

Putnam-group challenging Geometry problems

1. A rectangle $HOMF$ has sides $HO = 11$ and $OM = 5$. A triangle ABC has H as the intersection of its altitudes, O as the center of its circumscribed circle, M as the midpoint of BC , and F as the foot of the altitude from A . What is the length of BC ?
2. Let d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{12} be real numbers in the open interval $(1, 12)$. Show that there exist distinct indices i, j, k such that d_i, d_j, d_k are the side lengths of an acute triangle.
3. What is the maximum number of rational points that can be on a circle in \mathbf{R}^2 whose center is not a rational point? (A *rational point* is a point both of whose coordinates are rational numbers.)
4. Show that for any set of five points on a sphere there is a set of four of them that lie on a closed hemisphere.
5. Can an arc of a parabola inside a circle of radius 1 have length greater than 4?
6. A unit cube is positioned in R^3 in some orientation and projected onto the coordinate plane $\{x_1 = 0\}$. What is the largest possible area of this projection?

In the following two questions, θ_n is the measure of an angle which is one n th of a complete circle. Since it is famously true that θ_{34} can be constructed with straightedge and compass, but θ_{36} cannot be, we will feature these angles in the remaining questions. In both cases we present a construction and ask you to compute the measure of angle PCB .

7. A point P lies inside the triangle ABC . The measures of the angles PAC, PAB, PBA , and PBC are respectively $3\theta_{36}, \theta_{36}, 2\theta_{36}$, and $2\theta_{36}$. Compute the measure of angle PCB .
8. A point P lies off the line segment ABC . The measures of the angles PAB and APB are respectively $5\theta_{34}$ and $9\theta_{34}$, and segment AB is twice as long as segment BC . Compute the measure of angle PCB .

Hint: One of these last two problems is almost, but not quite, doable and the other is almost, but not quite, un-doable!