

# Math 1060 ~ Trigonometry

## 27 Conic Sections: Ellipses, Including Circles

### Learning Objectives

In this section you will:

- Define an ellipse in a plane.
- Determine whether an equation represents an ellipse.
- Graph an ellipse from a given equation.
- Determine the center, vertices, foci and eccentricity of an ellipse.
- Find the equation of an ellipse from a graph or from stated properties.

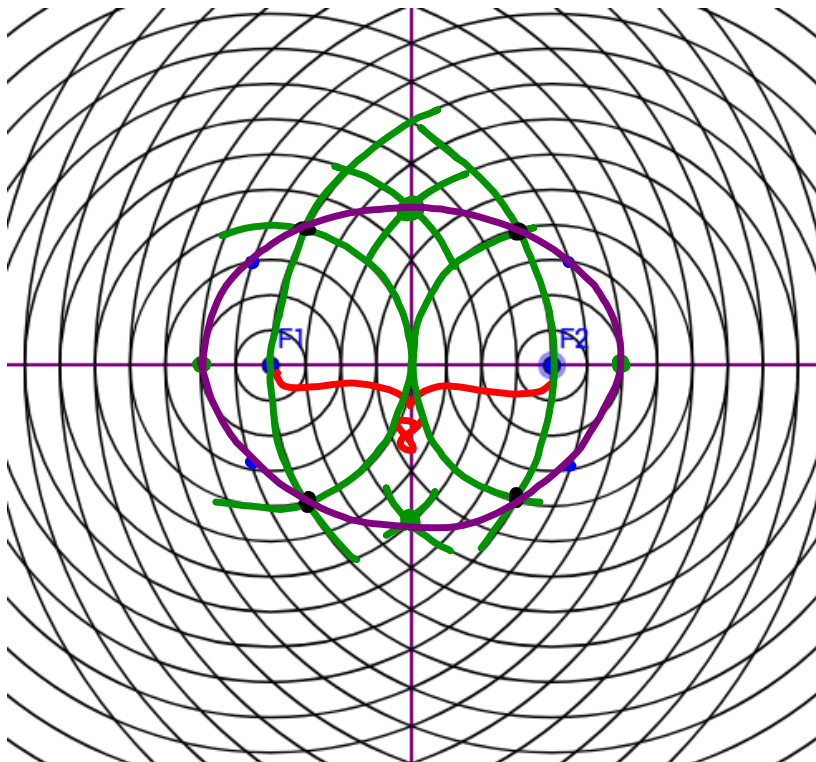
$$\sin^2 u + \cos^2 u = 1$$

$$\sin 2u = 2 \sin u \cos u$$

$$\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos C$$

Ex 1: Given the points  $F_1(-4,0)$  and  $F_2(4,0)$ , plot several points such that the sum of the distances from  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  to each point is 12. Draw the curve connecting the points.



Ellipses

$A, B, C, D, E$  constants,  $A \neq 0$  and  $B \neq 0$

General form:  $Ax^2 + By^2 + Cx + Dy + E = 0$  ( $A$  and  $B$  have same sign)

Given: two points (foci) and a distance ( $c$ ).

Definition: An ellipse is the set of all points in a plane such that for each point on the ellipse, the sum of its distances from two fixed points is constant.

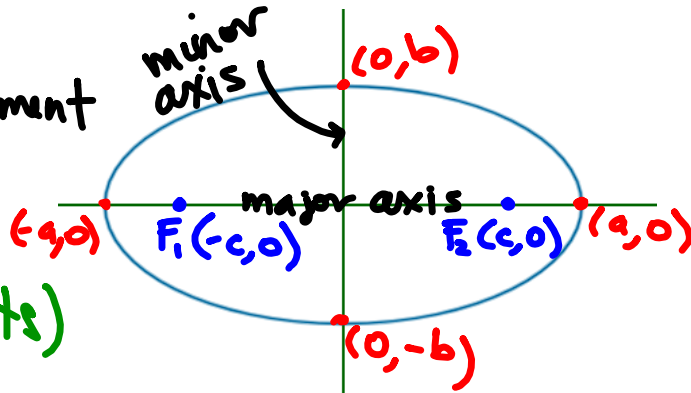
Vocabulary

Major axis : longer segment

Minor axis : shorter "

Center: intersectn of axes

Foci (the two fixed pts)



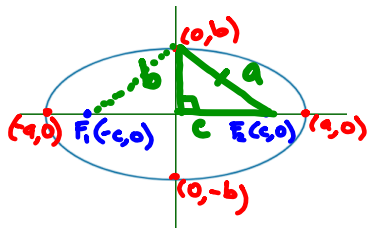
Note: ellipse has symmetry across both major and minor axes.

length of major axis =  $2a$

length of minor axis =  $2b$

distance between two foci =  $2c$

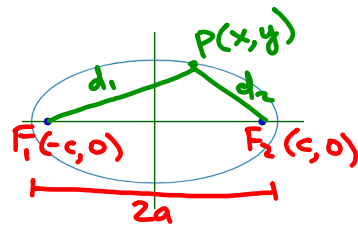
Note: If  $a=b$ , it's a circle.



$$b^2 + c^2 = a^2$$

$$b^2 = a^2 - c^2$$

Standard Form of an Equation of an Ellipse with Center at (0,0)



$$d_1 + d_2 = 2a$$

$$d_1 = \sqrt{(x-(-c))^2 + (y-0)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{(x+c)^2 + y^2}$$

$$d_2 = \sqrt{(x-c)^2 + y^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{(x+c)^2 + y^2} + \sqrt{(x-c)^2 + y^2} = 2a$$

$$\sqrt{x^2 + 2xc + c^2 + y^2} + \sqrt{x^2 - 2xc + c^2 + y^2} = 2a$$

$$(\sqrt{x^2 + 2xc + c^2 + y^2})^2 = (2a - \sqrt{x^2 - 2xc + c^2 + y^2})^2$$

$$x^2 + 2xc + c^2 + y^2 = 4a^2 - 4a\sqrt{x^2 - 2xc + c^2 + y^2} + x^2 - 2xc + c^2 + y^2$$

$$2xc = 4a^2 - 4a\sqrt{x^2 - 2xc + c^2 + y^2} - 2xc$$

$$-4a^2 + 2xc \quad -4a^2 \quad +2xc$$

$$(4xc - 4a^2)^2 = (-4a\sqrt{x^2 - 2xc + c^2 + y^2})^2$$

$$16x^2c^2 - 2(16xca^2) + 16a^4 = 16a^2(x^2 - 2xc + c^2 + y^2)$$

$$16x^2c^2 - 32xca^2 + 16a^4 = 16a^2x^2 - 32xca^2 + 16a^2c^2 + 16a^2y^2$$

$$xc^2 + a^4 = a^2x^2 + ac^2 + a^2y^2$$

$$xc^2 - a^2x^2 - a^2y^2 = ac^2 - a^4$$

$$\frac{x^2(c^2 - a^2) - a^2y^2}{a^2(c^2 - a^2)} = \frac{a^2(c^2 - a^2)}{a^2(c^2 - a^2)}$$

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{c^2 - a^2} = 1$$

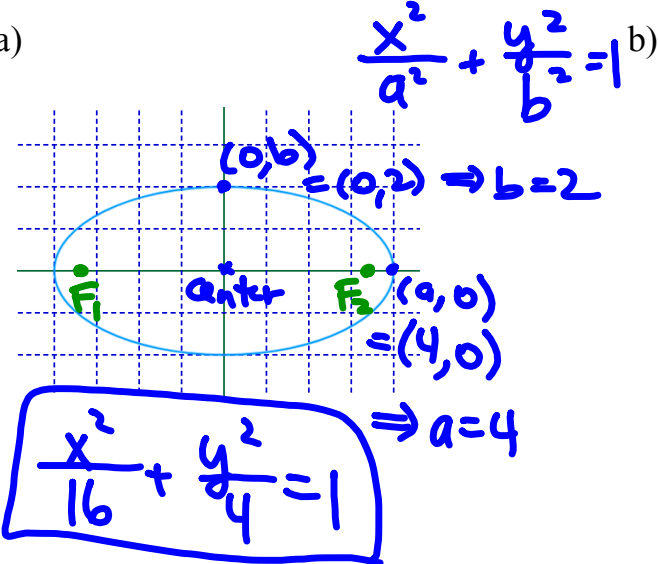
but remember:  
 $b^2 = a^2 - c^2$

$$\boxed{\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1}$$

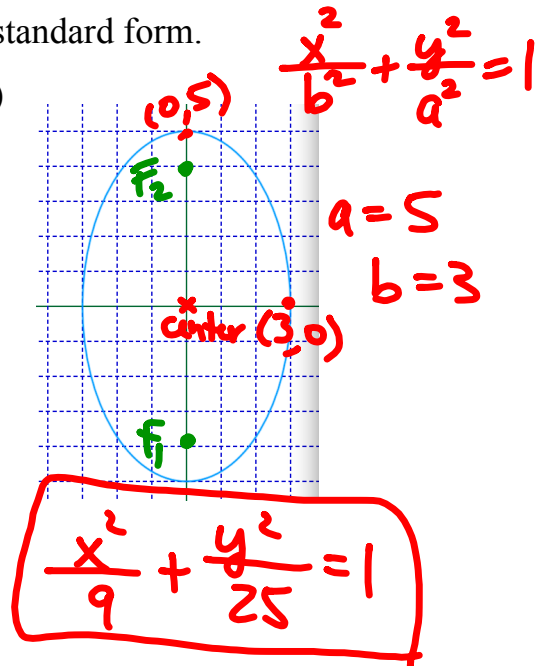
ellipse formula w/  
Center at (0,0)  
(and major axis along  
x-axis)

Ex 2: Write the equation of these ellipses in standard form.

a)



b)



Ex 3: Determine the value of  $c$  for each ellipse above and plot the foci.

we know  $b^2 = a^2 - c^2$

(a)  $a=4, b=2$

$$4 = 16 - c^2$$

$$c^2 = 12$$

$$c = 2\sqrt{3} \approx 3.5$$

(b)  $a=5, b=3$

$$9 = 25 - c^2$$

$$c^2 = 16$$

$$c = 4$$

## Translations of an Ellipse

Standard Ellipse  
center at  $(0,0)$

major axis  
along  
horiz. axis

Translated Ellipse  
center at  $(h,k)$

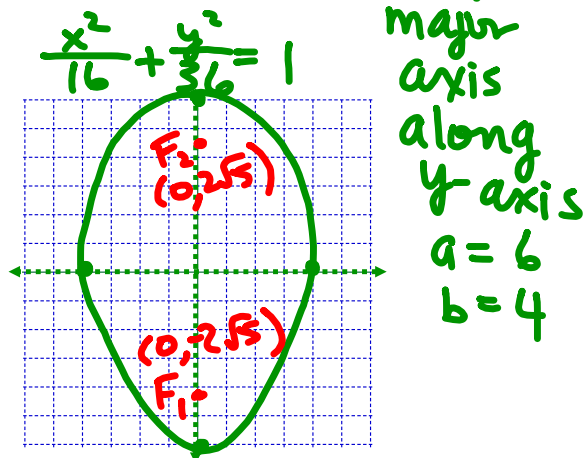
$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$$

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

Ex 4: Sketch each of these curves and locate the foci.

$$h = -2, k = 3$$

a)  $36x^2 + 16y^2 = 576$

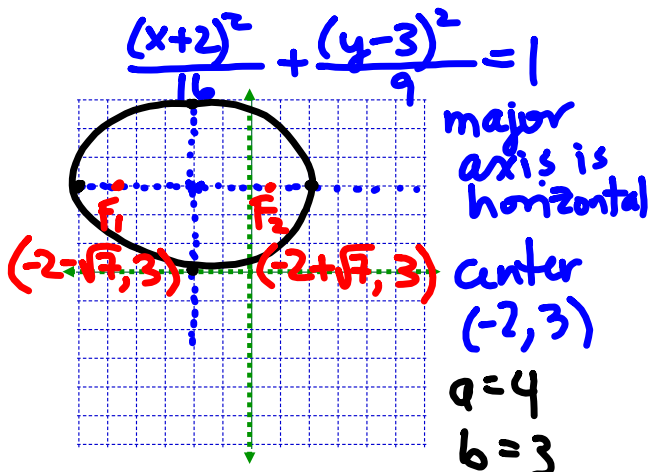


$$b^2 = a^2 - c^2 \Leftrightarrow c^2 = a^2 - b^2$$

$$c^2 = 36 - 16 = 20$$

$$c = 2\sqrt{5} \approx 4.5$$

b)  $9(x+2)^2 + 16(y-3)^2 = 144$



$$c^2 = a^2 - b^2$$

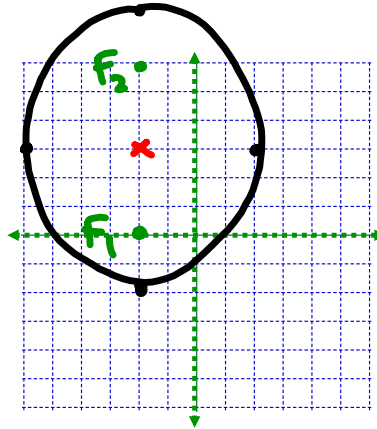
$$c^2 = 4^2 - 3^2 = 7$$

$$c = \sqrt{7} \approx 2.6$$

Ex 5: Write an equation and sketch each of these.

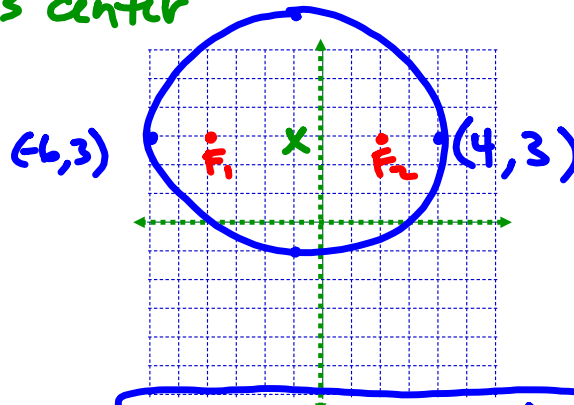
a) An ellipse with center point  $(-2,3)$ ,  $a = 5$ ,  $c = 3$ , longer in the vertical direction.

$$\begin{aligned}
 b^2 &= a^2 - c^2 \\
 &= 25 - 9 \\
 &= 16 \\
 \Rightarrow b &= 4 \\
 \frac{(x+2)^2}{16} + \frac{(y-3)^2}{25} &= 1
 \end{aligned}$$



b) An ellipse with vertices at  $(-6,3)$  and  $(4,3)$  and foci at  $(-4,3)$  and  $(2,3)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 2a &= 10 & (-1, 3) \text{ is center} \\
 a &= 5 \\
 c &= 3 \\
 b^2 &= 5^2 - 3^2 = 16 \\
 b &= 4
 \end{aligned}$$



$$\frac{(x+1)^2}{25} + \frac{(y-3)^2}{16} = 1$$

Ex 6: Write this equation in standard form, sketch it, including the foci.

$$x^2 + 9y^2 - 4x - 18y - 14 = 0$$

$$e = \frac{2\sqrt{6}}{3\sqrt{3}} \approx 0.94$$

$$b^2 = a^2 - c^2$$

$$(x^2 - 4x) + (9y^2 - 18y) = 14$$

$$(x^2 - 4x + 4) + 9(y^2 - 2y + 1) = 14 + 4 + 9$$

$$(x-2)^2 + 9(y-1)^2 = 27$$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$\frac{(x-2)^2}{27} + \frac{(y-1)^2}{3} = 1$$

center:

$$(2, 1)$$

$$a = \sqrt{27}$$

$$= 3\sqrt{3}$$

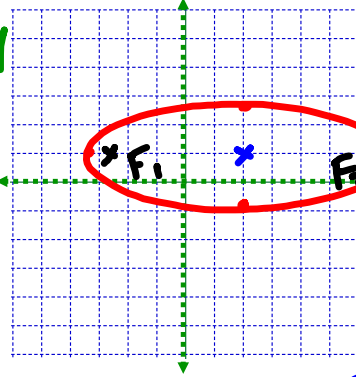
$$b = \sqrt{3}$$

$$3 = 27 - c^2$$

$$c^2 = 24$$

$$c = \sqrt{24}$$

$$c = 2\sqrt{6}$$



Eccentricity of an Ellipse

$$e = c/a$$

because  $c < a$  for ellipses,

$e < 1$  for ellipses

If  $a = b$ , we have a circle, in which case

$$c = 0 \Rightarrow e = 0$$