Conic Assignment

Gautam Singh

***Abstract*—This document contains the solution to Question 14 of Exercise 4 in Chapter 11 of the class 11 NCERT textbook.**

1) Find the equation of the hyperbola eccentricity is $e = \frac{4}{3}$ and whose vertices are

$$\mathbf{P_1} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \ \mathbf{P_2} = \begin{pmatrix} -7 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1}$$

Solution: Let the equation of the conic with focus $\mathbf{F}$, directrix $\mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{x} = c$ and eccentricity e be

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{x} + f = 0 \tag{2}$$

where

$$\mathbf{V} \triangleq \|\mathbf{n}\|^2 \mathbf{I} - e^2 \mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^\top \tag{3}$$
$$\mathbf{u} \triangleq ce^2 \mathbf{n} - \|\mathbf{n}\|^2 \mathbf{F} \tag{4}$$
$$f \triangleq \|\mathbf{n}\|^2 \|\mathbf{F}\|^2 - c^2 e^2 \tag{5}$$

Since the conic is a hyperbola whose vertices are given by (1), the major axis is the x-axis and the directrix is parallel to the y-axis. Hence,

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{6}$$

Thus,

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - e^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7}$$
$$\mathbf{u} = ce^2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \mathbf{F} \tag{8}$$
$$f = \|\mathbf{F}\|^2 - c^2 e^2 \tag{9}$$

The centre of the conic is the midpoint of all chords that pass through the centre. We know that the centre lies on the x-axis. Hence, $\mathbf{c}$ bisects $P_1 P_2$, and so

$$\mathbf{c} = \frac{\mathbf{P_1} + \mathbf{P_2}}{2} = \mathbf{0} \tag{10}$$

The general expression of the centre of the circle is given by

$$\mathbf{c} = -\mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{u} \tag{11}$$

Since $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0}$ and $\mathbf{V}^{-1} \neq \mathbf{0}$, it follows from (11) that $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$. Thus, from (8),

$$\mathbf{F} = \begin{pmatrix} ce^2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{12}$$

and so,

$$f = c^2 e^2 \left(e^2 - 1\right) \tag{13}$$

Putting $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P_1}$ or $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P_2}$ in (2) and using (12) and (13),

$$\begin{pmatrix} \pm 7 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 - e^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \pm 7 \end{pmatrix} + f = 0 \tag{14}$$
$$\implies 49e^2 - f = 49 \tag{15}$$

Since $e = \frac{4}{3}$, (15) implies

$$f = 49\left(e^2 - 1\right) = \frac{343}{9} \tag{16}$$

Therefore, the equation of the conic is

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{7}{9} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \frac{343}{9} = 0 \tag{17}$$

The situation is illustrated in Fig. 1.

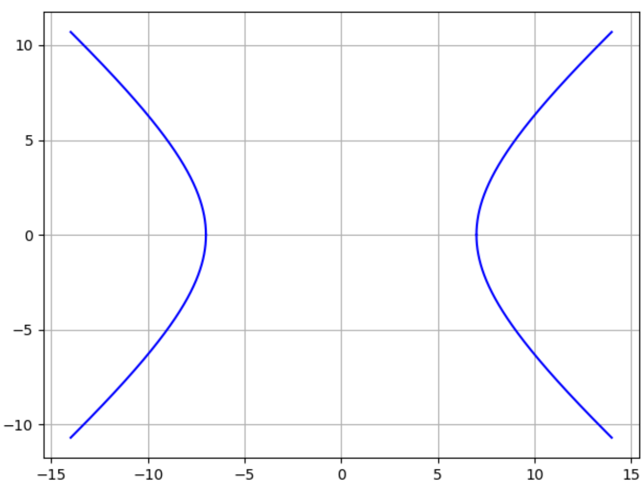

Fig. 1: Locus of the required hyperbola.