

# Eccentricity of an ellipse

An ellipse which is not a circle has **eccentricity**  $0 < e < 1$ . (A circle has eccentricity 0.) The ellipse with equation

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

where  $a > b$ , has eccentricity  $e$  given by

$$b^2 = a^2(1 - e^2).$$