Answer on Question #56369 – Math – Analytic Geometry

Question

A circle has its center at C(-3,-2) and radius square root of 76. Find the length of its chord bisected at M(4,-1).



A radius drawn to the midpoint of a chord is perpendicular to the chord (Two points that are equidistant from the endpoints of a segment lie on the perpendicular bisector of the segment). We find *CM* using the distance formula:

$$CM = \sqrt{(4+3)^2 + (-1+2)^2} = \sqrt{50} = 5\sqrt{2}.$$

 ΔCMA is a right triangle. *CA* is a radius so $CA = \sqrt{76}$. Using the Pythagorean Theorem, we find *AM*:

> $AM^{2} + CM^{2} = CA^{2};$ $AM^{2} = CA^{2} - CM^{2};$ $AM^{2} = 76 - 50 = 26;$ $AM = \sqrt{26}.$ The $AB = 2\sqrt{26}.$

Since *M* is a midpoint of *AB*, we have $AB = 2\sqrt{26}$.

Answer: the length of the chord bisected at (4,-1) of the given circle is $2\sqrt{26}$.

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