

**Question**

Determine all the circles in  $\bar{\mathbf{C}}$  that are taken to themselves by the Möbius transformation  $m(z) = \frac{3z-2}{2z-1}$ . (That is, determine all the circles  $A$  in  $\bar{\mathbf{C}}$  satisfying  $m(A) = A$ .)

**Answer**

First, find the fixed points and the type of  $m$ :

$$m(z) = \frac{3z-2}{2z-1} \quad \det(m) = -3 + 4 = 1, \text{ so } m \text{ is already normalized.}$$

$$\tau(m) = (3-1)^2 = 4 \text{ and so } m \text{ is parabolic.}$$

Fixed point:

$$m(z) = z$$

$$2z^2 - z = 3z - 2$$

$$2z^2 - 4z + 2 = 0$$

$$z^2 - 2z + 1 = 0$$

$$(z-1)^2 = 0 \text{ so } m(1) = 1$$

Since the coefficients of  $m$  are real,  $m(\mathbf{R}) = \mathbf{R}$ . If  $A$  is a circle in  $\bar{\mathbf{C}}$  intersecting  $\mathbf{R}$  in two points (1=fixed point of  $m$  and  $z_0$ ), then  $m(A) \neq A$  since  $m(z_0) \neq z_0$ . If  $A$  is a circle in  $\bar{\mathbf{C}}$  which is tangent to  $\mathbf{R}$  at 1, then  $m(A) = A$ . So, the circles taken to themselves by  $m$  are  $\bar{\mathbf{R}}$  and any circle in  $\mathbf{C}$  tangent to  $\mathbf{R}$  at 1.