

**OBJECTIVE 7** | Conic Sections

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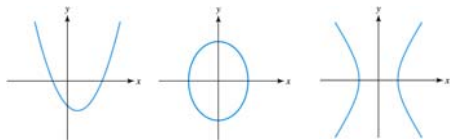
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**CONIC SECTIONS**

Conic sections are formed when a plane intersects a cone in different ways.  
 The basic conic sections are parabolas, ellipses, and hyperbolas.



From *Precalculus with Modeling and Visualization* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. by Rockswold, 2006, p.845

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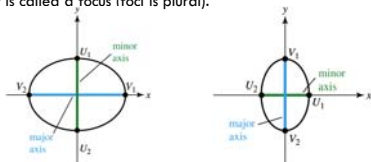
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**ELLIPSE**

An ellipse is formed by all points in the plane, the sum of whose distances from two fixed points is a constant.  
 Each point is called a focus (foci is plural).



From *Precalculus with Modeling and Visualization* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. by Rockswold, 2006, p.856

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**STANDARD EQUATIONS FOR ELLIPSES CENTERED AT (0, 0)**

The ellipse with center at the origin, horizontal major axis, and equation

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

has vertices  $(\pm a, 0)$ , endpoints of the minor axis  $(0, \pm b)$ , and foci  $(\pm c, 0)$ , where  $c^2 = a^2 - b^2$  and  $c \geq 0$ .

The ellipse with center at the origin, vertical major axis, and equation

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

has vertices  $(0, \pm a)$ , endpoints of the minor axis  $(\pm b, 0)$ , and foci  $(0, \pm c)$ , where  $c^2 = a^2 - b^2$  and  $c \geq 0$ .

From *Precalculus with Modeling and Visualization* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. by Rockswold, 2006, p.856

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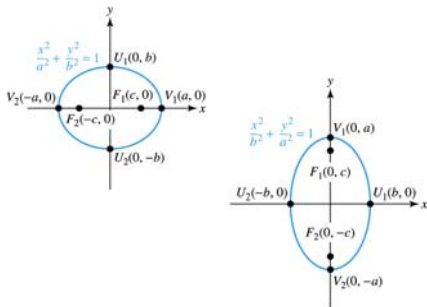
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From *Precalculus with Modeling and Visualization* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. by Rockswold, 2006, p.856

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**ELLIPSES**

Graph the ellipse. Label the foci and the endpoints of each axis.

1.  $x^2 + 4y^2 = 400$

2.  $5x^2 + 4y^2 = 20$

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**STANDARD EQUATIONS FOR ELLIPSES CENTERED AT  $(h, k)$** 

An ellipse with center  $(h, k)$ , and either a horizontal or vertical major axis, satisfies one of the following equations, where  $a > b > 0$  and  $c^2 = a^2 - b^2$  with  $c \geq 0$ .

$$\frac{(x-h)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(y-k)^2}{b^2} = 1 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Major axis: horizontal; foci: } (h \pm c, k) \\ \text{Vertices: } (h \pm a, k) \end{array}$$

$$\frac{(x-h)^2}{b^2} + \frac{(y-k)^2}{a^2} = 1 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Major axis: vertical; foci: } (h, k \pm c) \\ \text{Vertices: } (h, k \pm a) \end{array}$$

[Shifted Ellipses](#)

From *Precalculus with Modeling and Visualization* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. by Rockswold, 2006, p.849

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**ELLIPSES**

1. Write the equation  $9x^2 - 36x + 16y^2 - 64y - 44 = 0$  in the standard form for an ellipse. Graph the ellipse and identify the center and the vertices.
2. Find the equation of an ellipse with vertices  $(-1, \pm 3)$  and foci  $(-1, \pm 1)$ .
3. Write the equation  $x^2 + 4y^2 - 8y + 4x - 8 = 0$  in the standard form for an ellipse. Graph the ellipse and identify the center and the vertices.
4. Find the equation of an ellipse with vertices  $(\pm 6, 0)$  and foci  $(\pm 4, 0)$ .

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**CIRCLES**

A circle is a type of an ellipse.

The standard form for a circle is with radius  $r$  and center  $(h, k)$  is

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

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## CIRCLES

1. Find the standard equation of a circle with center  $(-1, -3)$  passing through the point  $(3, 0)$ . Graph the circle.
2. Find the standard equation of a circle whose diameter has endpoints  $(4, 9)$  and  $(-2, 1)$ .
3. Identify the center and radius of the circle  $x^2 + y^2 - 12x - 10y + 52 = 0$ , then sketch its graph.

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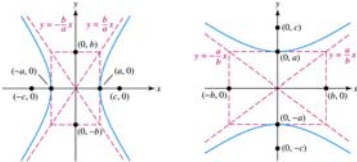
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## HYPERBOLA

A hyperbola is formed by all points in the plane, the difference of whose distances from two fixed points is a constant.

Each point is called a focus (foci is plural).



From *Precalculus with Modeling and Visualization* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. by Rockswold, 2006, p.871

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### STANDARD EQUATIONS FOR HYPERBOLAS CENTERED AT $(0, 0)$

The hyperbola with center at the origin, *horizontal* transverse axis, and equation

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

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

The hyperbola with center at the origin, *vertical* transverse axis, and equation

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

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

From *Precalculus with Modeling and Visualization* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. by Rockswold, 2006, p.871

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## HYPERBOLAS

Graph the hyperbola, including the asymptotes. Give the coordinates of the foci.

1.  $49y^2 - 25x^2 = 1225$

2.  $4x^2 - 4y^2 = 100$

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### STANDARD EQUATIONS FOR HYPERBOLAS CENTERED AT $(h, k)$

A hyperbola with center  $(h, k)$ , and either a horizontal or vertical transverse axis, satisfies one of the following equations, where  $c^2 = a^2 + b^2$ .

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

Transverse axis: horizontal  
 Vertices:  $(h \pm a, k)$ ; foci:  $(h \pm c, k)$   
 Asymptotes:  $y = \pm \frac{b}{a}(x-h) + k$

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

Transverse axis: vertical  
 Vertices:  $(h, k \pm a)$ ; foci:  $(h, k \pm c)$   
 Asymptotes:  $y = \pm \frac{a}{b}(x-h) + k$

[Shifted Hyperbolas](#)

From *Precalculus with Modeling and Visualization* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. by Rockswold, 2006, p.875

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## HYPERBOLAS

- Write the equation  $4x^2 + 16x - 9y^2 + 18y = 29$  in the standard form for a hyperbola. Graph the hyperbola and identify the center and the vertices.
- Find the equation of a hyperbola with vertices  $(2 \pm 1, 1)$  and foci  $(2 \pm 3, 1)$ .
- Write the equation  $8(x-4)^2 - 3(y-3)^2 = 24$  in the standard form for a hyperbola. Graph the hyperbola and identify the center and the vertices.
- Find the equation of a hyperbola with vertices  $(-4 \pm 2\sqrt{5}, 1)$  and asymptotes  $y = \frac{1}{2}x + 3$  and  $y = -\frac{1}{2}x - 1$

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**PARABOLA**

A **parabola** is the set of points in a plane that are equidistant from a fixed point and a fixed line. The fixed point is called the **focus** and the fixed line is called the **directrix** of the parabola.

**EQUATION OF A PARABOLA WITH VERTEX (0, 0)****Vertical Axis**

The parabola with a focus at  $(0, p)$  and directrix  $y = -p$  has equation

$$x^2 = 4py.$$

The parabola opens upward if  $p > 0$  and downward if  $p < 0$ .

**Horizontal Axis**

The parabola with a focus at  $(p, 0)$  and directrix  $x = -p$  has equation

$$y^2 = 4px.$$

The parabola opens to the right if  $p > 0$  and to the left if  $p < 0$ .

From *Precalculus with Modeling and Visualization* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. by Rockswold, 2006, p.845-6

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**PARABOLAS**

Graph the parabola. Label the vertex, focus, and directrix.

1.  $y = -\frac{1}{8}x^2$

2.  $3x = \frac{1}{2}y^2$

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**EQUATION OF A PARABOLA WITH VERTEX (h, k)**

$$(x - h)^2 = 4p(y - k)$$

Vertical axis; vertex:  $(h, k)$

$p > 0$ : opens upward;  $p < 0$ : opens downward

Focus:  $(h, k + p)$ ; directrix:  $y = k - p$

$$(y - k)^2 = 4p(x - h)$$

Horizontal axis; vertex:  $(h, k)$

$p > 0$ : opens to the right;  $p < 0$ : opens to the left

Focus:  $(h + p, k)$ ; directrix:  $x = h - p$

[Shifted Parabolas](#)

From *Precalculus with Modeling and Visualization* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. by Rockswold, 2006, p.849

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## PARABOLAS

1. Write the equation  $y^2 + 8x - 8 = 4x$  in the standard form for a parabola. Graph the parabola and label the vertex, focus, and directrix.
2. Find the equation of a parabola with Focus (2, 1) and directrix  $x = -1$ .
3. Write the equation  $x^2 - 14x - 24y + 1 = 0$  in the standard form for a parabola. Graph the parabola and label the vertex, focus, and directrix.
4. Find the equation of a parabola with Focus (0, 2) and directrix  $y = -2$ .

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## SYSTEMS OF EQUATIONS

Solve the system of equations:

1. 
$$\begin{cases} x^2 + y^2 = 9 \\ x + y = 3 \end{cases}$$
2. 
$$\begin{cases} x^2 + y^2 = 4 \\ 2x^2 + y = -3 \end{cases}$$
3. 
$$\begin{cases} 5x^2 - 2y^2 = 75 \\ 2x^2 + 3y^2 = 125 \end{cases}$$

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## INEQUALITIES

Graph the solution set to the inequality or system of inequalities:

1.  $2x^2 - y < 1$
2. 
$$\begin{cases} x^2 + y \leq 4 \\ x^2 - y \leq 3 \end{cases}$$
3. 
$$\begin{cases} x^2 + y^2 \leq 25 \\ x + 2y \leq 5 \end{cases}$$

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