

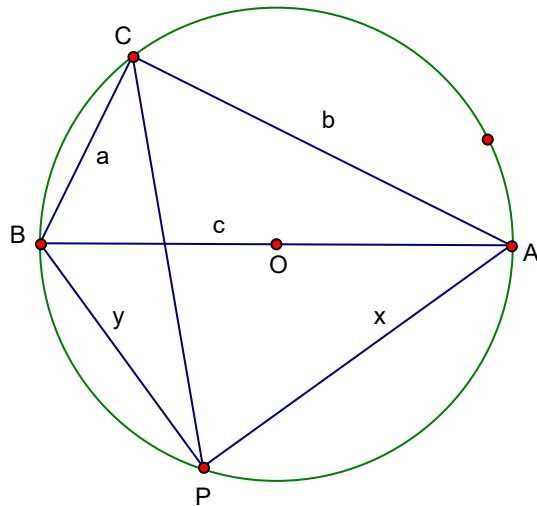
A point P on the circumcircle of a right-angled Δ

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8313943/8313943-6384428834929852419>

Find a point P on the circumcircle of a right-angled triangle ABC

($\angle C = 90^\circ$) for which the sum $PA + PB + PC$ is a maximum.

Solution by Arkady Alt , San Jose, California, USA.



Since by Ptolemy's Theorem $PC \cdot AB = PA \cdot BC + PB \cdot AC \Leftrightarrow PC \cdot c = x \cdot a + y \cdot b \Leftrightarrow$

$c \cdot PC = ax + by$ then and applying Cauchy Inequality we obtain

$$c(PA + PB + PC) = c(x + y) + ax + by =$$

$$(a + c)x + (b + c)y \leq \sqrt{(a + c)^2 + (b + c)^2} \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = c\sqrt{(a + c)^2 + (b + c)^2} =$$

$$c\sqrt{(a + c)^2 + (b + c)^2} = c\sqrt{3c^2 + 2c(a + b)}.$$

Equality occurs iff $(x, y) = k(a + c, b + c)$ for some $k > 0 \Leftrightarrow$

$$k^2(a + c)^2 + k^2(b + c)^2 = c^2 \Leftrightarrow k = \frac{c}{\sqrt{(a + c)^2 + (b + c)^2}} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{3c^2 + 2c(a + b)}} = \sqrt{\frac{c}{2a + 2b + 3c}}$$

that is iff $x = (a + c) \sqrt{\frac{c}{2a + 2b + 3c}}$ (then

$$y = \sqrt{c^2 - x^2} = \sqrt{c^2 - \frac{c(a + c)^2}{2a + 2b + 3c}} = (b + c) \sqrt{\frac{c}{2a + 2b + 3c}}).$$

Thus, $\max(PA + PB + PC) = \sqrt{3c^2 + 2c(a + b)}.$