

Conic Assignment

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Problem Statement - Find the radius of the circle passing through the foci of the ellipse $\frac{x^2}{16} + \frac{y^2}{9} = 1$ and having its centre at (0,3)

Solution

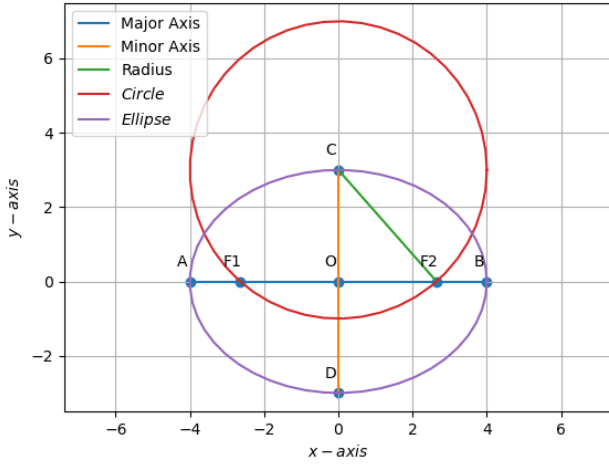


Figure 1: Ellipse with center O along with Circle C

Given an ellipse with center **O** and semi major axis length $a = 4$ cm and semi minor axis length $b = 3$ cm.

Let **F₁** & **F₂** be the Foci of the ellipse, where **A**, **B** & **C**, **D** be the extreme points on major & minor axis respectively.

The equation of a conic with directrix $\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{x} = c$, eccentricity e and Focus **F** is given by,

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{x} + f = 0 \quad (1)$$

For the given equation of ellipse,

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 0 \\ 0 & 16 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \& \quad f = -144 \quad (2)$$

The eigenvalue decomposition of a symmetric matrix **V** is given by

$$\mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{D} \quad \mathbf{P} = (\mathbf{P}_1 \quad \mathbf{P}_2) \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

On solving (3) with $\mathbf{P}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ & $\mathbf{P}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, we get

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 0 \\ 0 & 16 \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$

where,

$$\lambda_1 = 9 \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_2 = 16 \quad (6)$$

We have,

$$\text{eccentricity, } e = \sqrt{1 - \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}} \quad (7)$$

from (6),

$$e = 0.6614 \quad (8)$$

Normal vector of directrix **n** is given by

$$\mathbf{n} = \sqrt{\lambda_2} \mathbf{P}_1 \quad (9)$$

This gives,

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (10)$$

For $e \neq 1$, we have

$$c = \frac{e \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{n} \pm \sqrt{e^2 (\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{n})^2 - \lambda_2 (e^2 - 1) (\|\mathbf{u}\|^2 - \lambda_2 f)}}{\lambda_2 e (e^2 - 1)} \quad (11)$$

On solving we get,

$$c = \pm 24.1911 \quad (12)$$

Foci of a conic is given by the equation,

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{ce^2 \mathbf{n} - \mathbf{u}}{\lambda_2} \quad (13)$$

Yielding,

$$\mathbf{F} = \pm 2.6456 \quad (14)$$

Therefore, foci of the ellipse are,

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -2.6456 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \& \quad \mathbf{F}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2.6456 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (15)$$

Given $\mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ is the center of the circle and is passing through foci of the ellipse.
Let the circle be,

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{u}_1^T \mathbf{x} + f_1 = 0 \quad (16)$$

where,

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{I} \quad \& \quad \mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (17)$$

Since circle is passing through **F₁**

$$\mathbf{F}_1^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{F}_1 + 2\mathbf{u}_1^T \mathbf{F}_1 + f_1 = 0 \quad (18)$$

$$(-2.6456 \quad 0) \begin{pmatrix} -2.6456 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + 2(0 \quad -3) \begin{pmatrix} -2.6456 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + f_1 = 0 \quad (19)$$

$$6.99 + 0 + f_1 = 0 \\ \implies f_1 = -6.99$$

Hence, Equation of the circle is given as,

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{I} \mathbf{x} + 2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} - 6.99 = 0 \quad (20)$$

We have, radius of the circle,

$$r = \sqrt{\|\mathbf{u}\|^2 - f_1} \quad (21)$$

$$r = \sqrt{\left(\sqrt{0^2 + (-3)^2}\right)^2 - (-6.99)} \\ r = \sqrt{9 + 6.99} \\ r = \sqrt{15.99} \\ \therefore \text{Radius, } r = 3.99\text{cm} \quad (22)$$

Construction

An ellipse with center O and major, minor axis a, b respectively along with circle with center C is constructed using python, with the parameters that are mentioned in the table below.

Symbol	Value	Description
a	4	Semi Major Axis
b	3	Semi Minor Axis
O	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	Center of Ellipse
e1	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	Unit Vector along x-axis
e2	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	Unit Vector along y-axis
A	$-\mathbf{a} * \mathbf{e1}$	Vertex A
B	$\mathbf{a} * \mathbf{e1}$	Vertex B
C	$\mathbf{b} * \mathbf{e2}$	Center of circle (C)
D	$-\mathbf{b} * \mathbf{e2}$	Vertex D
d	$\sqrt{a^2 - b^2}$	distance between Center (O) & Foci
F₁	$-\mathbf{d} * \mathbf{e1}$	Focus 1 of Ellipse
F₂	$\mathbf{d} * \mathbf{e1}$	Focus 2 of Ellipse

Table 1: Parameter's Table