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# Part I Multivariable Calculus

## Parametric Equations and Polar Coordinates

#### 11.1 Curves Defined by Parametric Equations

Suppose that x and y are both given as functions of a third variable t (called a **parameter** by the equations)

$$x = f(t)$$
  $y = g(t)$ 

(called **parametric equations**). Each value of t determines a point (x,y). As t changes, (x,y) = (f(t),g(t)) changes and traces out a curve C, which is called a **parametric curve**. The direction of the arrows on curve C show the change in the position of the equation as t increases.

We can also restrict t to a finite interval. In general, the curve with parametric equations

$$x = f(t)$$
  $y = g(t)$   $a \le t \le b$ 

has initial point (f(a), g(a)) and terminal point (f(b), g(b)).

#### The Cycloid



**Example 11.1.1.** A circle with radius r rolls along the x-axis. The curve traced out by a point P on the circumference of the circle is called a **cycloid**. Find parametric equations for the cycloid.

Solution. We will use the angle of rotation  $\theta$  as the parameter ( $\theta = 0$  when P is at the origin).



Suppose the circle has rotated  $\theta$  radians. Using the figure, the distance it has rolled from the origin is

$$|OT| = arc \ PT = r\theta$$

because P starts at the origin. Therefore, the center of the circle is  $C(r\theta, r)$ . Let the coordinates of P be (x, y). Then from the figure,

$$x = |OT| - |PQ| = r\theta - r\sin\theta = r(\theta - \sin\theta)$$
$$y = |TC| - |QC| = r - r\cos\theta = r(1 - \cos\theta)$$

**Definition 11.1.1.** Paremetric equations of the cycloid are

$$x = r(\theta - \sin \theta)$$
  $y = r(1 - \cos \theta)$ 

#### 11.2 Calculus with Parametric Curves

We will mainly solve problems involving tangents, area, arc length, and surface area.

#### **Tangents**

In the previous section, we saw that some curves defined by parametric equations x = f(t) and y = g(t) can also be expressed, by eliminating the parameter, in the form y = F(x). If we substitute x = f(t) and y = g(t) in the equation y = F(x), we get

$$g(t) = F(f(t))$$

If g, f, and F are differentiable, the Chain Rule gives

$$g'(t) = F'(f(t))f'(t) = F'(x)f'(t)$$

If  $f'(t) \neq 0$ , we can solve for F'(x):

**Definition 11.2.1.** The slope of the tangent to the parametric curve y = F(x) is F'(x).

 $F'(x) = \frac{g'(t)}{f'(t)}$ 

This enables us to find tangents to parametric curves without having to eliminate the parameter. We can rewrite the previous equation in an easily remembered form.

**Definition 11.2.2.** We can use this to find tangents to parametric curves without having to eliminate the parameter.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} \quad \text{if} \quad \frac{dx}{dt} \neq 0$$

The curve has a

- $\bullet$  horizontal tangent when  $\frac{dy}{dt}=0$  (provided that  $\frac{dx}{dt}\neq 0)$
- vertical tangent when  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 0$  (provided that  $\frac{dy}{dt} \neq 0$ )

This is useful when sketching parametric curves.

**Definition 11.2.3.** We can also find  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  by replacing y with  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ 

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right) = \frac{\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)}{\frac{dx}{dt}}$$

*Proof.* Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  and  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  considering y(t) and g(t).

1.

Chain rule: 
$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt} \implies \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}}$$
 ( $\implies$  means "implies")

2.

Chain rule: 
$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \left( \frac{d}{dx} \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \frac{dx}{dt}$$

Substitute:  $\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} \right)$ 

Quotient rule:  $= \frac{\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} \frac{dx}{dt} - \frac{dy}{dt} \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}}{\left( \frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2}$ 

Set equation from line 1 and line 3 equal and divide both sides by  $\frac{dx}{dt}$ 

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{\frac{d^2y}{dt^2}\frac{d^x}{dt} - \frac{dy}{dt}\frac{d^2x}{dt^2}}{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)}$$
$$= \frac{\frac{d^2y}{dt^2}\frac{d^x}{dt} - \frac{dy}{dt}\frac{d^2x}{dt^2}}{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^3}$$

**Example 11.2.1.** A curve C is defined by the parametric equations  $x = t^2$ ,  $y = t^3 - 3t$ .

- 1. Show that C has two tangents at the point (3,0) and find their equations.
- 2. Find the points on C where the tangent is horizontal or vertical.
- 3. Determine where the curve is concave upward or downward.

Solution. A curve C is defined by the parametric equations  $x = t^2$ ,  $y = t^3 - 3t$ .

1. Rewrite  $y = t^3 - 3t = t(t^2 - 3) = 0$  when t = 0 or  $t = \pm \sqrt{3}$ . This indicates that C intersects itself at (3.0).

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt} = \frac{3t^2 - 3}{2t} = \frac{3}{2}\left(t - \frac{1}{t}\right)$$
$$t = \pm\sqrt{3} \rightarrow dy/dx = \pm 6/(2\sqrt{3})$$

so the equations of the tangents at (3,0) are

$$y = \sqrt{3}(x-3)$$
 and  $y = -\sqrt{3}(x-3)$ 

- 2. C has a horizontal tangent when dy/dx = 0. In other words, when dy/dt = 0 and  $dx/dt \neq 0$ .  $dy/dt = 3t^2 3 = 0$  when  $t^2 = 1$  so  $t = \pm 1$ . This means there are horizontal tangents on C at (1,-2) and (1,2). C has a vertical tangent when dx/dt = 2t = 0, so t = 0. This means C has a vertical tangent at (0,0).
- 3. To determine concavity we calculate the second derivative:

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = \frac{\frac{3}{2}\left(1 + \frac{1}{t^2}\right)}{2t} = \frac{3(t^2 + 1)}{4t^3}$$

The curve is concave upward when t > 0 and concave downward when t < 0.

#### Area

We already know that area under a curve y = F(x) from a to b is  $A = \int_a^b F(x) dx$ . We can apply this to parametric equations using the Substitution Rule for Definite Integrals.

**Definition 11.2.4.** If the curve C is given by parametric equations x = f(t) and y = g(t) and t increases from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$ ,

$$A = \int_{a}^{b} y dx = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} g(t) f'(t) dt$$

(Switch  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$  if the point on C at  $\beta$  is more left than  $\alpha$ .

**Example 11.2.2.** Find the area under one arch of the cycloid  $x = r(\theta - \sin \theta)$ ,  $y = r(1 - \cos \theta)$ .

Solution. One arch of the cycloid is given by  $0 \le \theta \le 2\pi$ . Using the Substitution Rule with  $y = r(1 - \cos \theta)$  and  $dx = r(1 - \cos \theta)d\theta$ , we have

$$A = \int_0^{2\pi} y dx = A = \int_0^{2\pi} r(1 - \cos \theta) r(1 - \cos \theta) d\theta$$

$$= r^2 \int_0^{2\pi} (1 - \cos \theta)^2 d\theta = r^2 \int_0^{2\pi} (1 - 2\cos \theta + \cos^2 \theta) d\theta$$

$$= r^2 \int_0^{2\pi} \left[ 1 - 2\cos \theta + \frac{1}{2} (1 + \cos 2\theta) \right] d\theta$$

$$= r^2 \left[ \frac{3}{2} \theta - 2\sin \theta + \frac{1}{4} \sin 2\theta \right]_0^{2\pi}$$

$$= r^2 \left( \frac{3}{2} \cdot 2\pi \right) = 3\pi r^2$$

#### Arc Length

We already know how to find length L of a curve C given in the form y = F(x),  $a \le x \le b$ .

**Definition 11.2.5.** If F' is continuous, then

$$L = \int_{a}^{b} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^{2} dx}$$

If C can describe the parametric equations x = f(t) and y = g(t),  $\alpha \le t \le \beta$ , where dx/dt = f'(t) > 0. Using the substitution rule, we obtain

$$L = \int_{a}^{b} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^{2} dx} = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt}\right)^{2} \frac{dx}{dt} dt}$$

Since dx/dt > 0, we have

**Theorem 11.2.1.** If a curve C is described by the parametric equations x = f(t), y = g(t),  $\alpha \le t \le \beta$ , where f' and g' are continuous on  $[\alpha, \beta]$  and C is traversed exactly once as t increases from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$ , then the length of C is

$$L = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt$$

This is consistent with the general formula  $L = \int ds$  and  $(ds^2) = (dx^2) + (dy^2)$ .

*Proof.* Prove the length formula of a parametric curve

$$\overrightarrow{ds} = \overrightarrow{i} dx + \overrightarrow{j} dy$$

$$ds^2 = \overrightarrow{ds} \cdot \overrightarrow{ds} = \left(\overrightarrow{i} dx + \overrightarrow{j} dy\right) \cdot \left(\overrightarrow{i} dx + \overrightarrow{j} dy\right) = dx^2 + dy^2$$

$$ds = \sqrt{dx^2 + dy^2} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt$$

$$L = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} ds = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt$$

**Example 11.2.3.** Find the length of the unit circle as (x,y) moves both once and twice around the circle.

Solution. For one traversal around the unit circle,

$$x = \cos t$$
  $y = \sin t$   $0 \le t \le 2\pi$ 

so  $dx/dt = -\sin t$  and  $dy/dt = \cos t$ 

$$L = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{\sin^2 t + \cos^2 t} dt$$
$$= \int_0^{2\pi} dt = 2\pi$$

For two traversals around the unit circle,

$$x = \sin 2t$$
  $y = \cos 2t$   $0 \le t \le 2\pi$ 

so  $dx/dt = 2\cos 2t$  and  $dy/dt = -2\sin 2t$ 

$$L = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{4\cos^2 2t + 4\sin^2 2t} \ dt = \int_0^{2\pi} 2 \ dt = 4\pi$$

#### Surface Area

We can also adapt the surface area formula to a parametric curve.

**Definition 11.2.6.** If a curve C is described by the parametric equations  $x = f(t), y = g(t), \alpha \le t \le \beta$ , is rotated about the **x-axis**, where f', g' are continuous and  $g(t) \ge 0$ , the surface area is

$$S = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} 2\pi y \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt$$

If the curve C is rotated about the **y-axis**, the surface area is

$$S = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} 2\pi x \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt$$

The generic formulas  $S = \int 2\pi y \ ds$  for rotation about the x-axis and  $S = \int 2\pi x \ ds$  for rotation about the y-axis are still valid, but for parametric curves we use

$$ds = \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt$$

**Example 11.2.4.** Show that the surface area of a sphere of radius r is  $4\pi r^2$ 

Solution. The sphere is obtained by rotating the semicircle

$$x = r \cos t$$
  $y = r \sin t$   $0 \le t \le \pi$ 

about the x-axis.

$$S = \int_0^{\pi} 2\pi r \sin t \sqrt{(-r\sin t)^2 + (r\cos t)^2} dt$$

$$= 2\pi \int_0^{\pi} r \sin t \sqrt{r^2 (\sin^2 t + \cos^2 t)} dt$$

$$= 2\pi \int_0^{\pi} r \sin t \cdot r dt = 2\pi r^2 \int_0^{\pi} \sin t dt$$

$$= 2\pi r^2 (-\cos t) \Big|_0^{\pi} = 4\pi r^2$$

#### 11.3 Polar Coordinates

In addition to Cartisian coordinates, we can also use a **polar coordinate system**.



Point P is represented by the ordered pair  $(r, \theta)$ , where r is the distance to the point from the center and  $\theta$  is the angle from the polar axis to the point.

The points  $(r, \theta)$  and  $(-r, \theta)$  are on the same line and have the same distance |r| from the center but are on opposite sides of the center. Additionally,  $(-r, \theta)$  and  $(r, \theta + \pi)$  are also on the same line.

This means a complete counterclockwise rotation is given by an angle  $2\pi$ , so  $(r,\theta)$  is also represented by

$$(r, \theta + 2n\pi)$$
 and  $(-r, \theta + (2n+1)\pi)$ 

#### Relationship Between Cartesian and Polar Coordinates



**Example 11.3.1.** Convert the point  $(2, \pi/3)$  from polar to Cartesian coordinates.

Solution.

$$r=2,\ \theta=\pi/3$$
 
$$x=r\cos\theta=2\cos\frac{\pi}{3}=2\cdot\frac{1}{2}=1$$
 
$$y=r\sin\theta=2\sin\frac{\pi}{3}=2\cdot\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}=\sqrt{3}$$

So the point is  $(1, \sqrt{3})$  in Cartesian coordinates.

**Example 11.3.2.** Represent the Cartesian coordinates (1, -1) in polar coordinates.

Solution.

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = \sqrt{1^2 + (-1)^2} = \sqrt{2}$$
$$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x} = -1$$

Since the point (1,-1) lies in the fourth quadrant, we can choose  $\theta = -pi/4$  or  $\theta = 7pi/4$ . So the possible answers are either  $(\sqrt{2}, -\pi/4 \text{ or } (\sqrt{2}, 7\pi/4.$ 

#### **Polar Curves**

The graph of a polar equation  $r = f(\theta)$ , or  $F(r, \theta) = 0$ , consists of all of the points where  $(r, \theta)$  satisfies the equation.

#### Tangents to Polar Curves

To find a tangent line to a polar curce  $r = f(\theta)$ , we regard  $\theta$  as a parameter and write the parametric equations as

$$x = r\cos\theta = f(\theta)\cos\theta$$
  $y = r\sin\theta = f(\theta)\sin\theta$ 

So

#### Definition 11.3.1.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{d\theta}}{\frac{dx}{d\theta}} = \frac{\frac{dy}{d\theta}\sin\theta + r\cos\theta}{\frac{dr}{d\theta}\cos\theta - r\sin\theta}$$

- horizontal tangent when  $\frac{dy}{d\theta}=0$  (provided that  $\frac{dx}{d\theta}\neq 0$ )
- vertical tangent when  $\frac{dx}{d\theta} = 0$  (provided that  $\frac{dy}{d\theta} \neq 0$ )

Note tangent lines at the pole have r=0 and the slope of the tangent simplifies to

$$\frac{dy}{dr} = \tan\theta \text{ if } \frac{dr}{d\theta} \neq 0$$

**Example 11.3.3.** For the cardiod  $r = 1 + \sin \theta$ , find the slope of the tangent line when r=3

Solution.

$$\begin{split} r &= 1 + \sin \theta \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\frac{dy}{d\theta} \sin \theta + r \cos \theta}{\frac{dr}{d\theta} \cos \theta - r \sin \theta} = \frac{\cos \theta \sin \theta + (1 + \sin \theta) \cos \theta}{\cos \theta \cos \theta - (1 + \sin \theta) \sin \theta} \\ &= \frac{\cos \theta (1 + 2 \sin \theta)}{1 - 2 \sin^2 \theta - \sin \theta} = \frac{\cos \theta (1 + 2 \sin \theta)}{(1 + \sin \theta)(1 - \sin \theta)} \end{split}$$

The slope of the tangent where  $\theta = \pi/3$  is

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{\theta=\pi/3} = \frac{\cos(\pi/3)(1+2\sin(\pi/3))}{(1+\sin(\pi/3))(1-\sin(\pi/3))}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{1}{2}(1+\sqrt{3})}{(1+\sqrt{3}/2)(1-\sqrt{3})} = \frac{1+\sqrt{3}}{(2+\sqrt{3})(1-\sqrt{3})}$$

$$= \frac{1+\sqrt{3}}{-1-\sqrt{3}} = -1$$

NOTE Instead of memorizing the equation, we can instead use the same method we used to derive it.

$$x = r\cos\theta = (1 + \sin\theta)\cos\theta = \cos\theta + \frac{1}{2}\sin 2\theta$$

$$y = r\sin\theta = (1 + \sin\theta)\sin\theta = \sin\theta + \sin^2\theta$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/d\theta}{dx/d\theta} = \frac{\cos\theta + 2\sin\theta\cos\theta}{-\sin\theta + \cos 2\theta} = \frac{\cos\theta + \sin 2\theta}{-\sin\theta + \cos 2\theta}$$

This is equivalent to the previous equation.

#### 11.4 Areas and Lengths in Polar Coordinates

#### Area

We can determine the formula for the area of a region whose boundary is given by a polar equation by taking the limit of a Riemann Sum starting with the formula for the area of a sector of a circle  $A = \frac{1}{2}r^2\theta$ .

**Definition 11.4.1.** The formula for the area A of the polar region  $\mathcal{R}$  is

$$A = \int_a^b \frac{1}{2} [f(\theta)]^2 \ d\theta = \int_a^b \frac{1}{2} r^2 d\theta$$

with the understanding that  $r = f(\theta)$ .

**Example 11.4.1.** Find the area enclosed by one loop of the four-leaved rose  $r = 2\cos 2\theta$ .

Solution. The right loop rotates from  $\theta = -\pi/4$  to  $\theta = \pi/4$ .

$$A = \int_{-\pi/4}^{\pi/4} \frac{1}{2} r^2 d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi/4}^{\pi/4} \cos^2 2\theta \ d\theta$$
$$= \int_0^{\pi/4} \cos^2 2\theta \ d\theta = \int_0^{\pi/4} \frac{1}{2} (1 + \cos 4\theta) \ d\theta$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} [\theta + \frac{1}{4} \sin 4\theta] = \pi/8$$

We can also adapt the formula to find the area of a region bounded by two polar curves.

**Definition 11.4.2.** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a region that is bounded by curves with polar equations  $r = f(\theta)$ ,  $r = g(\theta)$ ,  $\theta = a$ , and  $\theta = b$ , where  $f(\theta) \geq g(\theta) \geq 0$  and  $0 < b - a \leq 2\pi$ . The area A of  $\mathcal{R}$  is found by subtracting the area inside  $r = g(\theta)$  from the area inside  $r = f(\theta)$ , so

$$A = \int_{a}^{b} \frac{1}{2} [f(\theta)]^{2} d\theta - \int_{a}^{b} \frac{1}{2} [g(\theta)]^{2} d\theta$$
$$= \int_{a}^{b} \frac{1}{2} ([f(\theta)]^{2} - [g(\theta)]^{2}) d\theta$$

#### Arc Length

To find the length of a polar curve  $r=f(\theta),\ a\leq \theta\leq b,$  we regard  $\theta$  as a parameter and write the parametric equations of the curve as

$$x = r \cos \theta = f(\theta) \cos \theta$$
  $y = r \sin \theta = f(\theta) \sin \theta$ 

Using the projecut Rule and differentiating with respect to  $\theta$ , we obtain

$$\frac{dx}{d\theta} = \frac{dr}{d\theta}\cos\theta - r\sin\theta \qquad \frac{dy}{d\theta} = \frac{dr}{d\theta}\sin\theta + r\cos\theta$$

so, using  $\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta = 1$ , we have

$$\left(\frac{dx}{d\theta}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{d\theta}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2 \cos^2\theta - 2r\frac{dr}{d\theta}\cos\theta\sin\theta + r^2\sin^2\theta$$
$$+ \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2 \sin^2\theta + 2r\frac{dr}{d\theta}\sin\theta\cos\theta + r^2\cos^2\theta$$
$$= \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2 + r^2$$

Assuming that f' is continuous, we can use the theorem from 11.2 about the arc length of a curve defined by parametric equations to write the arc length as

$$L = \int_{a}^{b} \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{d\theta}\right)^{2} + \left(\frac{dy}{d\theta}\right)^{2}} \ d\theta$$

**Definition 11.4.3.** The length of a curve with polar equation  $r = f(\theta), \ a \le \theta \le b$ , is

$$L = \int_{a}^{b} \sqrt{r^2 + \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2} \ d\theta$$

**Example 11.4.2.** Find the arc length of the cardiod  $r = 1 + \sin \theta$ .

Solution. The full length of the cardiod is given by the parameter interval  $0 \le \theta \le 2\pi$ .

$$L = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{r^2 + \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2} d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{(1+\sin\theta)^2 + \cos^2\theta} d\theta$$
$$= \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{2+2\sin\theta} d\theta = 8 \text{ (by rationalizing the integrand by } \sqrt{2-2\sin\theta})$$

#### 11.5 Conic Sections

Parabolas, ellipses, and hyperbolas are called **conic sections**, or **conics**, because they result from intersecting a cone with a plane.



#### **Parabolas**

A **parabola** is the set of points in a plane that are equidistant from a fixed point F (called the **focus**) and a fixed line (called the **directrix**). The halfway point between the focus and directrix is on the parabola and is called the **vertex**. The line through the focus and the vertex and perpendicular to the directrix is the **axis** of the parabola.



As seen in the figure, the focus is always inside the region of the parabola and the directrix is the same distance away on the opposite side.

**Definition 11.5.1.** An equation of the parabola with focus (0, p) and directrix y = -p is

$$x^2 = 4py$$

. If we set  $a=\frac{1}{4p}$ , then the standard equation of a parabola is  $y=ax^2$ . This opens upward if p>0 and downard if p<0, and is symmetric with respect to the y-axis.

**Definition 11.5.2.** If we switch x and y, we get

$$y^2 = 4px$$

(reflection about the diagonal line y=x). This parabola opens to the right if p > 0 and to the left if p < 0.

**Definition 11.5.3.** The vertex form of a parabola is

$$y = a(x - h)^2 + k$$

where (h, k) is the vertex of the parabola and x = h is the axis of symmetry. We can also switch x and y to get the vertex form of the rotated parabola.

**Example 11.5.1.** Find the focus and directrix of the parabola  $y^2 + 10x = 0$ .

Solution. We rewrite the equation as  $y^2=-10x$ . We know  $y^2=4px$ , so 4px=-10x and  $p=-\frac{5}{2}$ . Thus, the focus is  $(p,0)=-\frac{5}{2},0)$  and the directrix is  $x=\frac{5}{2}$ .

#### **Ellipses**

An **ellipse** is the set of points in a plane surrounding two fixed focal points  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  such that the <u>sum</u> of the two distances to the focal points is a constant. Imagine tracing a line along the furthest path of a string stretched across two different points.

#### **Definition 11.5.4.** The ellipse

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1 \quad a \ge b \ge 0$$

has foci  $(\pm c, 0)$ , where  $c^2 = a^2 - b^2$ , and vertices  $(\pm a, 0)$  (lies on x-axis).

The **vertices** are on the **major axis**, where a is the distance to the center of the ellipse from each vertex. This distance is greater than the distance from a **co-vertex** to the center of the ellipse, b. The co-vertices lie on the **minor axis**. Because the sum of the two distances from a point on the ellipse to the foci is a constant, the distance from a co-vertex to a focal point is also a. If the foci coincide, then c = 0, so a = b and the ellipse becomes a circle with radius r = a = b.

#### **Definition 11.5.5.** The ellipse

$$\frac{x^2}{b^2} + \frac{y^2}{a^2} = 1 \quad a \ge b \ge 0$$

has foci  $(0, \pm c)$ , where  $c^2 = a^2 - b^2$ , and vertices  $(0, \pm a)$  (lies on y-axis).

**Definition 11.5.6.** The general form of a horizontal ellipse is

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

where (h, k) is the center of the ellipse. The same transformation can be done to the standard form of a vertical ellipse.



**Example 11.5.2.** Find an equation of the ellipse with foci  $(0, \pm 2)$  and vertices  $(0, \pm 3)$ .

Solution. This equation represents a vertical ellipse because the foci and vertices lie on the y-axis. The distance from a focal point to the center is c=2 and the distance from a vertex to the center is a=3. Then we obtain  $b^2=a^2+c^2=9-4=5$ , so the equation of the ellipse is

$$\frac{x^2}{b^2} + \frac{y^2}{a^2} = \frac{x^2}{5} + \frac{y^2}{9} = 1$$

#### Hyperbolas

An **ellipse** is the set of points in a plane surrounding two fixed focal points  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  such that the <u>difference</u> of the two distances to the focal points is a constant. The **transverse axis** is the axis of a hyperbola that passes through the two foci. The **conjugate axis** is perpendicular to the transverse axis and passes through the center of the hyperbola.



**Definition 11.5.7.** The hyperbola along a horizontal transverse axis

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

has foci  $(\pm c,0)$ , where  $c^2=a^2+b^2$ , vertices  $(\pm a,0)$  (lies on x-axis), and asymptotes  $y=\pm \frac{b}{a}x$ .

**Definition 11.5.8.** The hyperbola along a vertical transverse axis

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

has foci  $(0, \pm c)$ , where  $c^2 = a^2 + b^2$ , vertices  $(0, \pm a)$  (lies on y-axis), and asymptotes  $y = \pm \frac{a}{b}x$ .

**Definition 11.5.9.** The general form of a hyperbola along a horizontal transverse axis is

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

where (h, k) is the center of the ellipse. The same transformation can be done to the standard form a hyperbola along a vertical transverse axis.

**Example 11.5.3.** Find the foci and asymptotes of the hyperbola  $9x^2 - 16y^2 = 144$ .

Solution. If we divide both sides of the equation by 144, it becomes

$$\frac{x^2}{16} - \frac{y^2}{9} = 1$$

which is a hyperbola along a horizontal transverse axis. Therefore, we get a=4 and b=3. Since  $c^2=a^2+b^2=16+9=25$ , c=5. The foci are  $(\pm 5,0)$ , and the asymptotes are  $y=\pm \frac{3}{4}x$ .

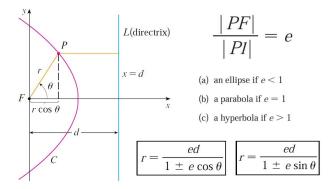
#### 11.6 Conic Sections in Polar Coordinates

**Theorem 11.6.1.** Let F be a fixed point (called the **focus**) and l be a fixed line (called the **directrix**). Let e be a fixed positive number (called the **eccentricity**). The set of all points P in the plane such that

$$\frac{|PF|}{|Pl|} = e \quad \text{(the ratio of the distance from $F$ to the distance from $l$ is the constant e)}$$

is a conic section. The conic is

- 1. an ellipse if e < 1
- 2. a parabola if e=1
- 3. a hyperbola if e > 1

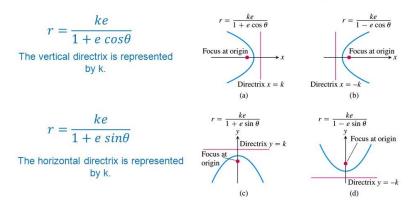


Theorem 11.6.2. A polar equation of the form

$$r = \frac{ed}{1 \pm e \cos \theta}$$
 or  $r = \frac{ed}{1 \pm e \sin \theta}$ 

represents a conic section with eccentricity e and distance d from the center to the directrix, with the focus at the origin. The conic is an ellipse if e < 1, a parabola if e = 1, or a hyperbola is e > 1.

#### Polar Equation for a Conic with Eccentricity e



To use these polar equations, a focus is located at the origin.

Use " $\cos \theta$ " when the conic section opens rightward or leftward, and use " $\sin \theta$ " when the conic section opens upward or downward. Use "+" if the conic section opens leftward or downward, and use "-" if the conic section opens righttward or upward.

**Example 11.6.1.** Find a polar equation for a parabola that has its focus at the origin and whose directrix is the line y = -6.

Solution. The eccentricity e=1 because the conic section is a parabola, and the distance from the center to the directrix is d=6. The directrix is on the y-axis and is underneath the center, so the parabola opens upward. Therefore, we use the "sin  $\theta$ " equation and use "-" in the denominator. The polar equation of the parabola is

$$r = \frac{6}{1 - \sin \theta}$$

Example 11.6.2. A conic is given by the polar equation

$$r = \frac{10}{3 - 2\cos\theta}$$

Find the eccentricity, identify the conic, and locate the directrix.

Solution. Divide the numerator and denominator by 3 to get

$$r = \frac{\frac{10}{3}}{1 - \frac{2}{3}\cos\theta}$$

This represents an ellipses with eccentricity  $e = \frac{2}{3}$ . Since  $ed = \frac{10}{3}$ ,

$$d = \frac{\frac{10}{3}}{e} = \frac{\frac{10}{3}}{\frac{2}{3}} = 5$$

so the directrix has Cartesian equation x=-5. When  $\theta=0,\ r=10$ ; when  $\theta=\pi,\ r=2$ , so the vertices have polar coordinates (10,0), and  $(2,\pi).$ 

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