

# Family of circles Example

Created by Mr. Francis Hung

Last updated: August 29, 2021

**Example** Find the equation of circle which passes through  $A(1, 2)$ ,  $B(5, 4)$  and touches  $4y = 3x$ .

$$\text{Equation of } AB: \frac{y-2}{x-1} = \frac{4-2}{5-1}$$

$$2y - 4 = x - 1$$

$$x - 2y + 3 = 0 \text{ (call it } L)$$

$$\text{Equation of circle with } AB \text{ as diameter: } (x-1)(x-5) + (y-2)(y-4) = 0$$

$$x^2 + y^2 - 6x - 6y + 13 = 0 \text{ (call it } C)$$

$$\text{Family of circles pass through } AB: C + kL: x^2 + y^2 - 6x - 6y + 13 + k(x - 2y + 3) = 0$$

$$x^2 + y^2 + (k-6)x - (6+2k)y + 13 + 3k = 0$$

$$\text{centre} = G = \left( \frac{6-k}{2}, k+3 \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{radius} = r &= \sqrt{\left( \frac{6-k}{2} \right)^2 + (k+3)^2 - (13+3k)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{36 - 12k + k^2 + 4(k^2 + 6k + 9) - 52 - 12k} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{5k^2 + 20} \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  It touches  $4y = 3x$

$\therefore$  Distance from centre  $G$  to  $3x - 4y = 0$  is the radius

$$\left| \frac{3 \times \frac{6-k}{2} - 4 \times (k+3)}{\sqrt{3^2 + 4^2}} \right| = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{5k^2 + 20}$$

$$|-6 - 11k| = 5\sqrt{5k^2 + 20}$$

$$(6 + 11k)^2 = 25(5k^2 + 20)$$

$$36 + 132k + 121k^2 = 125k^2 + 500$$

$$4k^2 - 132k + 464 = 0$$

$$k^2 - 33k + 116 = 0$$

$$(k-4)(k-29) = 0$$

$$k = 4 \text{ or } k = 29$$

$$\text{When } k = 4, H_1: x^2 + y^2 - 2x - 14y + 25 = 0$$

$$\text{When } k = 29, H_2: x^2 + y^2 + 23x - 64y + 100 = 0$$

