

Matgeo Presentation - Problem 8.2.23

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Problem Statement

The conic has vertices $(0, \pm 13)$ and foci $(0, \pm 5)$. Find the equation of the conic.

Name	Description	vector form
B₁	vertex 1 of conic	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 13 \end{pmatrix}$
B₂	vertex 2 of conic	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -13 \end{pmatrix}$
F₁	focus 1 of conic	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$
F₂	focus 2 of conic	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$

Table : Ellipse

Solution

The conic has two foci , so it cannot be a parabola .

Equation for any conic with directrix $\mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{x} = c$, eccentricity e and focus \mathbf{F} is given by

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{x} + f = 0 \quad (0.1)$$

$$(0.2)$$

$$\mathbf{V} = \|\mathbf{n}\|^2 \mathbf{I} - e^2 \mathbf{n} \mathbf{n}^\top \quad (0.3)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = c e^2 \mathbf{n} - \|\mathbf{n}\|^2 \mathbf{F} \quad (0.4)$$

$$f = \|\mathbf{n}\|^2 \|\mathbf{F}\|^2 - c^2 e^2 \quad (0.5)$$

The normal vector of the directrix is along the direction vector of $\mathbf{F}_1 - \mathbf{F}_2$

$$\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{F}_1 - \mathbf{F}_2 \equiv \mathbf{e}_2 \quad (0.6)$$

Solution

From (0.3) we can form the matrix \mathbf{V}

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - e^2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.7)$$

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - e^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.8)$$

As \mathbf{V} is an upper triangular matrix, we get the eigen values as the diagonal entries

$$\lambda_1 = 1 - e^2 \qquad \lambda_2 = 1 \quad (0.9)$$

Clearly $|\mathbf{V}| \neq 0$, \mathbf{V}^{-1} exists.

The center of the conic \mathbf{c} can be found

$$\mathbf{c} = \frac{\mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2}{2} = \mathbf{0} \quad (0.10)$$

Solution

The relation between the \mathbf{c} , \mathbf{V} and \mathbf{u} is given by

$$\mathbf{V}\mathbf{c} + \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0} \qquad |\mathbf{V}| \neq 0 \qquad (0.11)$$

$$\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0} \qquad (0.12)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0} \qquad (0.13)$$

From (0.4) we get

$$ce^2 \mathbf{e}_2 = \mathbf{F}_1 \qquad (0.14)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ ce^2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \qquad (0.15)$$

$$ce^2 = 5 \qquad (0.16)$$

$$c = \frac{5}{e^2} \qquad (0.17)$$

$$f_0 = \mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{u} - f \qquad (0.18)$$

Solution

as $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ and from (0.5), we get

$$f_0 = c^2 e^2 - 25 \quad (0.19)$$

The length of the major axis is the distance between the two vertices

$$\|\mathbf{B}_1 - \mathbf{B}_2\| = 26 \quad (0.20)$$

The length of major axes is also given as

$$2\sqrt{\left|\frac{f_0}{\lambda_1}\right|} \quad (0.21)$$

So,

$$2\sqrt{\left|\frac{c^2 e^2 - 25}{1 - e^2}\right|} = 26 \quad (0.22)$$

Solution

From (0.17) we get

$$\sqrt{\frac{25}{e^2}} = 13 \quad (0.23)$$

$$\frac{5}{e} = 13 \quad (0.24)$$

$$e = \frac{5}{13} \quad (0.25)$$

As $e < 1$, the conic is an **ellipse**

The value of c and directrix equation are given as

$$c = \frac{169}{5} \qquad \mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{x} = \pm \frac{169}{5} \quad (0.26)$$

Solution

Using the obtained values of c and e , we get

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{144}{169} \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.27)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0} \quad (0.28)$$

$$f = -144 \quad (0.29)$$

Substituting these in (0.1) , we get the equation of **ellipse** as

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{144} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{169} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 1 \quad (0.30)$$

$$(0.31)$$

Plot

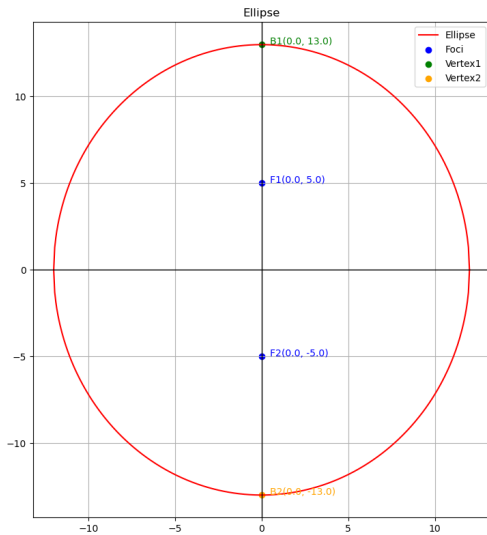


Fig : Ellipse