Answer to the Problem 4g) on the worksheet "Complex second degree polynomials" at http://wanda.uef.fi/mathematics/MathDistEdu/SemProd/ComplexSecDPol.htm

We shall use the following apparent properties of complex numbers:

- 1 A complex number z has unit module if and only if there is a real number t such that  $z = e^{it}$ .
- 2 A complex number a can be expressed in a form  $a = \frac{1}{2}(e^{is} + e^{it})$  with s, t real numbers, if and only if |a| < 1.

For the proof, see the figure below.



3 Recall the definition of a double point: The locus of a complex function f has a *double* point if there are two distinct points z and w such that f(z) = f(w).

**Proposition** Let f be the complex function defined by  $f(z) = z^2 + bz + c$ , with zeros  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ . If z is describing the circle C(P, r) with center P and radius r > 0, then the locus (image)  $\{f(z) \mid z \in C(P, r)\}$  has a double point if and only if the midpoint  $m := \frac{1}{2}(z_1 + z_2)$  of the segment between the two zeros is inside the circle C(P, r).

Proof. The circle is represented by  $C(P, r) = \{P + re^{it} \mid t \in [0, 2\pi[\}\}$ . Then the locus is described by  $\gamma : [0, 2\pi[ \to \mathbb{C},$ 

$$\gamma(t) = f(P + re^{it}).$$

Note that

$$f(z) = (z - z_1)(z - z_2) = \left(z - \frac{z_1 + z_2}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{z_1 - z_2}{2}\right)^2 = (z - m)^2 - \left(\frac{z_1 - z_2}{2}\right)^2$$

(show in details!). We are looking for  $s \neq t$  such that  $s, t \in [0, 2\pi]$  and

$$(P + re^{is} - m)^2 - \left(\frac{z_1 - z_2}{2}\right)^2 = (P + re^{it} - m)^2 - \left(\frac{z_1 - z_2}{2}\right)^2,$$

which is equivalent to (calculate!)

$$r^{2}(e^{is} - e^{it})\left(e^{is} + e^{it} + 2\frac{k-m}{r}\right) = 0.$$

Now we have  $r \neq 0$ ,  $e^{is} \neq e^{it}$ , so that  $e^{is} + e^{it} = 2\frac{m-k}{r}$ . But by the fact 2 above this happens if and only if |m - k| < r. But this means that m is inside the circle.