

1.5.4

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Question:

A circle has its center at (4, 4). If one end of a diameter is (4, 0), then find the coordinates of the other end.

Solution:

Let the position vectors for the center, the known end, and the unknown end of the diameter be **C**, **B**, and **A** respectively. Let the coordinates of the unknown end **A** be (a, b) .

The given vectors are:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

The center of the circle is the midpoint of the diameter. Therefore, the center vector is the average of the endpoint vectors.

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}}{2} \quad (2)$$

To find the unknown vector **A**, we rearrange the equation:

$$2\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B} \quad (4)$$

Substituting the given vector values:

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} &= 2 \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} \quad (6)$$

\therefore The other end of the diameter is (4, 8).

