Point, What Great Power You Have!

Here we are. Surely you have seen this theorem before, but perhaps you do not remember it from then or knew it with a different name. Nevertheless, this is one of the most important theorems that you will need to know if you wish to handle circle problems well! Such power, all concentrated at a single point...

1) Consider a circle with *O* with points *R* and *S* on the circle such that $mRS = 50^{\circ}$. Let *T* and *U* also be points on the circle. Must it be true that $m \angle RTS = m \angle RUS$? Why or why not?

The Basic Cases:

2) In the diagram at right, chords *CD* and *AB* intersect at point *E*. Let AE = 5, EB = 4, and DE = 7. Compute the length of \overline{DC} . (*Hm. This problem looks very similar to that of something we have seen before ... perhaps something is missing? Look for similarity to problems that came before.*)





- 3) Let's have a look outside of the circle this time. Here, PQ = 4, QR = 8, and ST = 2, compute PS. (Note that there is a subtle difference between what you have here and what is in problem #2. Still, I imagine you can do the same thing and get a very similar result...)
- 4) Consider what happen as *T* is moved along the circle towards *S*. How does that affect the result of problem #3? What ends up happening to our result as *T* and *S* become the same point?

The Basic Problems:

5) (1985 ARML Individual #1) In a circle, chords \overline{AB} and \overline{CD} intersect at R. If $\frac{AR}{RB} = \frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{CR}{RD} = \frac{4}{9}$,

compute the ratio $\frac{AB}{CD}$.

- 6) Let chords \overline{GH} and \overline{IJ} intersect at a point *M* within circle *O* such that $\overline{GH} \perp \overline{IJ}$. If GM = 2HM = 6IM = 12, compute *GJ*.
- 7) Suppose that Earth is a perfect sphere roughly 8000 miles in diameter. I am riding in a fighter jet 6 miles above the surface of the earth. Approximately how far away is the horizon? (*That is, let Q be the furthest point on the surface of the Earth that is in my view. How far away is Q*?)
- 8) Secants \overline{AB} and \overline{AF} are drawn such that A is outside of the circle and B and F lie on the circle. \overline{AB} intersects the circle at C and \overline{AF} intersects the circle at D. E is a point on \overline{AF} such that AD = DE = EF, and C is the midpoint of \overline{AB} . Compute the ratio $\frac{AC}{AD}$.

The Not-So-Basic Problems:

- 9) (3/00 Mandelbrot #7) Refer to the diagram at right, where \overline{IF} is a tangent drawn to the circle, and chord \overline{IN} intersects secant \overline{FG} at O. If $IF = 21\sqrt{2}$, IO = 20, ON = 12, RF = 18, and OR > GO, compute OR.
- 10) (1995 AHSME #28) Two parallel chords in a circle have lengths of 10 and 14. These chords are situated 6 units apart. A chord is drawn midway between the two. Compute the length of that chord. (*Draw a good picture, and keep all of your measures straight. This can take a while.*)
- 11) (1997 AHSME #26) In the diagram at right, *P* is equidistant from *A* and *B*, $m \angle APB = 2 \times m \angle ACB$, and \overline{AC} intersects \overline{BP} at *D* such that PD = 2 and DB = 1. Compute $AD \times CD$. (Now isn't this a strange set of givens...and a strange goal! There's not even a circle here! Or is there?)





CD = 7, and $m \angle P = 60^{\circ}$. Compute the area of the circle. (*Hoo boy. This is a toughie. First off, determine what segments you can. Consider—why is it important that I told you the angle's measure?*)

13) (1997 ARML Team #2) An equilateral triangle $\triangle ABC$ is inscribed in circle *O*. Let *D* and *E* be the midpoints of \overline{AC} and \overline{AB} respectively. When extended, ray \overline{DE} intersects the circle at *F*. Then, the ratio

 $\frac{DE}{EF}$ can be written in the form $\frac{a+\sqrt{b}}{c}$, where *a*, *b*, and *c* are integers, and the ratio is in simplest form. Compute the ordered triple (a,b,c).

14) (2013 Stanford Math Tournament Geometry Tiebreaker #1) A circle of radius 2 is inscribed in equilateral $\triangle ABC$. The altitude from A to \overline{BC} intersects the circle at a point D not on \overline{BC} . Let \overline{BD} intersect the circle at a point E that is distinct from D. Compute BE.

The Very-Definitely-Not-So-Basic Problems

- 15) (2013 HMNT Team #6) Points A, B, and C lie on a circle ω such that \overline{BC} is a diameter. \overline{AB} is extended past B to a point B' and \overline{AC} is extended past C to a point C' such that $\overline{B'C'} \parallel \overline{BC}$ and tangent to the circle ω at point D. If B'D = 4 and C'D = 6, compute BC.
- **16)** (2013 HMNT Team #7) In equilateral $\triangle ABC$, a circle ω is drawn such that it is tangent to all three sides of the triangle. A line is drawn from A to a point D on side \overline{BC} such that \overline{AD} intersects ω at points E and F. If EF = 4 and AB = 8, compute |AE FD|.

