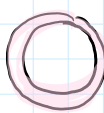


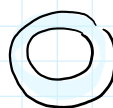
(Alternate solution follows @ the bottom)

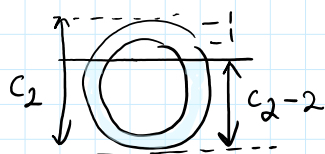
How much distance does each circle contribute?

notations: D_i = the distance contribution of a the i -th circle (from the largest to the smallest). Do not confuse with the bottoms, this is the distance contributed by one circle.

c_i = the diameter of the i -th circle.

D_1 :  the bottom of c_1 is:
20 cm
 $D_1 = c_1$

D_2 :  size: $c_2 = c_1 - 1 \text{ cm} = 20 - 1 = 19 \text{ cm}$
position: 
total: -2 units up



D_2 = the distance contribution of c_2

$$D_2 = c_2 - 2$$

$$D_3 = c_3 - 2$$

$$D_i = c_i - 2$$

$$D_n = 3 - 2 = 1 \text{ cm.}$$

c_{last}  the last

contributions of dist.: $D_1, \dots, D_i, \dots, D_n$
20 $c_i - 2$ 1

Attention:

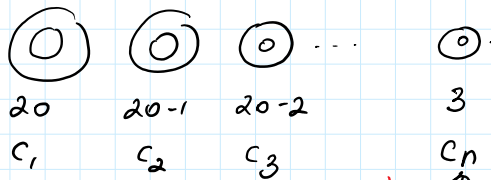
do not confuse the distance contributions of the circles with their respective diameters.

almost looks like we could apply: $S_n = \frac{n}{2} (D_1 + D_n)$

to find the total distance. However, the sequence (series)

$D_n(S_n)$ contains a subseries c_i , so we can't apply this formula until that has been resolved.

So let's resolve:



$c_i = 20 - (i-1)$ what is n? the level @ which 3cm circle appears.

$$c_i = 20 - (i-1)$$

$$c_i = 20 - i + 1$$

$$\boxed{c_i = 21 - i} \leftarrow \text{general formula for diameter of } i\text{-th circle.}$$

Resolve n:

$$\begin{cases} c_n = 21 - n \\ c_n = 3 \text{ cm} \end{cases} \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow 21 - n &= 3 \\ 21 - 3 &= n \\ n &= 18 \end{aligned}$$

Back to D_i now:

$$\boxed{D_i = c_i - 2}$$

$$i \geq 2, c_1 = 20, D_1 = 20$$

$$D_i = (21 - i) - 2$$

$$D_i = 21 - 2 - i$$

$$D_i = 19 - i$$

the 18th circle has 3cm diameter

the bottom is given by $S_n: D_1, D_2, D_3, \dots, D_n$ and the D_1 is not exactly based on $D_i = 19 - i$ and will need an adjustment

$$D_1 = 19 - 1 = 18$$

but instead should be 20 @ the end adjust S_n for the missing 2 units so the bottom will be:

$$\text{bottom} = S_{18} + 2$$

$$S_{18} = \frac{n}{2} (D_1 + D_{18}) = \frac{18}{2} (18 + 1) = 9 \times 19 = 171$$

$$\text{bottom} = 171 + 2 = 173$$

the adjustment for D_1 .

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} D_1: 18 \text{ cm} \\ D_2: 17 \\ D_3: 16 \\ \vdots \\ D_{18}: 1 \text{ cm} \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{later adjustment } +2 \text{ after} \\ S_n \text{ is} \\ \text{calculated.} \end{array}$$

an alternate but similar solution follows

An alternate but similar solution follows

b_i = the new bottom after the addition of a new circle

$$b_1 = 20$$

$$b_n = b_{n-1} - 2 + c_n$$

like before c_n = the diameter of the n -th circle

$$c_n = c_{n-1} - 1$$

$$c_n = 20 + (n-1)(-1)$$

$$c_n = 20 - n + 1$$

$$c_n = 21 - n$$

→ the level of of the 3rd circle remains $n=18$ as calculated in the prev. solution

based on:
" $t_n = t_1 + (n-1)d$ "

$$b_n = b_{n-1} - 2 + (21 - n)$$

$$b_n = b_{n-1} + 19 - n$$

b_n = will give us the final bottom we look for when $n=18$

$$b_1 = 20$$

$$b_2 = 20 + 19 - 2$$

$$b_3 = 20 + 19 - 2 + 19 - 3$$

$$= 20 + 2 \cdot 19 - (2+3)$$

$$b_4 = b_3 + 19 - 4$$

$$b_4 = 20 + 3 \cdot 19 - (2+3+4)$$

$$b_5 = b_4 + 19 - 5$$

$$b_5 = 20 + 4 \cdot 19 - (2+3+4+5)$$

$$b_1 = 20$$

$$b_2 = 20 + 1 \cdot 19 - (2)$$

$$b_3 = 20 + 2 \cdot 19 - (2+3)$$

$$b_4 = 20 + 3 \cdot 19 - (2+3+4)$$

$$b_5 = 20 + 4 \cdot 19 - (2+3+4+5)$$

the following formula emerges:

$$b_n = 20 + (n-1) \cdot 19 - (2+3+4+\dots+n)$$

$$b_{18} = \text{the answer, but 1st calc}$$

BTW

$$= \sum_{i=2}^n i$$

$$2+3+\dots+n = [1+2+\dots+n] - 1$$

$$= S_n - 1$$

$$= \frac{n}{2} [t_1 + t_n] - 1$$

$$= \frac{n}{2} (1 + n) - 1$$

$$= \frac{n(n+1)}{2} - 1$$

Resolve b_{18}

Resolve b_{18}

2

$$b_n = 20 + (n-1)19 - \left[\frac{n(n+1)}{2} - 1 \right]$$

$$b_n = 20 + 19n - 19 - \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + 1$$

$$b_n = 1 + 19n - \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + 1$$

$$b_n = 19n - \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + 2$$

$$\Rightarrow b_{18} = 19 \cdot 18 - \frac{18(19)}{2} + 2$$

$$b_{18} = 342 - 171 + 2$$

$$b_{18} = 171 + 2$$

$$\boxed{b_{18} = 173} \text{ cm.} \quad \checkmark \text{ the same result as before}$$
