



# Circle

A circle is defined as the locus of a point which moves in a plane such that its distance from a fixed point in that plane is always constant.



## Some Important Formulae of Circle

i. Standard equation of a circle with **center (h, k)** and radius **r** is

$$(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$$

**Eg:** Find the equation of the circle with center (4, 5) and radius 7

Solution:

$$\text{Centre } (h, k) = (4, 5)$$

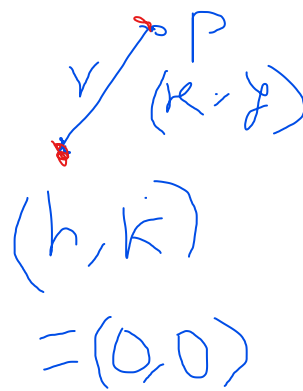
$$\text{Radius } (r) = 7$$

$$\text{Equation of circle is } (x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$$

$$\text{or, } (x - 4)^2 + (y - 5)^2 = 7^2$$

$$\text{or, } x^2 - 8x + 16 + y^2 - 10y + 25 = 49$$

$$\therefore x^2 + y^2 - 8x - 10y - 8 = 0$$



ii. If **center is origin** i.e. (0, 0) and radius **r** then the equation is  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$

**Eg:** Find the equation of the circle with center (0, 0) and radius 5.

Solution:

$$\text{Centre } (h, k) = (0, 0)$$

$$\text{Radius } (r) = 5$$

$$\text{Equation of circle is } (x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$$

$$\text{or, } (x - 0)^2 + (y - 0)^2 = 5^2$$

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

iii. If the circle touches x-axis then,  $k = r$

So, equation is  $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = k^2$

Eg:- Find the equation of the circle with center (2, 3) and touches x-axis.

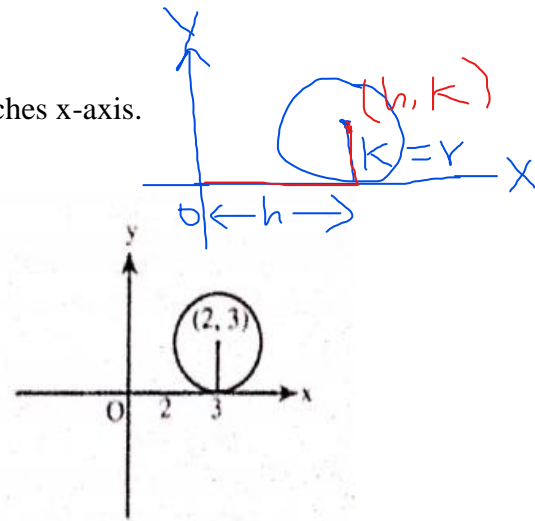
Solution:

Since the circle touches the x-axis, so  $r = k = 3$

Centre  $(h, k) = (2, 3)$

$\therefore k = 3$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Equation of circle is } (x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 &= r^2 \\ \text{or, } (x - 2)^2 + (y - 3)^2 &= 3^2 \\ \text{or, } x^2 - 4x + 4 + y^2 - 6y + 9 &= 9 \\ \therefore x^2 + y^2 - 4x - 6y + 4 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$



iv. If the circle touches y-axis then,  $h = r$

So, equation is  $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = h^2$

v. If the circle touches both the axis then,  $h = k = r$

So, the equation is  $(x - h)^2 + (y - h)^2 = h^2$

vi. General equation of the circle is

$$x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0$$

where, radius =  $\sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c} = r$

and center =  $(-g, -f) = (h, k)$

Eg: Find the equation of the circle passing through (0, 0), (4, 0) and (0, 3). Also, find the radius and center.

Solution:

Let the equation of circle be

$$x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0 \quad \dots(i)$$

If equation (i) passes through the points

(0, 0), (4, 0) and (0, 3), so

$$0^2 + 0^2 + 2g \cdot 0 + 2f \cdot 0 + c = 0 \Rightarrow c = 0.$$

Also,  $4^2 + 0^2 + 2g \cdot 4 + 2f \cdot 0 + c = 0$

$$\Rightarrow 16 + 8g + 0 = 0 \quad [\because c = 0]$$

$$\Rightarrow g = -2.$$

And,  $0^2 + 3^2 + 2g \cdot 0 + 2f \cdot 3 + c = 0$

$$\Rightarrow 9 + 6f + 0 = 0 \quad [\because c = 0]$$

$$\Rightarrow f = -\frac{3}{2}.$$

Putting the value of g, f and c in (i)

$$x^2 + y^2 + 2(-2)x + 2\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)y + 0 = 0$$

$$x^2 + y^2 - 4x - 3y = 0.$$



Concyclic



$$\begin{aligned} & (x^2 + 2gx + g^2) + (y^2 + 2fy + f^2) \\ &= g^2 + f^2 - c \\ & \Rightarrow \{x - (-g)\}^2 + \{y - (-f)\}^2 \\ &= (\sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c})^2 \end{aligned}$$

Note :-

Now, comparing it with  $x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0$ , we get,

$g = -2$ ,  $f = -3/2$  and  $c = 0$

where, radius  $= \sqrt{g^2 + f^2 - c} = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 - 0} = 5/2$

and center  $= (-g, -f) = (2, 3/2)$

vii. If  $(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$  are two ends of a diameter of a circle then the equation of the circle is  $(x - x_1)(x - x_2) + (y - y_1)(y - y_2) = 0$

Eg: Find the equation of the circle which has  $(1, 3)$  and  $(4, 5)$  as the ends of a diameter.

Solution

Given,  $(x_1, y_1) = (1, 3)$

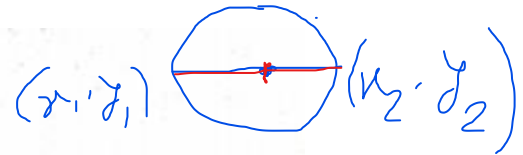
$(x_2, y_2) = (4, 5)$

Equation of circle is  $(x - x_1)(x - x_2) + (y - y_1)(y - y_2) = 0$

or,  $(x - 1)(x - 4) + (y - 3)(y - 5) = 0$

or,  $x^2 - 4x - x + 4 + y^2 - 3y - 5y + 15 = 0$

$\therefore x^2 + y^2 - 5x - 8y + 19 = 0$



viii. Any circle concentric to the circle

$x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0$  is  $x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + k = 0$

6. Find the equation of circle concentric with  $x^2 + y^2 + x + 2y + 3 = 0$  and through the point  $(1, 1)$ .

Solution

Equation of any circle concentric with

$x^2 + y^2 + x + 2y + 3 = 0$  is

$x^2 + y^2 + x + 2y + k = 0$

... (i)

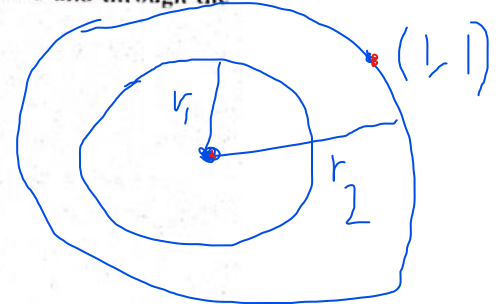
If equation (i) passes through the point  $(1, 1)$

Then,  $1^2 + 1^2 + 1 + 2 \times 1 + k = 0$

or,  $k = -5$

Putting the value of  $k$  in (i), we get,

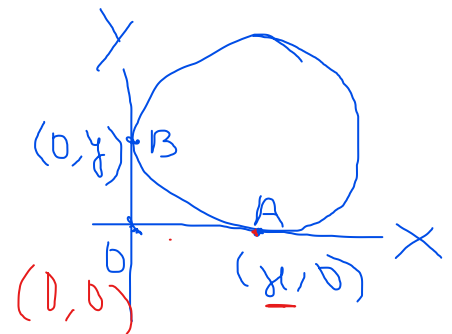
$x^2 + y^2 + x + 2y - 5 = 0$



ix. Lengths of intercepts made by the circle  $x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0$  ..... are

Intercept on  $x$  - axis  $(y = 0) = 2\sqrt{g^2 - c}$  and

Intercept on  $y$  - axis  $(x = 0) = 2\sqrt{f^2 - c}$  respectively.



Eg:-

4. Find the equation to the circle which passes through the origin and cuts off intercepts equal to 3 and 4 from the x-axis respectively.

Solution

Here, (3, 0) and (0, 4) are end points of diameter of circle since  $\angle XOY = 90^\circ$ .

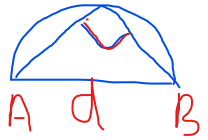
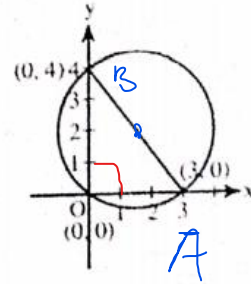
$$\therefore (x_1, y_1) = (3, 0) \text{ and } (x_2, y_2) = (0, 4)$$

Equation of circle is  $(x - x_1)(x - x_2) + (y - y_1)(y - y_2) = 0$

$$\text{or, } (x - 3)(x - 0) + (y - 0)(y - 4) = 0$$

$$\text{or, } x^2 - 3x + y^2 - 4y = 0$$

$$\therefore x^2 + y^2 - 3x - 4y = 0.$$



**Note:** Comparing with  $x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0$ , we get  $g = -3/2$ ,  $f = -2$  and  $c = 0$ .  
Then,

$$\text{Intercept on x-axis} = 2\sqrt{g^2 - c} = \dots = 3$$

$$\text{Intercept on y-axis} = 2\sqrt{f^2 - c} = \dots = 4$$

