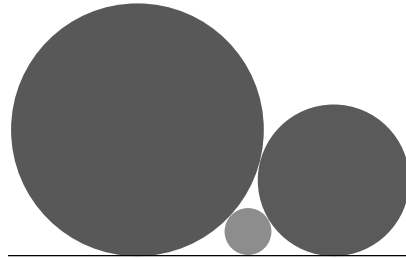


THIS ISSUE'S PUZZLE

TWO CIRCLES, or radii 3 and 5, are tangent to each other as well as a common line. A third circle lies in the area bounded by the two circles and the line and is tangent to all three bounds. What is the radius of the third circle?



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ANSWER TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Five ants are on the corners of an equilateral pentagon. At the same time each ant begins to move toward the ant next to him, in a clockwise direction. Each ant moves at the same speed. As they move the positions of the ants continue to mark the corners of an equilateral pentagon, decreasing in size. The sides of the initial pentagon are of length 1. What is the distance each ant moves before they meet in the center? The answer only is sufficient; no solution is required for credit.

The answer is:
 $1 + 1/\sqrt{5} = \sim 1.4472$

SOLVERS (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER):

R. Ballmer, B. Butsic, G. Crosby, M. Evans, Y. Feng, R. Giambo, W. Glasgow, D. Hoye, D. Kidwell, B. Koch, D. McKenzie, D. McMichael, L. Pentek, T. Pollis, R.B. Shapland, T. Shively, D. Sondergeld, A. Spooner, N. Stigliano, K. Trapp

Please mail all answers and any suggestions for future puzzles to Michael Shackelford, 9200 Sienna Vista Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89117 or e-mail to wizardofodds@lvcm.com. The names of those who send correct solutions will be acknowledged in a future issue of Contingencies.



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