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## 1 Problem

An arch is in the form of a semi-ellipse. It is 8 m wide and 2 m high at the centre. Find the height of the arch at a point 1.5 m from one end.

## 2 Construction

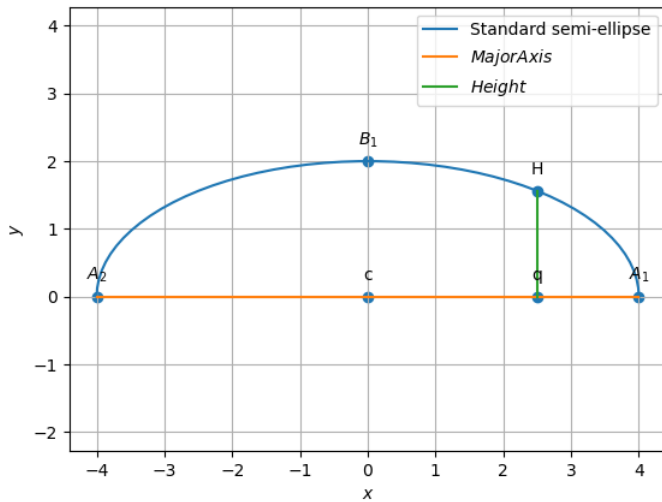


Figure of construction

## 3 Solution

Ellipse equation:

$$\frac{x^2}{16} + \frac{y^2}{4} = 1 \quad (1)$$

The standard equation of the conics is given as :

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

The given ellipse can be expressed in conics as

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, f = -1 \quad (3)$$

The input parameters for this construction are

Symbol	Value	Description
$a$	4	Length of semi major axis
$b$	2	Length of semi minor axis
$\mathbf{e}_1$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	Standard basis vector along X-axis
$\mathbf{m}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	Directional vector along Y-axis

The steps for constructing above figure are :

1. Generate semi-ellipse with semi major axis and semi minor axis lengths equal to  $a$  and  $b$  respectively.
2. Locate center  $c$  and vertices  $\mathbf{A}_1$  and  $\mathbf{A}_2$ .
3. Locate point  $q$  on the major axis.
4. Find the height of ellipse at  $q$ .

For the standard ellipse, the length of the major axis and minor axis are:

$$2\sqrt{\left|\frac{f_0}{\lambda_1}\right|} \quad (4)$$

$$2\sqrt{\left|\frac{f_0}{\lambda_2}\right|} \quad (5)$$

Given ,The major axis and minor axis are 8m and 4m in length respectively.

$$*f_0 = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{v}^{-1} \mathbf{u} - f = 1$$

$$\text{Equation (5)} \Rightarrow 2\sqrt{\left|\frac{f_0}{\lambda_1}\right|} = 8 \\ \Rightarrow \lambda_1 = 1/16$$

$$\text{Equation (6)} \Rightarrow 2\sqrt{\left|\frac{f_0}{\lambda_2}\right|} = 4 \\ \Rightarrow \lambda_2 = 1/4$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/16 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (6)$$

**vertices:**  $\mathbf{v} = \pm a\mathbf{e}_1$

$$\mathbf{v} = \pm a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \pm \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Let, } \mathbf{A}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{A}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

To find the height of ellipse at a point 1.5m from end,

$$\Rightarrow \|\mathbf{A}_1 - \mathbf{q}\|^2 = (1.5)^2 \quad (9)$$

$$(\mathbf{A}_1 - \mathbf{q})^\top (\mathbf{A}_1 - \mathbf{q}) = (1.5)^2 \quad (10)$$

$$\|\mathbf{A}_1\|^2 + \|\mathbf{q}\|^2 - 2\mathbf{A}_1^\top \mathbf{q} = (1.5)^2 \quad (11)$$

$$\|\mathbf{q}\|^2 - 2\mathbf{A}_1^\top \mathbf{q} + 13.75 = 0 \quad (12)$$

$$\mathbf{e}_2^\top \mathbf{q} = 0 \quad (13)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{q} = \lambda \mathbf{e}_1 \quad (14)$$

substitute (14) in (12);  $\Rightarrow \lambda^2 - 8\lambda + 13.75 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{5}{2}, \frac{11}{2}$$

The length of semi major axis is 4m, we need to find height of ellipse at a point 1.5m from one end.

$\therefore$  the possible solution is  $\lambda = \frac{5}{2}$

$\lambda$  lies on x-axis.

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{q} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{5}{2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (15)$$

#### Directional vector m:

The unit vector along Y-axis become the directional vector along Y-axis.

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (16)$$

**Theorem:** The points of intersection of the line

$$L: \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{q} + \mu \mathbf{m} \quad \mu \in \mathbb{R} \quad (17)$$

with the conic section in (2) are given by

$$\mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{q} + \mu_i \mathbf{m} \quad (18)$$

where  $\mu_i$  is given by

$$\mu_i = \frac{1}{\mathbf{m}^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{m}} \left( -\mathbf{m}^\top (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{u}) \pm Z \right) \quad (19)$$

$$Z = \sqrt{[\mathbf{m}^\top (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{u})]^2 - (\mathbf{q}^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{q} + 2\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{q} + f)(\mathbf{m}^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{m})}$$

By substituting the vectors  $\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}$  and constant  $f$  in (19) results intersection points on the conic section. Consider absolute value, say  $\mathbf{H}$ .

$\mathbf{H}$  gives height of ellipse at point  $\mathbf{q}$ .

(or)

$\|\mathbf{H} - \mathbf{q}\|$  results the same.

$\therefore$  Height of ellipse at  $\mathbf{q}=1.56$ .

**termux commands :**

```
bash conic.sh.....using shell command
```

Below python code realizes the above construction :

```
https://github.com/FWC\_module1/blob/main/matrices/conic/conic.py
```