

An ellipse has the equation:

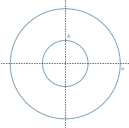
$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1 \quad (1)$$

And can be drawn by:

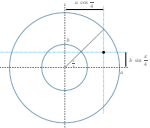
$$x = a \cos(t) \quad y = b \sin(t) \quad 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$$



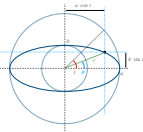
So let's draw. Start with two circles with radius a and b .



Now let's draw a point at $t = 45^\circ$



This actually draws the ellipse point at a different angle



So the ellipse angle is then:

$$\tan \theta = \frac{b \sin t}{a \cos t}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{b}{a} \tan t$$

$$\theta = \arctan\left(\frac{b}{a} \tan t\right) \quad (2)$$

$$t = \arctan\left(\frac{a}{b} \tan \theta\right) \quad (3)$$

So how to find r at θ ?

Substitute x and y coordinates in terms of r into (1)

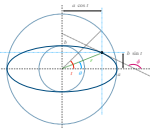
$$\frac{r^2}{a^2} + \frac{r^2}{b^2} = 1$$

$$\frac{(r \cos \theta)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(r \sin \theta)^2}{b^2} = 1$$

$$r^2 \cos^2 \theta + r^2 \sin^2 \theta = a^2 \cos^2 \theta + b^2 \sin^2 \theta$$

$$r(\theta) = \frac{a^2 b^2}{\sqrt{(b \cos \theta)^2 + (a \sin \theta)^2}} \quad (4)$$

How to find angle θ from a tangent line with angle α ?



Gradient of the tangent is:

$$m = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

Where:

$$\Delta y = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dt} b \sin t = b \cos t$$

$$\Delta x = \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} a \cos t = -a \sin t$$

Therefore:

$$m = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = -\frac{b \cos t}{a \sin t} = -\frac{b}{a} \cot t$$

The gradient is related to α with the tan function:

$$\tan \phi = m = -\frac{b}{a} \cot t$$

$$\phi = \arctan\left(-\frac{b}{a \tan t}\right) = \arctan\left(-\frac{b \cos t}{a \sin t}\right) \quad (5)$$

$$t = \arctan\left(-\frac{b}{a \tan \phi}\right) \quad (6)$$

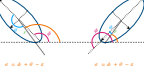
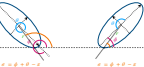
Substituting (6) into (2)

$$\theta = \arctan\left(\frac{b}{a} \tan t\right)$$

$$\theta = \arctan\left(\frac{b}{a} \tan \phi\right)$$

$$\theta = \arctan\left(\frac{b^2}{a^2} \tan \phi\right) \quad (7)$$

So we have a point, and an ellipse. We want to rotate the ellipse and then position it so that its horizontal tangent is touching the point



1. Find θ from α with (7)
2. Find r from θ with (4)
3. Find α from $\theta = \phi + \theta - \alpha$
4. x offset: $r \cos \alpha$
5. y offset: $r \sin \alpha$

If the label is on the end, then it is slightly different



$$\theta = 2\pi - \phi \quad (8)$$

$$\theta = \pi - \phi \quad (9)$$

1. Find θ from α with (8) for start of line and (9) for end of line
2. Find r from θ with (4)
3. x offset: $r \cos \alpha$ for start of line, $-r$ for end of line
4. y offset: 0