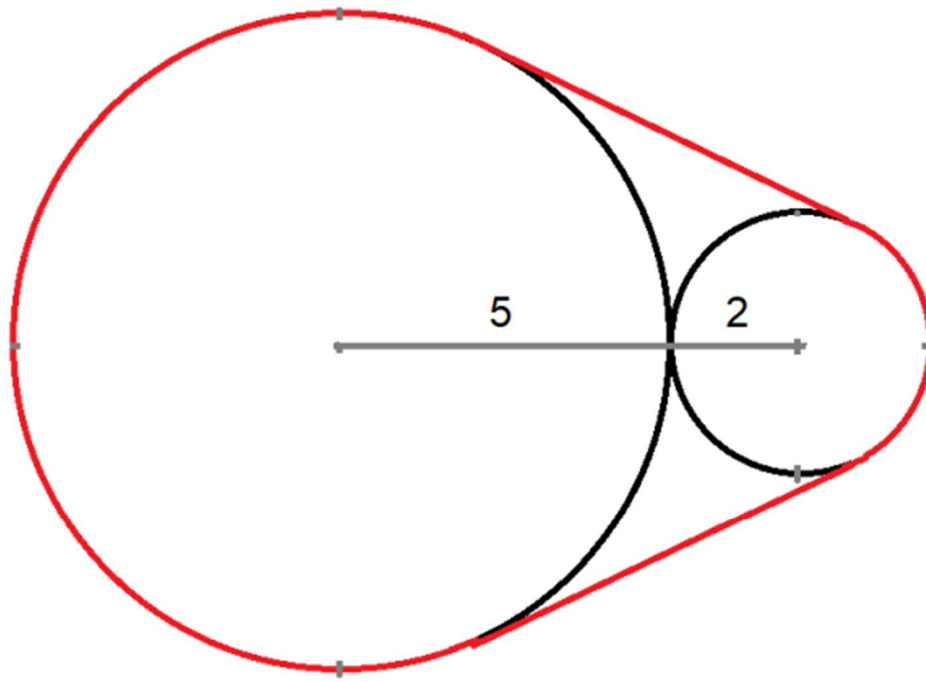


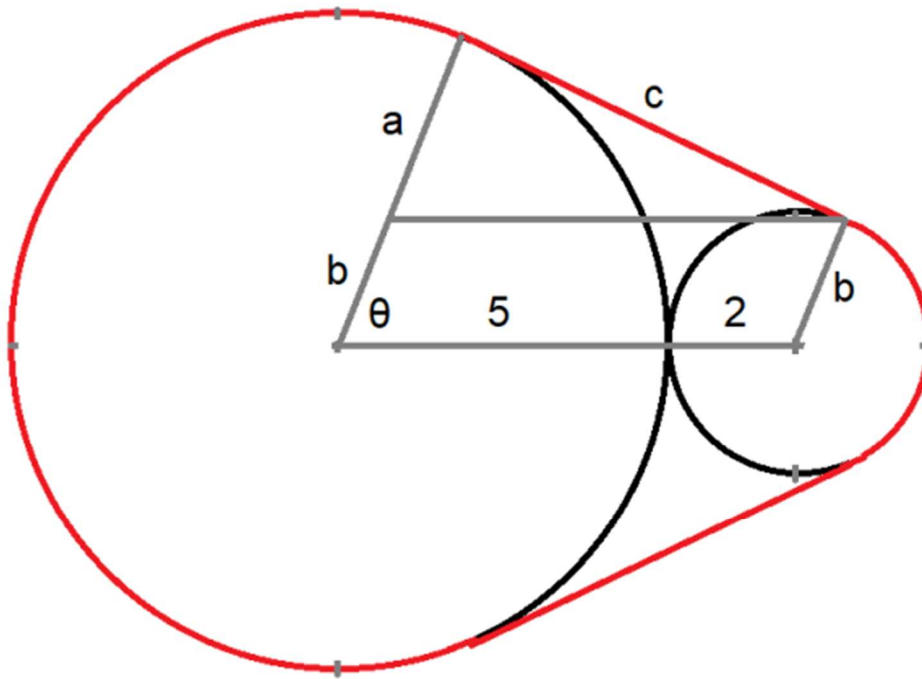
Q: A rubber band is stretched over two adjacent circles of diameters 2 and 5. What is the length of the stretched rubber band?



A: $2\sqrt{40} + 10(\pi - \cos^{-1}(3/7)) \approx 37.297725$

Solution:

Let's use the following diagram:



We know $a+b = 5$ and $b=2$, thus $a=3$.

The Pythagorean formula tells us $c = \sqrt{40} \approx 6.324555$.

Let's look at the triangle with sides of a , c and 7 .

$$\cos(\theta) = 3/7 \approx 1.127885.$$

The area the rubber band goes around the big circle is thus $= 5 \cdot 2 \cdot (\pi - \cos^{-1}(3/7)) \approx 20.137074$.

The area the rubber band goes around the small circle is thus $= 2 \cdot 2 \cdot \cos^{-1}(3/7) \approx 4.511541$.

Adding these parts we get a total length of $2 \cdot \sqrt{40} + 10 \cdot (\pi - \cos^{-1}(3/7)) \approx 37.297725$.