Question:

A circle is given by $x^2 + (y - 1)^2 = 1$, another circle C touches it externally and also the X axis, then the locus of its centre is

Solution:

As the circle touches X-axis, Distance of a point from x-axis is given by

$$r = \mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{c} \tag{1}$$

1

where **n** is the unit vector normal to x-axis

For the given circle with radius r_1 and center c_1

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

$$\mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{n} \text{ and } r_1 = 1 \tag{3}$$

Distance between their centers equal to sum of their radius

$$\|\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{p}\| = r + r_1 \tag{4}$$

$$\|\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{n}\| = \mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{c} + 1 \tag{5}$$

$$\|\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{n}\|^2 = \left(\mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{c} + 1\right)^2 \tag{6}$$

$$(\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{n}) \left(\mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}} - \mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}} \right) = \left(\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{c} + 1 \right)^{2} \tag{7}$$

$$\mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c} + \mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}} - \mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c} = \left(\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c}\right)^{\mathsf{T}}\left(\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c}\right) + 2\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c} + 1 \tag{8}$$

$$\mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c} + ||\mathbf{n}||^2 - 2\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c} = (\mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c}) + 2\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c} + 1$$
 (9)

$$\mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c} + 1 = (\mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c}) + 4\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c} + 1 \tag{10}$$

$$\mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c} - \left(\mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c}\right) = 4\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{c} \tag{11}$$

$$\mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}} \left(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{n} \mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}} \right) \mathbf{c} = 4 \mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{c} \tag{12}$$

$$\mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{c} = 4 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{c}$$
 (13)

$$\mathbf{c}^{\top} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{c} = 4 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{c}$$
 (14)

$$\begin{pmatrix} x & y \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 4 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \tag{15}$$

$$(x 0) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 4y$$
 (16)
$$x^2 = 4y$$
 (17)

$$x^2 = 4y \tag{17}$$

Hence $y \ge 0$. Then

$$\{(x,y): x^2 = 4y\} \bigcup \{(x,y): y \ge 0\}$$
 (18)