Exercise 6

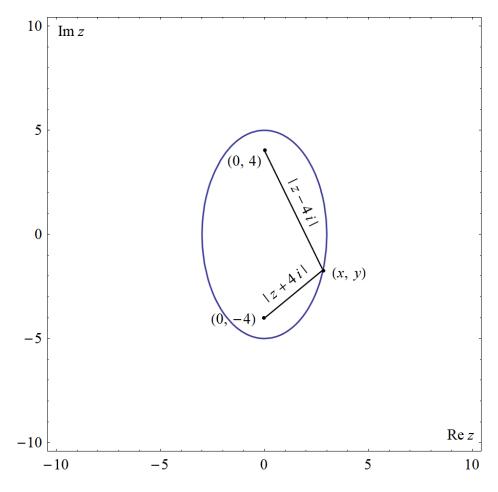
Using the fact that $|z_1 - z_2|$ is the distance between two points z_1 and z_2 , give a geometric argument that

- (a) |z-4i|+|z+4i|=10 represents an ellipse whose foci are $(0,\pm 4);$
- (b) |z-1| = |z+i| represents the line through the origin whose slope is -1.

Solution

Part (a)

Because the sum of distances from two fixed points, z = 4i and z = -4i, is a constant, the graph is an ellipse.



Part (b)

Because the distances from two fixed points, z = 1 and z = -i, are equal, the graph is a line.

