

Area of an Ellipse Proof by Matthew Wraith

a = Major axis of the ellipse

b = Minor axis of the ellipse

x = x value of the ellipse

y = y value of the ellipse

A = Area of the ellipse

Trig substitution:

$$x = a \sin \theta$$

$$dx = a \cos \theta d\theta$$

$$\text{New bounds : } 0 \text{ to } \frac{\pi}{2}$$

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

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

$$y^2 = b^2 - \frac{b^2 x^2}{a^2} \quad (3)$$

$$y = \sqrt{b^2 - \frac{b^2 x^2}{a^2}} \quad (4)$$

$$y = \frac{b}{a} \sqrt{a^2 - x^2} \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} A &= 4 \frac{b}{a} \int_0^a \sqrt{a^2 - x^2} dx \\ &= 4 \frac{b}{a} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sqrt{a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta} a \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= 4 \frac{b}{a} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sqrt{a^2 \cos^2 \theta} a \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= 4ab \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos^2 \theta d\theta \\ &= 4ab \left(\frac{\sin \theta \cos \theta + \theta}{2} \right) \Big|_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \\ &= 2ab \left(\frac{\pi}{2} \right) - 2ab(0) \\ &= \pi ab \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$