

6) Circles

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6.1) Midpoints and perpendicular bisectors [Chapter CONTENTS](#)

Worked example

Find the midpoint of the line segment between:

$(2, 4)$ and $(8, 8)$

$(-2, 4)$ and $(-9, 9)$

Your turn

Find the midpoint of the line segment between:

$(2, -4)$ and $(11, 8)$

$(6.5, 2)$

Worked example

Find the perpendicular bisector of $A(2, 5)$ and $B(6, 7)$

Your turn

Find the perpendicular bisector of $A(2, 5)$ and $B(6, 7)$

$$y = -2x + 14$$

Worked example

Find the perpendicular bisector of $A(3, 8)$ and $B(1, -2)$

Your turn

Find the perpendicular bisector of $A(3, 8)$ and $B(1, -4)$

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 7$$

Worked example

A line segment AB is the diameter of a circle with centre $(4, -5)$. If A has coordinates $(2, -1)$, what are the coordinates of B ?

Your turn

A line segment AB is the diameter of a circle with centre $(5, -4)$. If A has coordinates $(1, -2)$, what are the coordinates of B ?

$(9, -6)$

6.2) Equation of a circle

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Worked example

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(6, 7)$ and radius 2

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(-6, 7)$ and radius 3

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(-6, -7)$ and radius 4

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(6, -7)$ and radius 5

Your turn

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(4, 5)$ and radius 9

$$(x - 4)^2 + (y - 5)^2 = 81$$

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(-4, 5)$ and radius 8

$$(x + 4)^2 + (y - 5)^2 = 64$$

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(-4, -5)$ and radius 7

$$(x + 4)^2 + (y + 5)^2 = 49$$

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(4, -5)$ and radius 6

$$(x - 4)^2 + (y + 5)^2 = 36$$

Worked example

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(0, 0)$ and radius 3

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(0, 3)$ and radius 2

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(-2, 0)$ and radius $2\sqrt{3}$

Your turn

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(0, 0)$ and radius 5

$$x^2 + y^2 = 25$$

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(0, -5)$ and radius 4

$$x^2 + (y + 5)^2 = 16$$

Write down the equation of the circle with centre $(4, 0)$ and radius $4\sqrt{5}$

$$(x - 4)^2 + y^2 = 80$$

Worked example

A circle has equation $(x + 5)^2 + (y - 2)^2 = 80$.

- a) Write down the centre and radius
- b) Show that the circle passes through $(-1, 10)$

Your turn

A circle has equation $(x - 3)^2 + (y + 4)^2 = 20$.

- a) Write down the centre and radius
 - b) Show that the circle passes through $(5, -8)$
- a) Centre $(3, -4)$, radius $2\sqrt{5}$
 - b) Shown via substitution

Worked example

A line segment AB is the diameter of a circle, where A and B have coordinates $(5,8)$ and $(-7,4)$ respectively. Determine the equation of the circle.

Your turn

A line segment AB is the diameter of a circle, where A and B have coordinates $(4,7)$ and $(-8,3)$ respectively. Determine the equation of the circle.

$$(x + 2)^2 + (y - 5)^2 = 40$$

Worked example

Find the centre and radius of the circle with equation

$$x^2 + y^2 + 8x - 6y - 2 = 0$$

Your turn

Find the centre and radius of the circle with equation

$$x^2 + y^2 - 14x + 16y - 12 = 0$$

Centre $(7, -8)$, radius $5\sqrt{5}$

Worked example

A circle has equation $x^2 + y^2 + 6x + 4y = k$, where k is a constant.

State the range of possible values of k

Your turn

A circle has equation $x^2 + y^2 + 10x + 8y = k$, where k is a constant.

State the range of possible values of k

$$k > -41$$

Worked example

The circle with equation $x^2 + (y - k)^2 = 41$ passes through the point $(5, 6)$.

Find the two possible values of k

Your turn

The circle with equation $(x - k)^2 + y^2 = 45$ passes through the point $(4, 3)$.

Find the two possible values of k

$$k = -2, k = 10$$

6.3) Intersections of straight lines and circles [Chapter CONTENTS](#)

Worked example

Find the coordinates of the points where the line $y = x + 4$ meets the circle $x^2 + (y - 3)^2 = 61$

Your turn

Find the coordinates of the points where the line $y = x + 5$ meets the circle $x^2 + (y - 2)^2 = 29$

$(-5, 0)$ and $(2, 7)$

Worked example

Show that the line $y = x + 4$ does not meet the circle $(x - 3)^2 + y^2 = 22$

Your turn

Show that the line $y = x - 7$ does not meet the circle $(x + 2)^2 + y^2 = 33$

Shown using discriminant.

Worked example

The line with equation $y = kx$ intersects the circle with equation $x^2 - 8x + y^2 + 12y + 32 = 0$ at two distinct points.

Find the range of possible values of k to 2 dp

Your turn

The line with equation $y = kx$ intersects the circle with equation $x^2 - 4x + y^2 + 10y + 23 = 0$ at two distinct points.

Find the range of possible values of k to 2 dp

$$k = -0.87, k = 10.87 \text{ (2 dp)}$$

Worked example

Using an algebraic method, determine k such that the line $y = x + k$ touches the circle with equation $x^2 + y^2 = 9$

Your turn

Using an algebraic method, determine k such that the line $y = x + k$ touches the circle with equation $x^2 + y^2 = 1$

$$k = \pm\sqrt{2}$$

Worked example

The line with equation $y = 5x + 2$ meets the circle with equation $x^2 + kx + y^2 = 6$ at exactly one point. Find the two possible values of k

Your turn

The line with equation $y = 4x + 3$ meets the circle with equation $x^2 + kx + y^2 = 7$ at exactly one point. Find the two possible values of k

$$k = -24 \pm 4\sqrt{6}$$

Worked example

The line with equation $y = 4x - 3$ does not intersect the circle with equation $x^2 + 2x + y^2 = k$.

Find the range of possible values of k .

Your turn

The line with equation $y = 3x - 2$ does not intersect the circle with equation $x^2 + 4x + y^2 = k$.

Find the range of possible values of k .

$$k < \frac{12}{5}$$

6.4) Use tangent and chord properties [Chapter CONTENTS](#)

Worked example

Find the equation of the tangent to $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ at the point $(3, 4)$

Your turn

Find the equation of the tangent to $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ at the point $(4, 3)$

$$y = -\frac{4}{3}x + \frac{25}{3}$$

Worked example

Find the equation of the tangent to $x^2 + y^2 = 169$ at the point $(5, 12)$

Your turn

Find the equation of the tangent to $x^2 + y^2 = 169$ at the point $(-5, 12)$

$$y = \frac{5}{12}x + \frac{169}{12}$$

Worked example

The circle C has equation

$$(x - 3)^2 + (y - 7)^2 = 100$$

- a) Verify the point $P(11,1)$ lies on C .
- b) Find an equation of the tangent to C at the point P , giving your answer in the form $ax + by + c = 0$

Your turn

The circle C has equation

$$(x - 2)^2 + (y - 6)^2 = 100$$

- a) Verify the point $P(10,0)$ lies on C .
- b) Find an equation of the tangent to C at the point P , giving your answer in the form $ax + by + c = 0$

a) Verified using substitution

b) $4x - 3y = 40 = 0$

Worked example

A circle C has equation

$$(x - 4)^2 + (y + 4)^2 = 10$$

The line l is a tangent to the circle and has gradient -3 . Find two possible equations for l , giving your answers in the form $y = mx + c$.

Your turn

A circle C has equation

$$(x - 5)^2 + (y + 3)^2 = 10$$

The line l is a tangent to the circle and has gradient -3 . Find two possible equations for l , giving your answers in the form $y = mx + c$.

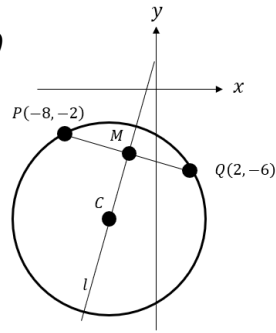
$$y = -3x + 2 \text{ and } y = -3x + 22$$

Worked example

The point P has coordinates $(-8, -2)$ and the point Q has coordinates $(2, -6)$.

M is the midpoint of the line segment PQ

- a) Find an equation for l .
- b) Given that the y -coordinate of C is -9 :
 - i) show that the x -coordinate of C is -5 .
 - ii) find an equation of the circle.

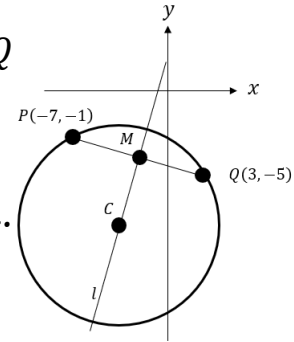


Your turn

The point P has coordinates $(-7, -1)$ and the point Q has coordinates $(3, -5)$.

M is the midpoint of the line segment PQ

- a) Find an equation for l .
- b) Given that the y -coordinate of C is -8 :
 - i) show that the x -coordinate of C is -4 .
 - ii) find an equation of the circle.



a) $y = \frac{5}{2}x + 2$

b) i) Shown

ii) $(x + 4)^2 + (y + 8)^2 = 58$

Worked example

The line with equation $4x + y - 5 = 0$ is a tangent to the circle with equation $(x - 3)^2 + (y - p)^2 = 2$.

Find the two possible values of p

Your turn

The line with equation $4x + y - 3 = 0$ is a tangent to the circle with equation $(x - 2)^2 + (y - p)^2 = 5$.

Find the two possible values of p

$$p = 3 \pm \sqrt{19}$$

Worked example

A circle has centre $C(5,3)$, and passes through the point $P(2,6)$.

Find the equation of the tangent of the circle at the point P , giving your equation in the form $ax + by + c = 0$ where a, b, c are integers..

Your turn

A circle has centre $C(3,5)$, and passes through the point $P(6,9)$.

Find the equation of the tangent of the circle at the point P , giving your equation in the form $ax + by + c = 0$ where a, b, c are integers..

$$3x + 4y - 54 = 0$$

Worked example

A circle passes through the points $A(0,0)$ and $B(2,8)$.

The centre of the circle has x value -2 .

Determine the equation of the circle.

Your turn

A circle passes through the points $A(0,0)$ and $B(4,2)$.

The centre of the circle has x value -1 .

Determine the equation of the circle.

$$(x + 1)^2 + (y - 7)^2 = 50$$

6.5) Circles and triangles

[Chapter CONTENTS](#)

Worked example

The points $A(-1,8)$, $B(-5, -4)$, $C(-9,4)$ lie on a circle.

- a) Show that AB is a diameter of the circle.
- b) Hence find the equation of the circle

Your turn

The points $A(-8,1)$, $B(4,5)$, $C(-4,9)$ lie on a circle.

- a) Show that AB is a diameter of the circle.
- b) Hence find the equation of the circle

a) Shown

b) $(x + 2)^2 + (y - 3)^2 = 40$

Worked example

The points $A(0,2)$, $B(2,0)$, $C(8,18)$ lie on the circumference of a circle.

Determine the equation of the circle.

Your turn

The points $A(3,16)$, $B(11,12)$, $C(-7,6)$ lie on the circumference of a circle.

Determine the equation of the circle.

$$(x - 3)^2 + (y - 6)^2 = 100$$