centre is  $C_R(1, 2)$

Centre is  $C_S(4, 6)$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{4}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + (-2)^2 + 4}$$

$$\text{Radius} = 2$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{9} = 3$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{(x_S - x_R)^2 + (y_S - y_R)^2}$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{(4 - 1)^2 + (6 - 2)^2}$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2}$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{9 + 16} = \sqrt{25} = 5$$

Since  $R_1 + R_2 = 3 + 2 = 5$  the circles touch **EXTERNALLY**.

17. Circle  $T$  has equation  $x^2 + y^2 - 6x + 6y - 46 = 0$  and

Circle  $U$  has equation  $(x + 1)^2 + y^2 = 9$

Show that circles  $T$  and  $U$  touch internally.

$$2g = -6 \quad 2f = 6 \quad c = -46$$

$$g = -3 \quad f = 3$$

so centre is  $C_R(3, -3)$

Centre is  $C_S(-1, 0)$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{9}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{(-3)^2 + 3^2 + 46}$$

$$\text{Radius} = 3$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{64} = 8$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{(x_S - x_R)^2 + (y_S - y_R)^2}$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{(3 - (-1))^2 + (-3 - 0)^2}$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{4^2 + (-3)^2}$$

$$\text{Centres} = \sqrt{16 + 9} = \sqrt{25} = 5$$

Since  $R_1 - R_2 = 8 - 3 = 5$  the circles touch **INTERNALLY**.

Now attempt Exercise 6 from the Circles booklet

## Circle Problems:

- You are sometimes asked to find points on the Circles or centres/radii of adjoining circles:
- You have all the knowledge to solve these problems, it is simply knowing how to apply it!!
- Some of these can be solved more efficiently using VECTORS, the next topic we will look at.

## Examples:

18. A circle, centre  $C$ , has the equation

$$x^2 + y^2 + 16x - 6y + 37 = 0$$

A smaller circle, centre  $A$ , touches the bigger circle internally and passes through  $C$ .

The centres of the circles lie on a line parallel with the  $x$ -axis.

Find the equation of the circle, centre  $A$ .

$$2g = 16 \quad 2f = -6 \quad c = 37$$

$$g = 8 \quad f = -3$$

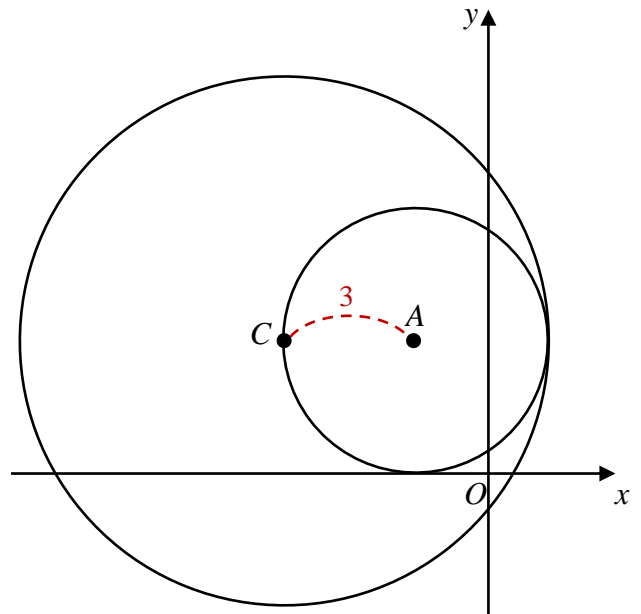
so centre is  $C(-8, 3)$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{8^2 + (-3)^2 + 37}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{36} = 6 \quad \text{so the Radius of the smaller circle is } 3$$

So the Centre  $A$  is  $(-5, 3)$  giving  $(x + 5)^2 + (y - 3)^2 = 9$



No need to expand  
the brackets

19. A circle, centre  $C$ , has the equation

$$x^2 + y^2 - 2x - 4y - 36 = 0$$

The point  $A(-4, -2)$  lies on the circle.

Find the point  $B$ , which lies diametrically opposite point  $A$ .

$$2g = -2 \quad 2f = -4 \quad c = -36$$

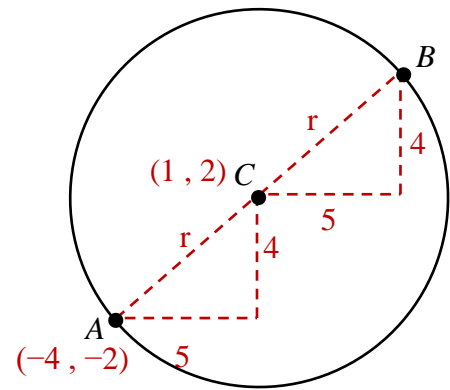
$$g = -1 \quad f = -2$$

so centre is  $C(1, 2)$

Ratio  $AC : CB$  is  $1 : 1$

So the point  $B$  is  $(6, 6)$

Diametrically opposite means a line can join the 2 points passing through the Centre



This method is known as the STEP OUT method.

20. The smaller circle with Centre  $A$  has equation,

$$x^2 + y^2 + 4x - 18y + 12 = 0$$

The radius of the larger circle, centre  $C$ , is twice as long as the radius of the smaller circle.

The coordinates of  $B$ , the point where the 2 circles meet externally is  $B(6, 12)$ .

What is the equation of the larger circle?

$$2g = 4 \quad 2f = -18 \quad c = 12$$

$$g = 2 \quad f = -9$$

so centre is  $A(-2, 9)$

Ratio  $AB : BC$  is  $1 : 2$

So the point  $C$  is  $(22, 18)$

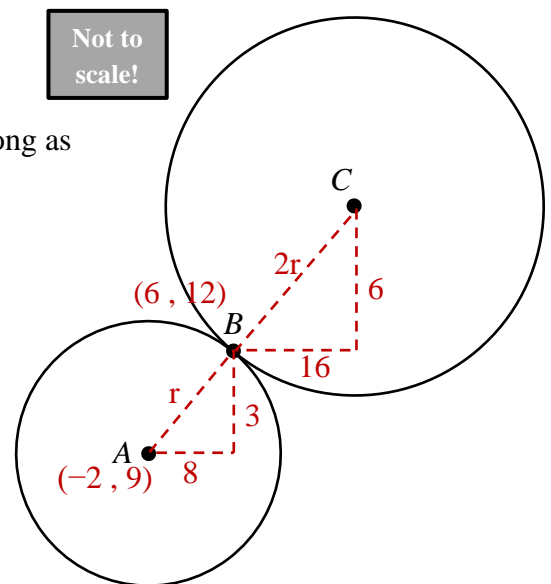
$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{2^2 + (-9)^2 - 12}$$

$$\text{Radius} = \sqrt{73} \quad \text{so the Radius of the larger circle is } 2\sqrt{73}$$

$$\text{Equation of the larger circle is } (x - 22)^2 + (y - 18)^2 = 292$$

Again no need to expand the brackets



Not to scale!

You may find it easier to do this part using VECTORS which we will see next topic!!

Now attempt Exercise 7A/B – 9 from the Circles booklet