

Conic section Assignment

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Problem Statement - If $x=9$ is the chord of contact of the hyperbola $x^2 - y^2 = 9$ then the equation of the corresponding pair of tangents is

Solution

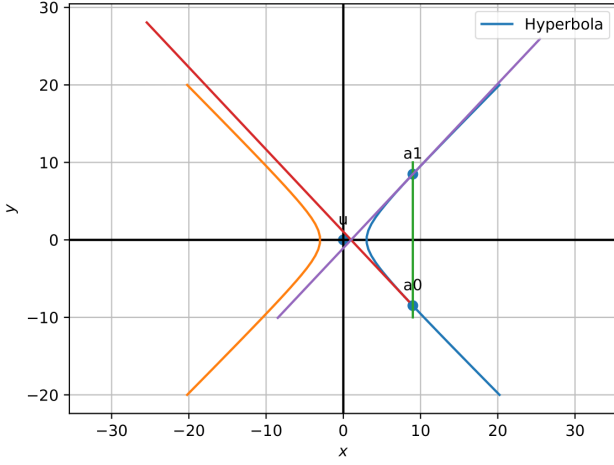


Figure 1:

The given equation of hyperbola $x^2 - y^2 = 9$ can be written in the general quadratic form as

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{x} + f = 0 \quad (1)$$

where

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3)$$

$$f = -9 \quad (4)$$

The point of intersection of the lines $x=9$ and $x=4$ to the parabola is given by

The points of intersection of the line

$$L: \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{q} + \mu \mathbf{m} \quad \mu \in \mathbf{R} \quad (5)$$

with the conic section are given by

$$\mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{q} + \mu_i \mathbf{m} \quad (6)$$

where

$$\mu_i = \frac{1}{\mathbf{m}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{m}} \left(-\mathbf{m}^T (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{u}) \pm \sqrt{\left[\mathbf{m}^T (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{u}) \right]^2 - (\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{q} + 2\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{q} + f) (\mathbf{m}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{m})} \right) \quad (7)$$

From the line $x-9=0$ the vectors \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{m} are taken,

$$\mathbf{q} = \begin{pmatrix} 9 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

$$\mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (9)$$

by substituting eq(2),(3),(4),(8),(9) in eq(7)

$$\mu_1 = -8.48528137 \quad (10)$$

$$\mu_2 = 8.48528137 \quad (11)$$

substituting eq(8),(9),(10) in eq(6) the intersection points on the parabola are

$$\mathbf{a}_0 = \mathbf{q} + \mu_1 \mathbf{m} \quad (12)$$

$$\mathbf{a}_1 = \mathbf{q} + \mu_2 \mathbf{m} \quad (13)$$

Equation of a tangent at a point is

$$(\mathbf{V} \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{u})^T \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{q} + f = 0 \quad (14)$$

Equation at \mathbf{a}_0 is

$$t_1 = (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{a}_0 + \mathbf{u})^T \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{a}_0 + f = 0 \quad (15)$$

Equation at \mathbf{a}_1 is

$$t_2 = (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{a}_1 + \mathbf{u})^T \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{a}_1 + f = 0 \quad (16)$$

The equation of the corresponding pair of tangents is

$$t = t_1 * t_2 \quad (17)$$

That is Equation of pair of tangents is

$$t = ((\mathbf{V} \mathbf{a}_0 + \mathbf{u})^T \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{a}_0 + f)((\mathbf{V} \mathbf{a}_1 + \mathbf{u})^T \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{a}_1 + f) \quad (18)$$

Construction

Points	intersection points
a_0	$\begin{pmatrix} 9 \\ -8.48528137 \end{pmatrix}$
a_1	$\begin{pmatrix} 9 \\ 8.48528137 \end{pmatrix}$