

Solutions to Germain Geometry

- 1 An equilateral triangle and a square have the same perimeter. If the side length of the equilateral triangle is 8, what is the square's side length?

Proposed by Evan Zhang.

Answer: $\boxed{6}$

Solution: The perimeter of the triangle is $3 \cdot 8 = 24$. The perimeter of the square is also 24 so its side length must be $\frac{24}{4} = 6$.

- 2 What is the maximum possible number of sides and diagonals of equal length in a quadrilateral?

Proposed by Bradley Guo.

Answer: $\boxed{5}$

Solution: A rhombus with angles 60 and 120 degrees has 4 sides and 1 diagonal of equal length. A quadrilateral with all 4 sides and 2 diagonals of equal length is impossible because a rhombus with equal-length diagonals is a square, which has a diagonal that is longer than its side length.

- 3 Patrick is rafting directly across a river 20 meters across at a speed of 5 m/s. The river flows in a direction perpendicular to Patrick's direction at a rate of 12 m/s. When Patrick reaches the shore on the other end of the river, what is the total distance he has traveled?

Proposed by Kevin Yao.

Answer: $\boxed{52}$

Solution: Every second, Patrick moves 5 meters towards the other side of the river, and 12 meters along the river. Thus, he travels 13 meters every second for 4 seconds, which gives a total distance of 52.

- 4 Quadrilateral $ABCD$ has side lengths $AB = 7$, $BC = 15$, $CD = 20$, and $DA = 24$. It has a diagonal length of $BD = 25$. Find the measure, in degrees, of the sum of angles ABC and ADC .

Proposed by Kevin Yao.

Answer: $\boxed{180}$

Solution: 7-24-25 and 15-20-25 are both Pythagorean triples, and so two of the angles are right angles. Since the sum of the internal angles of a quadrilateral is 360, $m\angle ABC + m\angle ADC = 360 - 180 = 180$.

- 5 What is the largest P such that any rectangle inscribed in an equilateral triangle of side length 1 has a perimeter of at least P ?

Proposed by Bradley Guo.

Answer: $\boxed{\sqrt{3}}$

Solution: Two corners of the rectangle must be on the same side of the triangle. Let the side length of the edge between the two corners be x . Then the other side length of the rectangle is $\frac{(1-x)\sqrt{3}}{2}$, and so the perimeter of the rectangle is $\sqrt{3} + (2 - \sqrt{3})x$. This is minimized at $x = 0$ which gives an answer of $\sqrt{3}$.

- 6 A circle is inscribed in an equilateral triangle with side length s . Points A, B, C, D, E, F lie on the triangle such that line segments AB, CD , and EF are parallel to a side of the triangle, and tangent to the circle. If the area of hexagon $ABCDEF = \frac{9\sqrt{3}}{2}$, find s .

Proposed by Valerie Song.

Answer: $\boxed{3\sqrt{3}}$

Solution: Consider hexagon $ABCDEF$. The sides of the equilateral triangle all make angles of 60° to each other, so the internal angles in the hexagon are all $180^\circ - 60^\circ = 120^\circ$.

We claim this hexagon is regular. To so this, we will prove all of its sides have the same length. Let the center of the inscribed circle be I . We then examine an arbitrary pair of sides, say AB and BC . We note that I is equidistant from AB and BC , so it must lie on the angle bisector of $\angle ABC$. Therefore, $\angle ABI = \angle CBI = 60^\circ$. Similarly, $\angle BAI = \angle BCI = 60^\circ$, so $\triangle ABI$ and $\triangle BCI$ are equilateral, with sidelengths of BI . Thus, $AB = BI = BC$ so all pairs of adjacent sides are equal. This means all sides are equal, as desired.

Now, the area of a regular hexagon with sidelength s is $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2}s^2$, so equating this to $\frac{9\sqrt{3}}{2}$ gives $\sqrt{3}$. The sidelength of the larger triangle is triple this, which is $3\sqrt{3}$.

- 7 Let $\triangle ABC$ be such that $\angle A = 105^\circ, \angle B = 45^\circ, \angle C = 30^\circ$. Let M be the midpoint of A, C . What is $\angle MBC$?

Proposed by Kevin Wu.

Answer: $\boxed{15^\circ}$

Solution: Let E be the foot from A to BC . Then because $\triangle AEB$ is a 45-45-90 triangle, then $BE = AE$. Additionally, because $\angle AEC$ is right and M is the midpoint of A, C , then $MA = ME = MC$, and since AEC is a 30-60-90 triangle we also get $AE = AM$. Thus we get the equality $BE = AE = AM = ME = MC$.

Now, we can notice that $\triangle EMC$ is isosceles, so $\angle MEC = \angle MCE = 30^\circ$. Finally, since $\triangle MEB$ is isosceles, then $\angle MBC = \angle MBE = \frac{\angle MEC}{2} = 15^\circ$. Alternatively, because $AB = AE\sqrt{2}$, then we can see $\frac{AM}{AB} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{AE}{AB}$, then $\triangle AMB \sim \triangle AEB$, so $\angle ABM = 30^\circ$, and $\angle MBC = \angle ABC - \angle ABM = 15^\circ$.

- 8 Points A, B , and C lie on a circle centered at O with radius 10. Let the circumcenter of $\triangle AOC$ be P . If $AB = 16$, find the minimum value of PB .

The circumcenter of a triangle is the intersection point of the three perpendicular bisectors of the sides.

Proposed by Bradley Guo and Stephen Chen.

Answer: $\boxed{\frac{39}{5}}$

Solution: Fix points A , B , and O , and let C vary along the circle. We know that P must lie on the perpendicular bisector of AO , and by choosing where C lies on the circle, we can choose where P lies on the perpendicular bisector of AO . All that remains is finding the distance from B to the perpendicular bisector of AO .

Let the midpoint of AO be M , the midpoint of AB be N , and the point at which the perpendicular bisector of AO intersects AB be Q . We know that $AN = 8$, $AO = 10$, so $NO = 6$. Triangle AMQ is similar to triangle ANO , and $AM = 5$. Thus, $AQ = \frac{25}{4}$. Let the foot of the altitude from B to MQ be D . Since triangle BDQ is similar to triangle AMQ , we can finally get that $BD = \frac{39}{5}$.