Construct the Square Root of 3

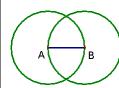
How to construct the square root of 3

Ä B

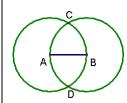
1. Let the line segment AB be unity (A line segment of length 1).



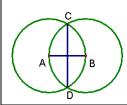
2. Construct a circle with center A and radius AB



3. Construct a circle with center B and radius AB



4. Mark the intersections of the two circles C and D.



5. Draw line segment CD. The length of line segment CD is $\sqrt{3}$.

Proof of Construction

- 1. The length of AB is taken to be 1 by definition.
- 2. Because both circles are constructed with a radius of AB, they are congruent.
- 3. Since the segments CA and CB are both radii of congruent circles, they are congruent.
- 4. Since AB is perpendicular to CD (see Euclid's Proposition ??), angle CMB is a right angle.
- 5. By the Pythagorean Theorem (see Euclid's Proposition 47), $BM^2 + CM^2 = BC^2$.
- 6. But, since CD is unity, CM = 1/2.
- 7. Since CB = unity by construction, CB = 1, which gives $CM^2 + (1/2)^2 = 12$.
- 8. Since CM = 1/2 CD, (1/2 CD)² + $(1/2)^2$ = 12.
- 9. Simplifying give us $(1/2 \text{ CD})^2 + 1/4 = 1$, $1/4 \text{ CD}^2 = 3/4$, $\text{CD}^2 = 3$, $\text{CD} = \sqrt{3}$, QED.

Source: http://McAdamsMath.tripod.com/numbers/cons sqrt 3.pdf