

Answer on Question #45379 – Math – Analytical Geometry

Find the center, vertices, and foci of the ellipse with equation $x^2/100 + y^2/36 = 1$

Solution:

$$\frac{x^2}{100} + \frac{y^2}{36} = 1$$

Since $x^2 = (x - 0)^2$ and $y^2 = (y - 0)^2$, the equation above is really:

$$\frac{(x - 0)^2}{100} + \frac{(y - 0)^2}{36} = 1$$

Then the center is at $(h, k) = (0, 0)$. I know that the a^2 is always the larger denominator (and b^2 is the smaller denominator), and this larger denominator is under the variable that parallels the longer direction of the ellipse. Since 100 is larger than 36, then $a^2 = 100$, $a = \pm\sqrt{100} = \pm 10$, and this ellipse is wider (paralleling the x-axis) than it is tall. The value of a also tells me that the vertices are 10 units to either side of the center, at $(-10, 0)$ and $(10, 0)$.

Let's find co-vertices of the ellipse:

$$b^2 = 36$$

$$b = \pm\sqrt{36} = \pm 6$$

Co-vertices: $(-6, 0)$ and $(6, 0)$.

To find the foci, we need to find the value of c . From the equation, I already have a^2 and b^2 , so:

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

$$100 - c^2 = 36$$

$$c^2 = 64$$

$$c = \pm\sqrt{64} = \pm 8$$

Then the value of c is 8, and the foci are eight units to either side of the center, at $(-8, 0)$ and $(8, 0)$

Answer: center $(0,0)$,
vertices are $(-10, 0)$ and $(10, 0)$, $(-6, 0)$ and $(6, 0)$.
foci are $(-8,0)$ and $(8,0)$.