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A circular arc graph is the intersection graph of a collection of connected arcs on the circle. We consider a Turán-type problem for circular arc graphs: for  $n$  arcs, if  $m$  and  $M$  are the minimum and maximum number of arcs that contain a common point, what is the maximum number of edges the circular arc graph can contain? We establish a sharp bound that, given a fixed minimum  $m$  arcs that contain a common point, can be used to show that if the circular arc graph has enough edges, there must be a point that is covered by at least  $M$  arcs. In the case  $m = 0$ , we recover results for interval graphs established by Abbott and Katchalski (1979). We suggest applications to voting situations with interval or circular political spectra. (Received July 29, 2011)