



The CENTRE for EDUCATION  
in MATHEMATICS and COMPUTING  
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***2019 Canadian Senior  
Mathematics Contest***

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019**  
(in North America and South America)

**Thursday, November 21, 2019**  
(outside of North America and South America)

*Solutions*

**Part A**

1. Since Zipporah is 7 years old and the sum of Zipporah's age and Dina's age is 51, then Dina is  $51 - 7 = 44$  years old.  
 Since Dina is 44 years old and the sum of Julio's age and Dina's age is 54, then Julio is  $54 - 44 = 10$  years old.

ANSWER: 10

2. Since the circular track has radius 60 m, its circumference is  $2\pi \cdot 60$  m which equals  $120\pi$  m.  
 Since Ali runs around this track at a constant speed of 6 m/s, then it takes Ali  $\frac{120\pi \text{ m}}{6 \text{ m/s}} = 20\pi$  s to complete one lap.  
 Since Ali and Darius each complete one lap in the same period of time, then Darius also takes  $20\pi$  s to complete one lap.  
 Since Darius runs at a constant speed of 5 m/s, then the length of his track is  $20\pi \text{ s} \cdot 5 \text{ m/s}$  or  $100\pi$  m.  
 Since Darius's track is in the shape of an equilateral triangle with side length  $x$  m, then its perimeter is  $3x$  m and so  $3x \text{ m} = 100\pi \text{ m}$  and so  $x = \frac{100\pi}{3}$ .

ANSWER:  $x = \frac{100\pi}{3}$ 

3. Since  $2^a \cdot 2^b = 2^{a+b}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} 32^n &= 2^{200} \cdot 2^{203} + 2^{163} \cdot 2^{241} + 2^{126} \cdot 2^{277} \\ &= 2^{200+203} + 2^{163+241} + 2^{126+277} \\ &= 2^{403} + 2^{404} + 2^{403} \\ &= 2^{403} + 2^{403} + 2^{404} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $2^c + 2^c = 2(2^c) = 2^1 \cdot 2^c = 2^{c+1}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} 32^n &= 2^{403+1} + 2^{404} \\ &= 2^{404} + 2^{404} \\ &= 2^{404+1} \\ &= 2^{405} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $(2^d)^e = 2^{de}$ , then  $32^n = (2^5)^n = 2^{5n}$ .

Since  $32^n = 2^{405}$ , then  $2^{5n} = 2^{405}$  which means that  $5n = 405$  and so  $n = 81$ .

ANSWER:  $n = 81$

4. For there to exist a pair of integers  $(x, y)$  with  $x^2 \leq y \leq x + 6$ , it must be the case that  $x^2 \leq x + 6$  and so  $x^2 - x - 6 \leq 0$ .  
 Now  $x^2 - x - 6 = (x - 3)(x + 2)$ , so  $x^2 - x - 6 \leq 0$  exactly when  $-2 \leq x \leq 3$ . (If we consider the function  $f(x) = (x - 3)(x + 2)$ , whose graph is a parabola opening upwards, its values are less than or equal to 0 between its roots.)  
 Therefore, any pair of integers  $(x, y)$  with  $x^2 \leq y \leq x + 6$  must have  $x$  equal to one of  $-2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3$ .  
 When  $x = -2$ , the original inequality becomes  $4 \leq y \leq 4$  and so  $y$  must equal 4. There is 1 pair in this case, namely  $(-2, 4)$ .  
 When  $x = -1$ , we obtain  $1 \leq y \leq 5$  and so  $y$  must equal one of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. There are 5 pairs in this case.  
 When  $x = 0$ , we obtain  $0 \leq y \leq 6$  and so  $y$  must equal one of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. There are 7 pairs in this case.  
 When  $x = 1$ , we obtain  $1 \leq y \leq 7$ . There are 7 pairs in this case.  
 When  $x = 2$ , we obtain  $4 \leq y \leq 8$ . There are 5 pairs in this case.  
 When  $x = 3$ , we obtain  $9 \leq y \leq 9$  and so  $y$  must equal 9. There is 1 pair in this case.  
 In total, there are  $1 + 5 + 7 + 7 + 5 + 1 = 26$  pairs of integers that satisfy the inequality.

ANSWER: 26

5. Since 605 is the middle side length of the right-angled triangle, we suppose that the side lengths of the triangle are  $a, 605, c$  for integers  $a < 605 < c$ . (Why do we not need to consider the cases  $a = 605$  or  $605 = c$ ?)  
 By the Pythagorean Theorem, knowing that  $c$  (the longest side length) must be the length of the hypotenuse, we obtain  $a^2 + 605^2 = c^2$  and so  $c^2 - a^2 = 605^2$ .  
 We want to determine the maximum possible length of the shortest side of the triangle.  
 In other words, we want to try to determine the maximum possible length of  $a$  which is less than 605.  
 We note that  $c^2 - a^2 = 605^2$  exactly when  $(c + a)(c - a) = 605^2$ .  
 We note also that  $605 = 5 \cdot 121 = 5 \cdot 11^2$  and so  $605^2 = 5^2 \cdot 11^4$ .  
 Therefore, we have  $(c + a)(c - a) = 5^2 \cdot 11^4$ . This means that  $c + a$  and  $c - a$  are a divisor pair of  $5^2 \cdot 11^4$ .  
 Since  $a$  and  $c$  are positive integers, then  $c + a > c - a$ . Note that  $c > a$  and so  $c + a > c - a > 0$ . We make a table of the possible values for  $c + a$  and  $c - a$ , and use these to determine the possible values of  $c$  and  $a$

$c + a$	$c - a$	$2c = (c + a) + (c - a)$	$c$	$a = (c + a) - c$
$5^2 \cdot 11^4 = 366025$	1	366026	183013	103012
$5 \cdot 11^4 = 73205$	5	73210	36605	36600
$5^2 \cdot 11^3 = 33275$	11	33286	16643	16632
$11^4 = 14641$	$5^2 = 25$	14666	7333	7308
$5 \cdot 11^3 = 6655$	$5 \cdot 11 = 55$	6710	3355	3300
$5^2 \cdot 11^2 = 3025$	$11^2 = 121$	3146	1573	1452
$11^3 = 1331$	$5^2 \cdot 11 = 275$	1606	803	528
$5 \cdot 11^2 = 605$	$5 \cdot 11^2 = 605$	1210	605	0

These are all of the possible factorizations of  $605^2$ , and so give all of the possible pairs  $(a, c)$  that satisfy the equation.

Therefore, the maximum possible value of  $a$  that is less than 605 is 528.

ANSWER: 528

6. Since square  $ABCD$  has side length 4, then its area is  $4^2$ , which equals 16.

The area of quadrilateral  $PQRS$ , which we expect to be a function of  $k$ , equals the area of square  $ABCD$  minus the combined areas of  $\triangle ABP$ ,  $\triangle PCQ$ ,  $\triangle QDR$ , and  $\triangle ARS$ .

Since  $\frac{BP}{PC} = \frac{k}{4-k}$ , then there is a real number  $x$  with  $BP = kx$  and  $PC = (4-k)x$ .

Since  $BP + PC = BC = 4$ , then  $kx + (4-k)x = 4$  and so  $4x = 4$  or  $x = 1$ .

Thus,  $BP = k$  and  $PC = 4 - k$ .

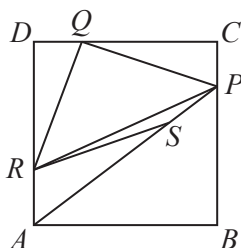
Similarly,  $CQ = DR = k$  and  $QD = RA = 4 - k$ .

$\triangle ABP$  is right-angled at  $B$  and so its area is  $\frac{1}{2}(AB)(BP) = \frac{1}{2}(4k) = 2k$ .

$\triangle PCQ$  is right-angled at  $C$  and so its area is  $\frac{1}{2}(PC)(CQ) = \frac{1}{2}(4-k)k$ .

$\triangle QDR$  is right-angled at  $D$  and so its area is  $\frac{1}{2}(QD)(DR) = \frac{1}{2}(4-k)k$ .

To find the area of  $\triangle ARS$ , we first join  $R$  to  $P$ .



Now  $\triangle ARP$  can be seen as having base  $RA = 4 - k$  and perpendicular height equal to the distance between the parallel lines  $CB$  and  $DA$ , which equals 4.

Thus, the area of  $\triangle ARP$  is  $\frac{1}{2}(4-k)(4)$ .

Now we consider  $\triangle ARP$  as having base  $AP$  divided by point  $S$  in the ratio  $k : (4 - k)$ .

This means that the ratio of  $AS : AP$  equals  $k : ((4 - k) + k)$  which equals  $k : 4$ .

This means that the area of  $\triangle ARS$  is equal to  $\frac{k}{4}$  times the area of  $\triangle ARP$ . (The two triangles have the same height – the distance from  $R$  to  $AP$  – and so the ratio of their areas equals the ratio of their bases.)

Thus, the area of  $\triangle ARS$  equals  $\frac{\frac{1}{2}(4-k)(4) \cdot k}{4} = \frac{1}{2}k(4-k)$ .

Thus, the area of quadrilateral  $PQRS$  is

$$\begin{aligned} 16 - 2k - 3 \cdot \frac{1}{2}k(4-k) &= 16 - 2k - \frac{3}{2} \cdot 4k + \frac{3}{2}k^2 \\ &= \frac{3}{2}k^2 - 2k - 6k + 16 \\ &= \frac{3}{2}k^2 - 8k + 16 \end{aligned}$$

The minimum value of the quadratic function  $f(t) = at^2 + bt + c$  with  $a > 0$  occurs when  $t = -\frac{b}{2a}$  and so the minimum value of  $\frac{3}{2}k^2 - 8k + 16$  occurs when  $k = -\frac{-8}{2(3/2)} = \frac{8}{3}$ .

Therefore, the area of quadrilateral  $PQRS$  is minimized when  $k = \frac{8}{3}$ .

ANSWER:  $k = \frac{8}{3}$

**Part B**

1. (a) Since each of Rachel's jumps is 168 cm long, then when Rachel completes 5 jumps, she jumps  $5 \times 168 \text{ cm} = 840 \text{ cm}$ .  
Since each of Joel's jumps is 120 cm long, then when Joel completes  $n$  jumps, he jumps  $120n \text{ cm}$ .  
Since Rachel and Joel jump the same total distance, then  $120n = 840$  and so  $n = 7$ .
- (b) Since each of Joel's jumps is 120 cm long, then when Joel completes  $r$  jumps, he jumps  $120r \text{ cm}$ .  
Since each of Mark's jumps is 72 cm long, then when Mark completes  $t$  jumps, he jumps  $72t \text{ cm}$ .  
Since Joel and Mark jump the same total distance, then  $120r = 72t$  and so dividing by 24,  $5r = 3t$ .  
Since  $5r$  is a multiple of 5, then  $3t$  must also be a multiple of 5, which means that  $t$  is a multiple of 5.  
Since  $11 \leq t \leq 19$  and  $t$  is a multiple of 5, then  $t = 15$ .  
Since  $t = 15$ , then  $5r = 3 \cdot 15 = 45$  and so  $r = 9$ .  
Therefore,  $r = 9$  and  $t = 15$ .
- (c) When Rachel completes  $a$  jumps, she jumps  $168a \text{ cm}$ .  
When Joel completes  $b$  jumps, he jumps  $120b \text{ cm}$ .  
When Mark completes  $c$  jumps, he jumps  $72c \text{ cm}$ .  
Since Rachel, Joel and Mark all jump the same total distance, then  $168a = 120b = 72c$ .  
Dividing by 24, we obtain  $7a = 5b = 3c$ .  
Since  $7a$  is divisible by 7, then  $3c$  is divisible by 7, which means that  $c$  is divisible by 7.  
Since  $5b$  is divisible by 5, then  $3c$  is divisible by 5, which means that  $c$  is divisible by 5.  
Since  $c$  is divisible by 5 and by 7 and because 5 and 7 have no common divisor larger than 1, then  $c$  must be divisible by  $5 \cdot 7$  which equals 35.  
Since  $c$  is divisible by 35 and  $c$  is a positive integer, then  $c \geq 35$ .  
We note that if  $c = 35$ , then  $3c = 105$  and since  $7a = 5b = 105$ , we obtain  $a = 15$  and  $b = 21$ . In other words,  $c = 35$  is possible.  
Therefore, the minimum possible value of  $c$  is  $c = 35$ .

2. (a) For the sequence  $\frac{1}{w}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{6}$  to be an arithmetic sequence, it must be the case that

$$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{w} = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{3}$$

Since  $\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{3} = -\frac{1}{6}$ , then  $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{w} = -\frac{1}{6}$  and so  $\frac{1}{w} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{2}{3}$ , which gives  $w = \frac{3}{2}$ .

- (b) The sequence  $\frac{1}{y+1}, x, \frac{1}{z+1}$  is arithmetic exactly when  $x - \frac{1}{y+1} = \frac{1}{z+1} - x$  or  $2x = \frac{1}{y+1} + \frac{1}{z+1}$ .

Since  $y, 1, z$  is a geometric sequence, then  $\frac{1}{y} = \frac{z}{1}$  and so  $z = \frac{1}{y}$ . Since  $y$  and  $z$  are positive, then  $y \neq -1$  and  $z \neq -1$ .

In this case,  $\frac{1}{y+1} + \frac{1}{z+1} = \frac{1}{y+1} + \frac{1}{\frac{1}{y}+1} = \frac{1}{y+1} + \frac{y}{1+y} = \frac{y+1}{y+1} = 1$ .

Since  $\frac{1}{y+1} + \frac{1}{z+1} = 1$ , then the sequence  $\frac{1}{y+1}, x, \frac{1}{z+1}$  is arithmetic exactly when  $2x = 1$  or  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ .

- (c) Since  $a, b, c, d$  is a geometric sequence, then  $b = ar$ ,  $c = ar^2$  and  $d = ar^3$  for some real number  $r$ . Since  $a \neq b$ , then  $a \neq 0$ . (If  $a = 0$ , then  $b = 0$ .)

Since  $a \neq b$ , then  $r \neq 1$ . Note that  $\frac{b}{a} = \frac{ar}{a} = r$  and so we want to determine all possible values of  $r$ .

Since  $a$  and  $b$  are both positive, then  $r > 0$ .

Since  $\frac{1}{a}, \frac{1}{b}, \frac{1}{d}$  is an arithmetic sequence, then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{b} - \frac{1}{a} &= \frac{1}{d} - \frac{1}{b} \\ \frac{1}{ar} - \frac{1}{a} &= \frac{1}{ar^3} - \frac{1}{ar} \\ \frac{1}{r} - 1 &= \frac{1}{r^3} - \frac{1}{r} \quad (\text{since } a \neq 0) \\ r^2 - r^3 &= 1 - r^2 \\ 0 &= r^3 - 2r^2 + 1 \\ 0 &= (r-1)(r^2 - r - 1) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $r \neq 1$ , then  $r^2 - r - 1 = 0$ .

By the quadratic formula,  $r = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{(-1)^2 - 4(1)(-1)}}{2} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$ .

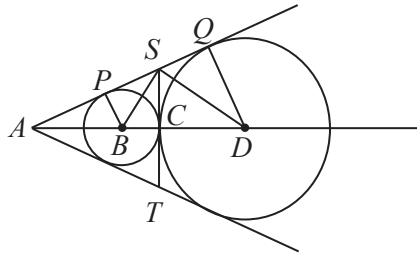
Since  $a$  and  $b$  are both positive, then  $r > 0$  and so  $r = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$ .

This is the only possible value of  $r$ .

We can check that  $r$  satisfies the conditions by verifying that when  $a = 1$  (for example) and  $r = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$ , giving  $b = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$ ,  $c = \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^2$ , and  $d = \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^3$ , then we do

indeed obtain  $\frac{1}{b} - \frac{1}{a} = \frac{1}{d} - \frac{1}{b}$ .

3. (a) Since  $AS = ST = AT$ , then  $\triangle AST$  is equilateral.  
 This means that  $\angle TAS = \angle AST = \angle ATS = 60^\circ$ .  
 Join  $B$  to  $P$ ,  $B$  to  $S$ ,  $D$  to  $Q$  and  $D$  to  $S$ .



Since  $AS$  is tangent to the circle with centre  $B$  at  $P$ , then  $BP$  is perpendicular to  $PS$ .  
 Since  $BP$  and  $BC$  are radii of the circle with centre  $B$ , then  $BP = BC = 1$ .  
 Consider  $\triangle SBP$  and  $\triangle SBC$ .  
 Each is right-angled (at  $P$  and  $C$ ), they have a common hypotenuse  $BS$ , and equal side lengths ( $BP = BC$ ).  
 This means that  $\triangle SBP$  and  $\triangle SBC$  are congruent.  
 Thus,  $\angle PSB = \angle CSB = \frac{1}{2}\angle AST = 30^\circ$ .  
 This means that  $\triangle SBC$  is a  $30^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ - $90^\circ$  triangle, and so  $SC = \sqrt{3}BC = \sqrt{3}$ .  
 Since  $\angle CSQ = 180^\circ - \angle CSP = 180^\circ - 60^\circ = 120^\circ$ , then using a similar argument we can see that  $\triangle DSC$  is also a  $30^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ - $90^\circ$  triangle.  
 This means that  $CD = \sqrt{3}SC = \sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{3} = 3$ .  
 Since  $CD$  is a radius of the circle with centre  $D$ , then  $r = CD = 3$ .

- (b) *Solution 1*

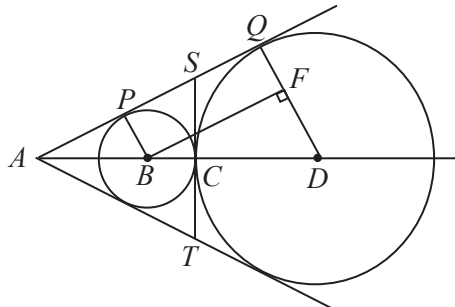
From the given information,  $DQ = QP = r$ .  
 Again, join  $B$  to  $P$ ,  $B$  to  $S$ ,  $D$  to  $Q$ , and  $D$  to  $S$ .  
 As in (a),  $\triangle SBP$  and  $\triangle SBC$  are congruent which means that  $SP = SC$ .  
 Using a similar argument,  $\triangle SDC$  is congruent to  $\triangle SDQ$ .  
 This means that  $SC = SQ$ .  
 Since  $SP = SC$  and  $SC = SQ$ , then  $SP = SQ$ .  
 Since  $QP = r$ , then  $SP = SQ = \frac{1}{2}r$ .  
 Suppose that  $\angle PSC = 2\theta$ .  
 Since  $\triangle SBP$  and  $\triangle SBC$  are congruent, then  $\angle PSB = \angle CSB = \frac{1}{2}\angle PSC = \theta$ .  
 Since  $\angle QSC = 180^\circ - \angle PSC = 180^\circ - 2\theta$ , then  $\angle QSD = \angle CSD = \frac{1}{2}\angle QSC = 90^\circ - \theta$ .  
 Since  $\triangle SDQ$  is right-angled at  $Q$ , then  $\angle SDQ = 90^\circ - \angle QSD = \theta$ .  
 This means that  $\triangle SBP$  is similar to  $\triangle DSQ$ .  
 Therefore,  $\frac{SP}{BP} = \frac{DQ}{SQ}$  and so  $\frac{\frac{1}{2}r}{1} = \frac{r}{\frac{1}{2}r} = 2$ , which gives  $\frac{1}{2}r = 2$  and so  $r = 4$ .

*Solution 2*

From the given information,  $DQ = QP = r$ .

Join  $B$  to  $P$  and  $D$  to  $Q$ . As in (a),  $BP$  and  $DQ$  are perpendicular to  $PQ$ .

Join  $B$  to  $F$  on  $QD$  so that  $BF$  is perpendicular to  $QD$ .



This means that  $\triangle BFD$  is right-angled at  $F$ .

Also, since  $BPQF$  has three right angles, then it must have four right angles and so is a rectangle.

Thus,  $BF = PQ = r$  and  $QF = PB = 1$ .

Since  $QD = r$ , then  $FD = r - 1$ .

Also,  $BD = BC + CD = 1 + r$ .

Using the Pythagorean Theorem in  $\triangle BFD$ , we obtain the following equivalent equations:

$$\begin{aligned} BF^2 + FD^2 &= BD^2 \\ r^2 + (r - 1)^2 &= (r + 1)^2 \\ r^2 + r^2 - 2r + 1 &= r^2 + 2r + 1 \\ r^2 &= 4r \end{aligned}$$

Since  $r \neq 0$ , then it must be the case that  $r = 4$ .



(c) As in Solution 1 to (b),  $\triangle SBP$  is similar to  $\triangle DSQ$  and  $SP = SQ$ . Therefore,  $\frac{SP}{BP} = \frac{DQ}{SQ}$   
 or  $\frac{SP}{1} = \frac{r}{SP}$  which gives  $SP^2 = r$  and so  $SP = \sqrt{r}$ .

Thus,  $SP = SQ = SC = \sqrt{r}$ .

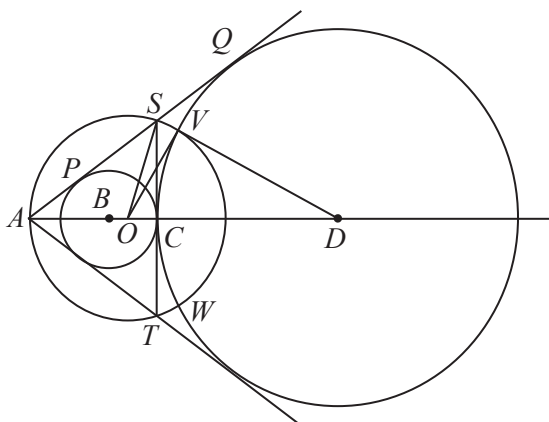
Next,  $\triangle APB$  is similar to  $\triangle AQD$  (common angle at  $A$ , right angle).

Therefore,  $\frac{AB}{BP} = \frac{AD}{DQ}$  and so  $\frac{AB}{1} = \frac{AB + BD}{r}$  and so  $AB = \frac{AB + 1 + r}{r}$ .

Re-arranging gives  $rAB = AB + 1 + r$  and so  $(r - 1)AB = r + 1$  and so  $AB = \frac{r + 1}{r - 1}$ .

This means that  $AC = AB + BC = AB + 1 = \frac{r + 1}{r - 1} + 1 = \frac{(r + 1) + (r - 1)}{r - 1} = \frac{2r}{r - 1}$ .

Next, draw the circle with centre  $O$  that passes through  $A$ ,  $S$  and  $T$  and through point  $V$  on the circle with centre  $D$  so that  $OV$  is perpendicular to  $DV$ .



Let the radius of this circle be  $R$ . Note that  $OS = AO = R$ .

Consider  $\triangle OSC$ .

This triangle is right-angled at  $C$ .

Using the Pythagorean Theorem, we obtain the following equivalent equations:

$$\begin{aligned} OS^2 &= OC^2 + SC^2 \\ R^2 &= (AC - AO)^2 + SC^2 \\ R^2 &= (AC - R)^2 + SC^2 \\ R^2 &= AC^2 - 2R \cdot AC + R^2 + SC^2 \\ 2R \cdot AC &= AC^2 + SC^2 \\ R &= \frac{AC}{2} + \frac{SC^2}{2AC} \\ R &= \frac{2r}{2(r-1)} + \frac{(\sqrt{r})^2}{4r/(r-1)} \\ R &= \frac{r}{r-1} + \frac{r-1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $OV$  is perpendicular to  $DV$ , then  $\triangle OVD$  is right-angled at  $V$ .

Using the Pythagorean Theorem, noting that  $OV = R$  and  $DV = r$ , we obtain the following equivalent equations:

$$\begin{aligned}
 OV^2 + DV^2 &= OD^2 \\
 R^2 + r^2 &= (OC + CD)^2 \\
 R^2 + r^2 &= (AC - AO + CD)^2 \\
 R^2 + r^2 &= \left( \frac{2r}{r-1} - R + r \right)^2 \\
 R^2 + r^2 &= \left( \frac{2r + r(r-1)}{r-1} - R \right)^2 \\
 R^2 + r^2 &= \left( \frac{r^2 + r}{r-1} - R \right)^2 \\
 R^2 + r^2 &= \left( \frac{r^2 + r}{r-1} \right)^2 - 2R \left( \frac{r^2 + r}{r-1} \right) + R^2 \\
 2R \left( \frac{r^2 + r}{r-1} \right) &= \left( \frac{r^2 + r}{r-1} \right)^2 - r^2 \\
 2R \left( \frac{r(r+1)}{r-1} \right) &= \frac{r^2(r+1)^2}{(r-1)^2} - r^2 \\
 2R &= \frac{r-1}{r(r+1)} \cdot \frac{r^2(r+1)^2}{(r-1)^2} - \frac{r-1}{r(r+1)} \cdot r^2 \\
 2R &= \frac{r(r+1)}{r-1} - \frac{r(r-1)}{r+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $R = \frac{r}{r-1} + \frac{r-1}{4}$ , we obtain:

$$\frac{2r}{r-1} + \frac{r-1}{2} = \frac{r(r+1)}{r-1} - \frac{r(r-1)}{r+1}$$

Multiplying both sides by  $2(r+1)(r-1)$ , expanding, simplifying, and factoring, we obtain the following equivalent equations:

$$\begin{aligned}
 4r(r+1) + (r-1)^2(r+1) &= 2r(r+1)^2 - 2r(r-1)^2 \\
 (4r^2 + 4r) + (r-1)(r^2 - 1) &= 2r((r+1)^2 - (r-1)^2) \\
 (4r^2 + 4r) + (r^3 - r^2 - r + 1) &= 2r((r^2 + 2r + 1) - (r^2 - 2r + 1)) \\
 (4r^2 + 4r) + (r^3 - r^2 - r + 1) &= 2r(4r) \\
 r^3 - 5r^2 + 3r + 1 &= 0 \\
 (r-1)(r^2 - 4r - 1) &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Now  $r \neq 1$ . (If  $r = 1$ , the circles would be the same size and the two common tangents would be parallel.)

Therefore,  $r \neq 1$  which means that  $r^2 - 4r - 1 = 0$ .

By the quadratic formula,

$$r = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{(-4)^2 - 4(1)(-1)}}{2} = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{20}}{2} = 2 \pm \sqrt{5}$$

Since  $r > 1$ , then  $r = 2 + \sqrt{5}$ .