**Exploring Chords and Arcs**with Geometer’s Sketchpad

In this activity, we will investigate properties of chords and arcs within a circle.



***Def. Chord –*** *a line segment whose endpoints are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

is a chord of circle *O.*

***Construction note:*** *When making the following constructions, do not use the initial construction point on the circle as one of your endpoints for chords or arcs. Save this point as a handle to modify the size of the circle.*

**Part 1: Central Angles, Arcs, and Chords**

1. Construct circle *O* (label the center *O*).
2. Construct central angles and with endpoints on the circle.
3. Measure the angles and . Move the points until the two angles are congruent.
4. Construct chords and .
5. Measure these chords and complete this theorem with your observation:  
     
    **Theorem:** Congruent central angles have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chords.  
    Move the points *A, B, C,* and *D* to verify this.
6. Measure the lengths of arcs and by selecting the circle and two endpoints, then go to the [Measure] menu.  
      
    **Theorem:** Congruent chords have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ arcs   
    Move the points *A, B, C,* and *D* to verify this.
7. Finally use the transitive property to connect these two statements.  
     
    **Theorem:** Congruent central angles have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ arcs.   
    Move the points *A, B, C,* and *D* to verify this.

**Part 2: Equidistant Chords**

1. Start a new construction and construct circle *P.*
2. Construct chords and .
3. Construct a line Perpendicular to that passes through *P.*
4. Construct the intersection of and the perpendicular line and label it point *M.*
5. Construct a line Perpendicular to that passes through *P.*
6. Construct the intersection of and the perpendicular line and label it point *N.*
7. Measure the distances *MP* and *NP*, and the length of chords and .
8. Move the points *A, B, C,* and *D* until the chords are congruent. Now complete the following theorem by observing your measurements  
     
    **Theorem:** Congruent chords are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the center.  
    Move the points *A, B, C,* and *D* to verify this.  
     
    **Theorem:** We can also say that Chords that are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the center are   
    congruent.

**Part 3: Diameters and Chords**

1. Start a new construction and construct circle *Q*.
2. Construct chord
3. Construct the perpendicular bisector of chord . (Hint: you will need to make midpoints first)
4. Construct the intersection points where this perpendicular bisector intersects the circle. Label these points *C*  and *D.*   
    What is special about segment (what kind of segment is it)?  
    Move the points *A to B* to verify that this is always true.  
     
    **Theorem:** In a circle the perpendicular bisector goes through the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the circle.

**Part 4: Diameters and Arcs**

1. Continue with the drawing from part 3. Delete the perpendicular bisector and the midpoint of
2. Construct point *E* on the circle.
3. Construct Line
4. Construct the intersection of this line and the circle (on the opposite side of *E*). Label this point *F*.  
     
    What kind of segment is ?
5. Move *E* until intersects . Construct this intersection point and label it *G.*
6. Measure . Measure segments and . Measure arcs , , , and .
7. Move *E* until the diameter is perpendicular to the chord. Complete the theorem:  
     
    **Theorem:** If a diameter is perpendicular to a chord, then it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the chord and the arcs.  
    Move the endpoints of the diameter and the chord to verify this.

**Part 5 (Challenge):** Find the center

1. Copy a picture of a circular object (such as the earth or a wheel) into Geometer’s Sketchpad.
2. Construct two chords on this circle.
3. Use what you discovered in the previous parts to find the center of the circle using constructions.  
   (Do not guess at the center by trying to draw a random circle that fits).
4. Once you have found and constructed the center. Verify that it is the center by construction a circle from the center to the outside of the circle in the picture. Does the circle perfectly fit the picture?