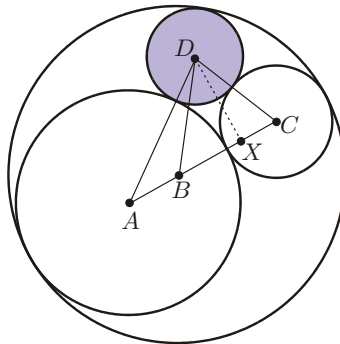


Circles of radii 1 and 2 are externally tangent to each other and internally tangent to a third circle of radius 3. A fourth circle is tangent to the other three circles according to the figure.

What is the radius of this fourth circle?

**Solution 1 (by the organizers).** Let  $A, B, C, D$  be the centers of the circles with radii 2, 3, 1, and  $r$  respectively. The problem asks for the value of  $r$ . The circles with centers  $A$  and  $C$  are externally tangent and internally tangent to the circle of radius 3, thus  $A, B$ , and  $C$  are collinear. Note that  $AC = 3, AB = 1, BC = 2, AD = 2 + r, CD = 1 + r$ , and  $BD = 3 - r$ . Since  $BC = 2AB$  then  $\text{Area}(BCD) = 2\text{Area}(ABD)$ . We calculate both of these areas using Heron's formula: If a triangle has sides  $a, b, c$ , and semiperimeter  $s = (a + b + c)/2$ , then its area equals  $\sqrt{s(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)}$ .



In  $ABD$  the semiperimeter equals  $(AB + BD + AD)/2 = 3$ , and in  $BCD$  the semiperimeter equals  $(BC + CD + BD)/2 = 3$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Area}(ABD)^2 &= 3(2)(r)(1-r) = 6r(1-r), \text{ and} \\ \text{Area}(BCD)^2 &= 3(1)(2-r)(r) = 3r(2-r).\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$3r(2-r) = \text{Area}(BCD)^2 = 4\text{Area}(ABD)^2 = 24r(1-r)$$

and since  $r \neq 0$  then  $r = 6/7$ .

**Solution 2 (by the organizers).** We use the same labels as in solution 1, but now we also consider the point  $X$ , given as the foot of the perpendicular to  $AC$  by  $D$ . Instead of using areas, we use Pythagora's Theorem applied to the triangles  $AXD$ ,  $BXD$ , and  $CXD$ . Let  $DX = h$  and  $CX = a$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}(1+r)^2 &= CD^2 = CX^2 + XD^2 = a^2 + h^2, \\(3-r)^2 &= BD^2 = BX^2 + XD^2 = (2-a)^2 + h^2, \text{ and} \\(r+2)^2 &= AD^2 = AX^2 + XD^2 = (3-a)^2 + h^2.\end{aligned}$$

Solving for  $h^2$  in the first equation and substituting in the other two we get

$$\begin{aligned}2r - 1 &= a, \text{ and} \\3 - r &= 3a.\end{aligned}$$

Solving for  $a$  and  $r$  we get  $a = 5/7$  and  $r = 6/7$ .