

The Circle



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Abstract—Solved problems from JEE mains papers related to 2D circles in coordinate geometry are available in this document. These problems are solved using linear algebra/matrix analysis.

1 A circle passes through the points $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ and

 $\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$. If its centre **O** lies on the line

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} - 3 = 0 \tag{1.1}$$

find its radius.

Solution: Let

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}}{2} \implies \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 3\\4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.2}$$

The direction vector of AB is

$$\mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.3}$$

Thus, O is the intersection of (1.1) and (1.4) and is the solution of the matrix equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.5}$$

From the augmented matrix,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 7 \\ -1 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 7 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{O} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.6}$$

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Thus the radius of the circle

$$OA = \|\mathbf{O} - \mathbf{A}\| = \sqrt{10} \tag{1.7}$$

2 If a circle C_1 , whose radius is 3, touches externally the circle

$$C_2: \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 4 \tag{2.1}$$

at the point $\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$, then find the length of the intercept cut by this circle C on the x-axis. **Solution:** From (2.1), the centre of C_2 is

$$\mathbf{O}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1\\2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.2}$$

The radius of the circle is given by

$$r_2^2 - \mathbf{O}_2^T \mathbf{O}_2 = 4 \implies r_2 = 3$$
 (2.3)

Since the radius of C_1 is $r_1 = r_2 = 3$ and $\mathbf{O}_1, \mathbf{P}, \mathbf{O}_2$ are collinear,

$$\frac{\mathbf{O}_1 + \mathbf{O}_2}{2} = \mathbf{P}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{O}_1 = 2\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{O}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 5\\2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.4}$$

The intercepts of C_1 on the x-axis can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{m} \tag{2.5}$$

where

$$\mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.6}$$

Susbtituting in the equation for C_1 ,

$$\|\lambda \mathbf{m} - \mathbf{O}_1\|^2 = r_1^2 \tag{2.7}$$

which can be expressed as

$$\lambda^{2} ||\mathbf{m}||^{2} - 2\lambda \mathbf{m}^{T} \mathbf{O}_{1} + ||\mathbf{O}_{1}||^{2} - r_{1}^{2} = 0$$

$$\implies \lambda^{2} - 10\lambda + 20 = 0 \quad (2.8)$$

resulting in

$$\lambda = 5 \pm \sqrt{5} \tag{2.9}$$

after substituting from (2.6) and (2.4).

3 A line drawn through the point

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \tag{3.1}$$

cuts the circle

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} = 9 \tag{3.2}$$

at the points **A** and **B**. Find *PA.PB*.

4 Find the equation of the circle, which is the mirror image of the circle

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 0 \tag{4.1}$$

in the line

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 3. \tag{4.2}$$

5 Find the locus of the centres of those circles which touch the circle

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} - 8 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 4 \tag{5.1}$$

and also touch the x-axis.

6 One of the diameters of the circle, given by

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} + 2(-2 \quad 3)\mathbf{x} = 12 = 0$$
 (6.1)

is a chord of a circle S, whose centre is at

$$\begin{pmatrix} -3\\2 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{6.2}$$

Find the radius of S.

7 A circle passes through

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2\\4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7.1}$$

and touches the y-axis at

$$\binom{0}{2}.\tag{7.2}$$

Which one of the following equations can represent a diameter of this circle?

a)
$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 6$$

b)
$$(2 -3)x + 10 = 0$$

c)
$$(3 \quad 4)\mathbf{x} = 3$$

d)
$$(5 \ 2)\mathbf{x} + 4 = 0$$

8 Find the equation of the tangent to the circle, at the point

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$
, (8.1)

whose centre is the point of intersection of the straight lines

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 3 \tag{8.2}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 1 \tag{8.3}$$

9 A straight line through the origin **O** meets the lines

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 10 \tag{9.1}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 8 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + 5 = 0 \tag{9.2}$$

at **A** and **B** respectively. Find the ratio in which **O** divides *AB*.

Solution: Let

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \tag{9.3}$$

Then (9.1) can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{x} = 10 \tag{9.4}$$

$$2\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{x} = -5 \tag{9.5}$$

and since **A**, **B** satisfy (9.4) respectively,

$$\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{A} = 10 \tag{9.6}$$

$$2\mathbf{n}^T\mathbf{B} = -5 \tag{9.7}$$

Let **O** divide the segment AB in the ratio k:1. Then

$$\mathbf{O} = \frac{k\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A}}{k+1} \tag{9.8}$$

$$: \mathbf{O} = \mathbf{0}, \tag{9.9}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = -k\mathbf{B} \tag{9.10}$$

Substituting in (9.6), and simplifying,

$$\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{B} = \frac{10}{-k} \tag{9.11}$$

$$\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{B} = \frac{-5}{2} \tag{9.12}$$

resulting in

$$\frac{10}{-k} = \frac{-5}{2} \implies k = 4 \tag{9.13}$$

10 The point

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{10.1}$$

is translated parallel to the line

$$L: \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 4 \tag{10.2}$$

by $2\sqrt{3}$ units. If the new point **Q** lies in the third quadrant, then find the equation of the line passing through **Q** and perpendicular to *L*. **Solution:** From (10.2), the direction vector of *L* is

$$\mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{10.3}$$

Thus,

$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{P} + \lambda \mathbf{m} \tag{10.4}$$

However,

$$PQ = 2\sqrt{3} \tag{10.5}$$

$$\implies \|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{Q}\| = |\lambda| \|\mathbf{m}\| = 2\sqrt{3} \qquad (10.6)$$

$$\implies \lambda = \pm \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{||\mathbf{m}||} = \pm \sqrt{6} \qquad (10.7)$$

$$||\mathbf{m}|| = \sqrt{\mathbf{m}^T \mathbf{m}} = \sqrt{2}$$
 (10.8)

from (10.3). Since \mathbf{Q} lies in the third quadrant, from (10.4) and (10.7),

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \sqrt{6} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 - \sqrt{6} \\ 1 - \sqrt{6} \end{pmatrix} \tag{10.9}$$

The equation of the desired line is then obtained as

$$\mathbf{m}^{T} \left(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{Q} \right) = 0 \tag{10.10}$$

$$(1 \quad 1)\mathbf{x} = 3 - \sqrt{6} \tag{10.11}$$

11 A variable line drawn through the intersection of the lines

$$(4 \ 3) \mathbf{x} = 12 \tag{11.1}$$

$$(3 \quad 4) \mathbf{x} = 12$$
 (11.2)

meets the coordinate axes at A and B, then find the locus of the midpoint of AB.

Solution: The intersection of the lines in (11.1) is obtained through the matrix equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix} \tag{11.3}$$

by forming the augmented matrix and row reduction as

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 & 12 \\ 3 & 4 & 12 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 & 12 \\ 0 & 7 & 12 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 28 & 0 & 48 \\ 0 & 7 & 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 7 & 12 \end{pmatrix} \tag{11.4}$$

resulting in

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{1}{7} \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix} \tag{11.5}$$

Let the \mathbf{R} be the mid point of AB. Then,

$$\mathbf{A} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} \tag{11.6}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} \tag{11.7}$$

Let the equation of AB be

$$\mathbf{n}^{T} \left(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{C} \right) = 0 \tag{11.8}$$

Since **R** lies on AB,

$$\mathbf{n}^T \left(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{C} \right) = 0 \tag{11.9}$$

Also,

$$\mathbf{n}^T \left(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} \right) = 0 \tag{11.10}$$

Substituting from (11.6) in (11.10),

$$\mathbf{n}^T \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} = 0 \tag{11.11}$$

From (11.9) and (11.11),

$$(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{C}) = k \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R}$$
 (11.12)

for some constant k. Multiplying both sides of (11.12) by

$$\mathbf{R}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{11.13}$$

$$\mathbf{R}^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} (\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{C}) = k \mathbf{R}^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R}$$
$$= k \mathbf{R}^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} = 0$$
(11.14)

$$\therefore \mathbf{R}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} = 0 \tag{11.15}$$

which can be easily verified for any \mathbf{R} . from (11.14),

$$\mathbf{R}^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} (\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{C}) = 0$$

$$\implies \mathbf{R}^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C} = 0$$

$$\implies \mathbf{R}^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} - \mathbf{C}^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} = 0 \quad (11.16)$$

which is the desired locus.

12 Two sides of a rhombus are along the lines

$$AB: (1 -1)\mathbf{x} + 1 = 0$$
 (12.1)

$$AD: (7 -1)\mathbf{x} - 5 = 0.$$
 (12.2)

If its diagonals intersect at

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix},\tag{12.3}$$

find its vertices.

Solution: From (12.1) and (12.2),

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 7 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \tag{12.4}$$

By row reducing the augmented matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 7 & -1 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 6 & 12 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \implies \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix},$$
(12.5)

From (12.3) and (12.5)

$$AP = ||\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{P}|| = 2\sqrt{5} = d(say)$$
 (12.6)

The direction vector of AP is

$$\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{P} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{12.7}$$

$$\implies \|\mathbf{m}\| = 2\sqrt{5} \tag{12.8}$$

Since the direction of AP is the same as AC,

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{P} - d \frac{\mathbf{m}}{\|\mathbf{m}\|}$$
$$= -\begin{pmatrix} 1\\2 \end{pmatrix} - 2\begin{pmatrix} 1\\2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3\\-6 \end{pmatrix} \tag{12.9}$$

Let $\mathbf{n} \perp \mathbf{m}$. Then

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{12.10}$$

and

$$\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{D} = \mathbf{P} \pm d \frac{\mathbf{n}}{\|\mathbf{n}\|}$$
$$= -\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \pm 2 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (12.11)$$

13 Let *k* be an integer such that the triangle with vertices

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} k \\ -3k \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ k \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -k \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (13.1)

has area 28. Find the orthocentre of this triangle.

Solution: Let \mathbf{m}_1 be the direction vector of BC. Then,

$$\mathbf{m}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 5+k\\ k-2 \end{pmatrix},\tag{13.2}$$

If AD be an altitude, its equation can be obtained as

$$\mathbf{m}_{1}^{T}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{A}) = 0 \tag{13.3}$$

Similarly, considering the side AC the equation of the altitude BE is

$$\mathbf{m}_{2}^{T}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{B}) = 0 \tag{13.4}$$

where

$$\mathbf{m}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2k \\ -2 - 3k \end{pmatrix}, \tag{13.5}$$

The orthocentre is obtained by solving (13.3) and (13.4) using the matrix equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{m}_1 \\ \mathbf{m}_2 \end{pmatrix}^T \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{m}_1^T \mathbf{A} \\ \mathbf{m}_2^T \mathbf{B} \end{pmatrix}$$
 (13.6)

which can be expressed using (13.2), (13.5), (13.3) and (13.4) as

The solution to the above is

$$\mathbf{x} = k \begin{pmatrix} 5+k & k-2 \\ 2k & -2-3k \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 11-4k \\ 8-3k \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{k}{-3k^2 - 17k - 10 - 2k^2 + 4k}$$

$$\times \begin{pmatrix} -2-3k & -k+2 \\ -2k & 5+k \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 11-4k \\ 8-3k \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{k}{5k^2 + 13k + 10}$$

$$\times \begin{pmatrix} 2+3k & k-2 \\ 2k & -5-k \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 11-4k \\ 8-3k \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{k}{5k^2 + 13k + 10}$$

$$\times \begin{pmatrix} 22-12k^2 - 8k + 33k - 3k^2 + 6k + 8k - 16 \\ 22k - 8k^2 - 40 + 15k - 8k + 3k^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{k}{5k^2 + 13k + 10} \begin{pmatrix} 6+39k - 15k^2 \\ -40 + 29k - 5k^2 \end{pmatrix} (13.8)$$

From the given information,

$$\begin{vmatrix} k & 5 & -k \\ -3k & k & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 56$$

$$\implies \begin{vmatrix} k & 5 - k & -2k \\ -3k & 4k & 2 + 3k \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 56 \quad (13.9)$$

resulting in

$$(5-k)(2+3k) + 8k^2 = 56$$
 (13.10)

$$\implies 5k^2 + 13k - 46 = 0 \tag{13.11}$$

or,
$$k = 2, -\frac{23}{5}$$
 (13.12)

14 If an equilateral triangle, having centroid at the origin, has a side along the line

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 2, \tag{14.1}$$

then find the area of this triangle.

Solution: Let the vertices be **A**, **B**, **C**. From the given information,

$$\frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}}{3} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{0} \tag{14.2}$$

If AB be the line in (14.1), the equation of CF, where

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}}{2} \tag{14.3}$$

is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 0 \tag{14.4}$$

since CF passes through the origin and $CF \perp AB$. From (14.1) and (14.4),

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{F} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{14.5}$$

Forming the augmented matrix,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \implies \mathbf{F} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(14.6)$$

From (14.2),

$$\mathbf{C} = -(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}) = -2\mathbf{F} = -2\begin{pmatrix} 1\\1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (14.7)

after substituting from (14.6). Thus,

$$CF = \|\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{F}\| = 3\sqrt{2} \tag{14.8}$$

$$\implies AB = CF \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} = \sqrt{6} \tag{14.9}$$

and the area of the triangle is

$$\frac{1}{2}AB \times CF = 3\sqrt{3} \tag{14.10}$$

15 A square, of each side 2, lies above the *x*-axis and has one vertex at the origin. If one of the sides passing through the origin makes an angle 30° with the positive direction of the *x*-axis, then find the sum of the *x*-coordinates of the vertices of the square.

Solution: Consider the square ABCD with $A = \mathbf{0}$, AB = 2 such that \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{D} lie on the x and y-axis respectively. Then

$$\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{D} = 4 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{15.1}$$

Multiplying (15.1) with the rotation matrix

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}, \tag{15.2}$$

$$\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{D}) = 4 \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= 4 \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta - \sin \theta \\ \cos \theta + \sin \theta \end{pmatrix} \quad (15.3)$$

$$\implies (1 \quad 0) \mathbf{T} (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{D})$$
$$= 4 (\cos \theta - \sin \theta) = 2 (\sqrt{3} - 1) \quad (15.4)$$

for $\theta = 30^{\circ}$.