

Problem: 11.11.3.9

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1 PROBLEM

Find the co-ordinates of the foci, the vertices, the length of major axis, the minor axis, the eccentricity and the length of latus rectum of the ellipse $4x^2 + 9y^2 = 36$.

2 SOLUTION

1) Given ellipse equation:

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{x} + f = 0 \quad (2.0.1)$$

$$\text{here, } \mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{4}{9} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.2)$$

$$f = -4 \quad (2.0.3)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.4)$$

2) points of intersection of a line $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A} + \mu \mathbf{h}$ with ellipse are given by:

$$\mu_i = \frac{1}{\mathbf{m}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{m}} \left(-\mathbf{m}^T (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u}) \pm \sqrt{(\mathbf{m}^T (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u}))^2 - g(\mathbf{h})} \right) \quad (2.0.5)$$

where,

$$g(\mathbf{h}) = \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} + 2\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{h} + f \quad (2.0.6)$$

3) Center of the ellipse,

$$\mathbf{C} = -\mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{u} \quad (2.0.7)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.8)$$

4) Major axis

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 0 \quad (2.0.9)$$

$$\text{i.e., } \mathbf{x} = \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.10)$$

5) Vertices

Vertices lie on major axis, therefore let

$$\mathbf{v} = \mu_i \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.11)$$

$$\mathbf{m}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{m} = \frac{4}{9} \quad (2.0.12)$$

$$\mathbf{m}^{top} (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u}) = 0 \quad (2.0.13)$$

$$g(\mathbf{h}) = -4 \quad (2.0.14)$$

$$\mu_i = \frac{0 \pm \sqrt{0 - (-4) \frac{4}{9}}}{\frac{4}{9}} \quad (2.0.15)$$

$$= \pm 3 \quad (2.0.16)$$

Vertices are $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

6) Length of major axis

length of major axis = distance between vertices (2.0.17)

$$= \|\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2\| \quad (2.0.18)$$

$$= 6 \quad (2.0.19)$$

7) minor axis

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 0 \quad (2.0.20)$$

$$\mu \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.21)$$

$$\mathbf{m}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{m} = 1 \quad (2.0.22)$$

$$\mathbf{m}^T (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u}) = 0 \quad (2.0.23)$$

$$g(\mathbf{h}) = -4 \quad (2.0.24)$$

$$\mu_i = 0 \pm \sqrt{0 - (-4)} \quad (2.0.25)$$

$$= \pm 2 \quad (2.0.26)$$

Points of intersection of minor axis with ellipse

be $\mu_i \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Points of intersection of minor axis with ellipse = $\pm \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ (2.0.27)