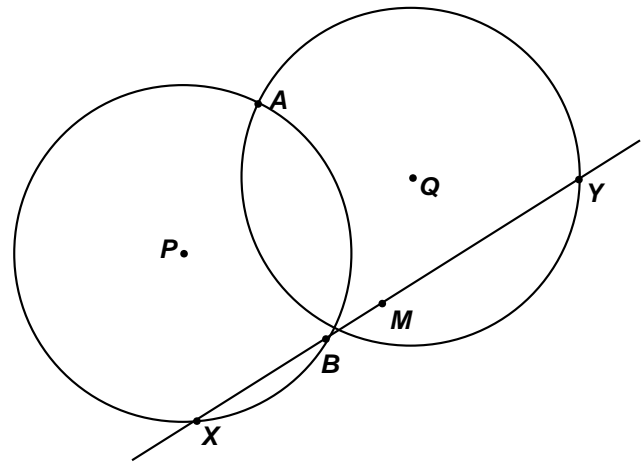


The original problem 5C)

Two circles with centers P and Q each with a radius of 5 intersect at points A and B . $PQ = 6$.

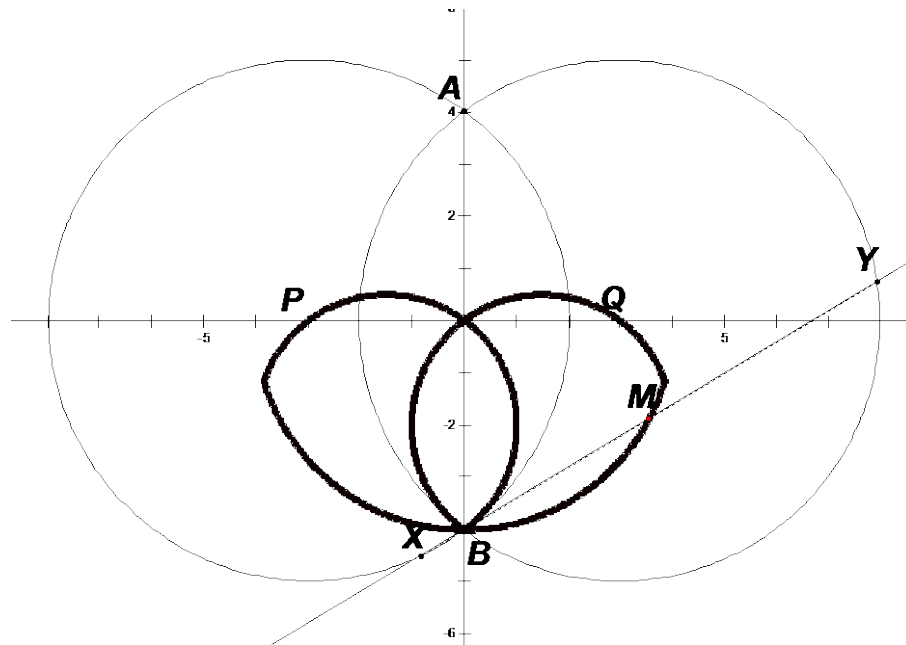
An arbitrary line through point B intersects the two circles at points X and Y . Consider the locus of point M , the midpoint of segment \overline{XY} .

Compute the maximum value of PM .



Unfortunately the locus is not a circle as I originally conjectured.

Here's a sketch of the actual locus of point M as an arbitrary line through point B rotates through 360° with $PQ = 6$ and $PB = QB = 5$. I did not expect this at all.



If anyone makes any progress on the original question, please send it to olson.re@gmail.com.