

ANALYTICAL GEOMETRY**OUTCOMES:**

- The equation of a circle with centre the origin and radius r
- The equation of a circle with centre $(a;b)$ and radius r
- The equation of a tangent to a circle

INTRODUCTION - OVERVIEW OF BASIC CONCEPTS

The equation of a circle with centre the origin and radius r

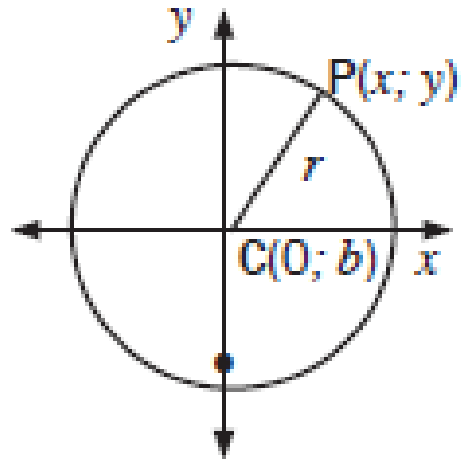
$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2$$

We use the **distance formula** to work out the equation of a circle with centre $C(0; 0)$. If $P(x; y)$ is any point on the circle with radius r then:

$$d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

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

$$r^2 = x^2 + y^2$$

**WORKED EXAMPLE 1:**

Find the equation of a circle centre O with the point $P(5; 2)$ on its circumference.

$$r^2 = x^2 + y^2$$

$$r^2 = 5^2 + 2^2$$

$$r^2 = 29$$

$$\therefore x^2 + y^2 = 29$$

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The equation of a circle with centre $(a;b)$ and radius r

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$$

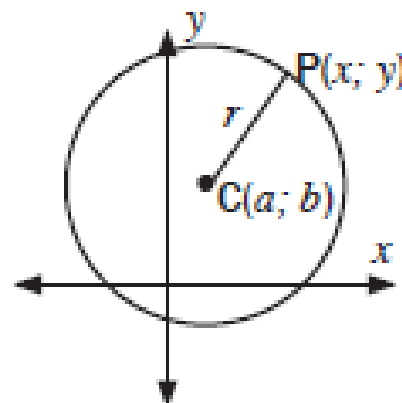
If we move the centre of the circle to any point on the Cartesian plane $C(a; b)$.

Then:

$$d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

$$r = \sqrt{(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2}$$

$$r^2 = (x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2$$



WORKED EXAMPLE 2:

The equation of a circle is $(x + 1)^2 + (y - 3)^2 = 16$.

Determine the coordinates of the centre and the length of the radius.

The equation is already in the form $r^2 = (x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2$, with $a = -1$, $b = 3$ and $r^2 = 16$.

So: the centre is $(-1; 3)$ and the radius is:

$$r^2 = 16 \therefore r = \pm 4 \therefore r = 4$$

NOTE: the radius can only be a positive number because it is a length.

WORKED EXAMPLE 3:

Determine the equation of a circle with centre $C(-1; -2)$ and passing through the point $B(1; -6)$.

First find the value of r^2

$$r^2 = (x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2$$

STEP 1: Substitute centre $C(-1; -2)$

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$$r^2 = (x + 1)^2 + (y + 2)^2$$

STEP 2: Substitute $B(1; -6)$

$$r^2 = (1 + 1)^2 + (-6 + 2)^2$$

$$r^2 = (2)^2 + (-4)^2$$

$$r^2 = 20$$

STEP 3: Replace r^2 and centre

$$\therefore 20 = (x + 1)^2 + (y + 2)^2$$

WORKED EXAMPLE 4:

Determine the coordinates of the centre and the length of the radius if a circle has the equation: $x^2 - 2x + y^2 + 10y = -14$

$$(x^2 - 2x) + (y^2 + 10y) = -14$$

$$(x^2 - 2x + 1) - 1 + (y^2 + 10y + 25) - 25 = -14$$

$$(x^2 - 2x + 1) + (y^2 + 10y + 25) = -14 + 1 + 25$$

$$(x - 1)(x - 1) + (y + 5)(y + 5) = 12$$

$$(x - 1)^2 + (y + 5)^2 = 12$$

The centre is: $(1; -5)$

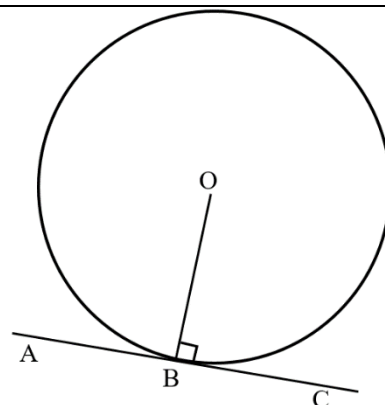
The radius is:

$$r^2 = 12 \therefore r = \sqrt{12} = 2\sqrt{3}$$

The equation of a tangent to a circle

THEOREM 8

A tangent to a circle is perpendicular to the radius at the point of contact.



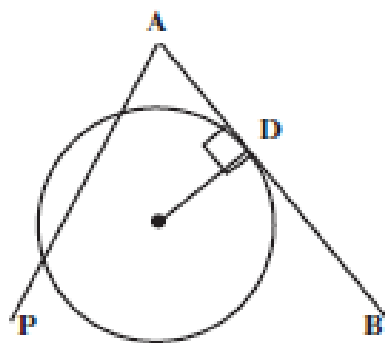
$$\bullet m_{RADIUS} \times m_{TANGENT} = -1 \text{ (PERPENDICULAR LINES)}$$

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- $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ (GRADIENT OF A STRAIGHT LINE)
- $y = mx + c$ or $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$ (EQUATION OF A STRAIGHT LINE)

A tangent is a **straight line** which touches a circle at **ONE point** only.
So ADB is a tangent, but AP is NOT a tangent.

A tangent to a circle at any point on the circumference is perpendicular to the radius at that point; so **$AB \perp CD$** .



WORKED EXAMPLE 5:

Find the equation of the tangent APB which touches a circle centre C with equation $(x - 3)^2 + (y + 1)^2 = 20$ at $P(5; 3)$.

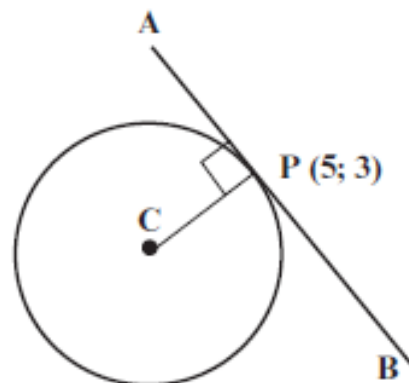
Centre of circle is $C(3; -1)$ so the gradient of the radius CP is:

$$m_{CP} = \frac{3 - (-1)}{5 - 3} = 2$$

radius $\perp$ tangent; so, $m_{APB} \times m_{CP} = -1$ and
so $m_{APB} = -\frac{1}{2}$

Equation of tangent: $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$

$$y - 3 = -\frac{1}{2}(x - 5)$$



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$$y - 3 = -\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{5}{2}$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}x + 5\frac{1}{2}$$

$\therefore$ M lies on AC

HOMEWORK ACTIVITY

1.	Determine the equation of the circle with centre at the origin and:	
a)	Radius 7	$49 = x^2 + y^2$
b)	Radius $2\sqrt{7}$	$28 = x^2 + y^2$
c)	Passing through the point $(2; -1)$	$5 = x^2 + y^2$
d)	Passing through the point $(-4; -1)$	$17 = x^2 + y^2$
2.	Determine the radius of each of the following circles:	
a)	$x^2 + y^2 = 1$	$r = 1$
b)	$x^2 + y^2 = 100$	$r = 10$
c)	$2x^2 + 2y^2 = 10$	$r = \sqrt{5}$
3.	Determine the equation of the circle with	
a)	Centre $(-1; 1)$ and radius 3 units.	$9 = (x + 1)^2 + (y - 1)^2$
b)	Centre $(4; -3)$ and passing through the points $(-2; 3)$.	$72 = (x - 4)^2 + (y + 3)^2$
c)	Centre $(3; 0)$ and radius $3\sqrt{2}$ units.	
d)	Centre $(2; 3)$ and radius 6.	
e)	Centre $(1; -7)$ and radius $\sqrt{5}$.	

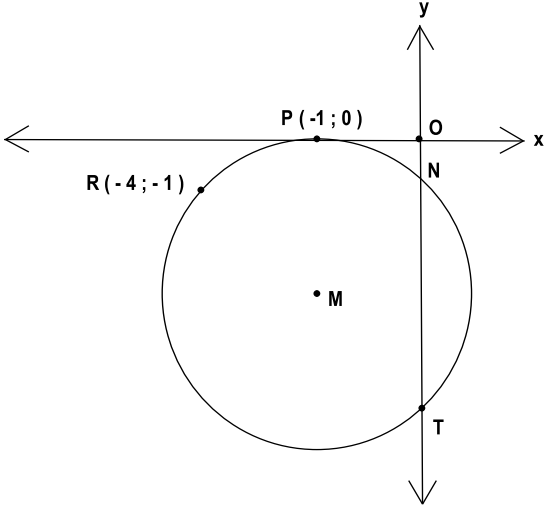
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f)	Centre $(-3; -2)$ and $(0; -8)$ a point on the circle.	$45 = (x + 3)^2 + (y + 2)^2$
g)	Centre $(2; 1)$ and radius $2\sqrt{3}$	
h)	Centre $(3; -5)$ and passing through the point $(-1; 1)$	
4.	Determine the coordinates of the centre and the radius of the circle	
a)	$(x - 1)^2 + (y - 3)^2 = 16$	Centre: $(1; 3)$ Radius: 4
b)	$(x - 2)^2 + y^2 = 20$	Centre: (Radius:
c)	$x^2 + y^2 - 2x - 24 = 0$	Centre: (Radius:
d)	$x^2 - 4x + y^2 + 2y - 20 = 0$	Centre: $(2; -1)$ Radius: 5
e)	$y^2 + x^2 + 2x - 12 = 0$	Centre: (Radius:
f)	$x^2 + y^2 - 2x + 4y = 31$	Centre: $(1; -2)$ Radius: $\sqrt{37}$
g)	$(x - 5)^2 + (y + 1)^2 = 24$	Centre: $(4; 1)$ Radius: $\sqrt{37}$
h)	$x^2 + y^2 - 8x - 2y - 20 = 0$	
5.	Determine the equation of the tangent that touches the circle	

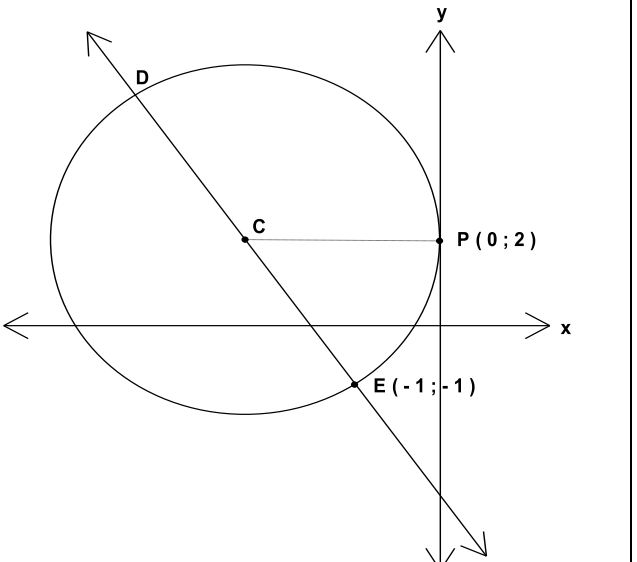
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a)	$x^2 + y^2 = 10$ at the point $(-3; 1)$	$y = 3x + 10$
b)	$x^2 + y^2 = 5$ at the point $(1; -2)$	
c)	$x^2 + y^2 = 25$ at the point $T (3; 4)$	
d)	$4x^2 + 4y^2 = 65$ at the point $(-\frac{1}{2}; 4)$	
6.	The equation of a straight line and a circle are given. For each determine the point (s) of intersection of the line and the circle (if any).	
a)	$y + 2x = 10$ and $x^2 + y^2 = 25$	$(5; 0)$ and $(3; 4)$
b)	$3y + x = 5$ and $x^2 + y^2 = 5$	
c)	$x + y = 4$ and $x^2 + y^2 = 8$	
7.	The straight line $y + 3x = 10$ cuts the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 20$ at P and Q . P is in the 1^{st} quadrant.	
a)	Determine the co-ordinates of P and Q .	
b)	Determine the length of the chord PQ	
c)	Determine the equations of the tangents to the circle at P and Q .	
8.	The equation of a circle with centre M is given by: $x^2 + y^2 + 6y - 7 = 0$	
a)	Determine the co-ordinates of M .	$M(0; -3)$
b)	Determine, by calculation, whether the straight line $y = x + 1$ is a tangent to the circle or not. Answer: Now because there are 2 answers it means it cuts the circle twice so it is not a tangent to the circle.	

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9.	In the diagram below the circle touches the x-axis at $P(-1; 0)$ and passes through the point $R(-4; -1)$. M is the centre of the circle and the circle cuts the y-axis at T and N. Determine:	
a)	The equation of the circle $b = -5$	
b)	The equation of the tangent to the circle at R . $(x + 1)^2 + (y + 5)^2 = 25$	
10.	The equation of a circle with centre M and radius r is: $x^2 + y^2 + 4x - 12y + 4 = 0$	
a)	Calculate the co-ordinates of the centre M and the length of the radius r .	
b)	Without any further calculations write down the co-ordinates of the point(s) where this circle intersects the x -axis.	
c)	Determine the equation(s) of the tangent(s) to this circle which is parallel to the y -axis.	

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11.	In the diagram below, centre C of the circle lies on the straight line $3x + 4y + 7 = 0$. The straight line cuts the circle at D and E(-1 ; -1). The circle touches the y-axis at P(0 ; 2).	
a)	Determine the equation of the circle in the form: $(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$	$(x + 5)^2 + (y - 2)^2 = 25$
b)	Determine the length of diameter DE.	$D = 10$
c)	Determine the equation of the tangent to the circle at D $m_{CD} =$ $\frac{2+1}{-5+1} = -\frac{3}{4} \therefore m_{\text{tangent}} = \frac{4}{3}$	