

Conic Sections

Mid - point Formula : $M = \left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$

Distance Formula: $d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$

Circle centered at (h, k) with radius r : $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$

Example Find the center and the radius of the circle with equation $x^2 + y^2 - 9x - 6y + 8 = 0$.

Solution:

(Rewrite the equation in the standard form by first separating the terms in the equation according to the variables)

$$[x^2 - 9x] + [y^2 - 6y] + 8 = 0$$

(Complete the Square)

$$\left[\left(x^2 - 9x + \left(\frac{-9}{2} \right)^2 \right) - \left(\frac{-9}{2} \right)^2 \right] + \left[\left(y^2 - 6y + \left(\frac{-6}{2} \right)^2 \right) - \left(\frac{-6}{2} \right)^2 \right] + 8 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[\left(x - \frac{9}{2} \right)^2 - \frac{81}{4} \right] + [(y - 3)^2 - 9] + 8 = 0$$

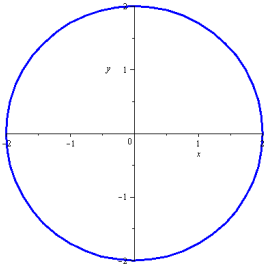
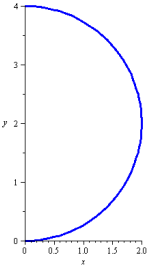
(Collect like terms and write the equation in standard form)

$$\Rightarrow \left(x - \frac{9}{2} \right)^2 - \frac{81}{4} + (y - 3)^2 - 9 + 8 = 0 \Rightarrow \left(x - \frac{9}{2} \right)^2 + (y - 3)^2 = \frac{85}{4}$$

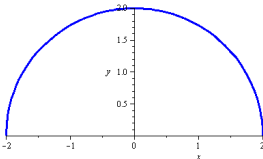
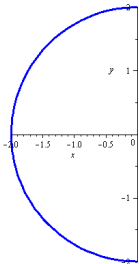
Center = $\left(\frac{9}{2}, 3 \right)$, **radius** = $\sqrt{\frac{85}{4}} = \frac{\sqrt{85}}{2}$

Exercise

- Find the equation of a circle which has a diameter connecting the two points $(2, -3)$ and $(6, 4)$. [Answer: $x^2 + y^2 - 8x - y = 0$]
- Sketch the graph of the following equation.

Equation	Answer	Equation	Answer
$x^2 + y^2 = 4$		$x = \sqrt{4y - y^2}$	

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Equation	Answer	Equation	Answer
$y = \sqrt{4 - x^2}$		$x = -\sqrt{4 - y^2}$	
$x^2 + y^2 = 2y$			

Parabola:

- vertex at (h, k) and axis parallel to the x -axis: $(y - k)^2 = 4p(x - h)$
- vertex at (h, k) and axis parallel to the y -axis: $(x - h)^2 = 4p(y - k)$

Example Find the vertex and the x - and y -intercepts of the parabola $x^2 + y = 6x$.

Sketch the graph.

Solution:

(Set $y = 0$ and solve for x for the x -intercept(s)) $y = 0: x^2 = 6x \Rightarrow x^2 - 6x = 0$
 $\Rightarrow x(x - 6) = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0$ or $x - 6 = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0$ or $x = 6$ (x -intercepts)

(set $x = 0$ and solve for y for the y -intercept)

$x = 0: 0^2 + y = 6(0) \Rightarrow y = 0$ (y -intercept)

(To find the vertex, we need to use the method of completing the square to rewrite the equation in the standard form; first we identify the term involving the square of a variable in the equation, rearrange the terms in the equation so that all terms involving that variable are on the same side of the equation) $x^2 - 6x + y = 0$

(Complete the square)

$$\left[x^2 - 6x + \left(\frac{-6}{2}\right)^2 \right] - \left(\frac{-6}{2}\right)^2 + y = 0 \Rightarrow [x^2 - 6x + 9] - 9 + y = 0$$

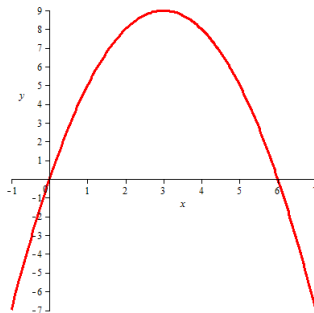
$$\Rightarrow (x - 3)^2 - 9 + y = 0$$

(Write the equation in standard form and identify the vertex)

$$\Rightarrow y - 9 = -(x - 3)^2 \quad \text{Vertex} = (3, 9)$$

(Sketch the graph)

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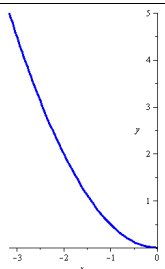


Exercise

- Find the vertex of the parabola and sketch the graph.
 - $y^2 - 2y - 8x - 31 = 0$ [Answer: vertex: $(-4,1)$, focus: $(-2,1)$, directrix: $x = -6$]
 - $x^2 + 6x + 4y + 5 = 0$ [Answer: vertex: $(-3,1)$, focus: $(-3,0)$, directrix: $y = 2$]
- Find the vertex, the axis of symmetry, and the maximum or minimum value of the function, then graph the function.
 - $y = x^2 + 10x + 23$
[Answer: Vertex: $(-5, -2)$, axis of symmetry: $x = -5$, minimum value: -2]
 - $y = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 4x + 8$
[Answer: Vertex: $(4,0)$, axis of symmetry: $x = 4$, minimum value: 0]
 - $y = -2x^2 + 10x - \frac{23}{2}$
[Answer: Vertex: $(\frac{5}{2}, 1)$, axis of symmetry: $x = \frac{5}{2}$, maximum value: 1]
- Sketch the graph of the following equation.

Equation	Answer	Equation	Answer
$y = x^2 - 9x - 12$		$y = \sqrt{4 - x}$	

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Equation	Answer	Equation	Answer
$x = -\sqrt{2y}$			

Ellipse ($a > b$):

- centered at (h, k) with major axis parallel to the x -axis: $\frac{(x-h)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(y-k)^2}{b^2} = 1$
- centered at (h, k) with major axis parallel to the y -axis: $\frac{(y-k)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(x-h)^2}{b^2} = 1$

Example Sketch the solution set of the inequality $4 - x^2 - 4y^2 \geq 0$

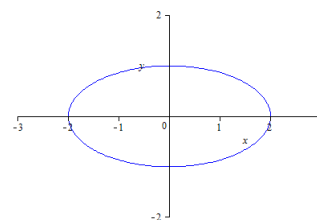
Solution:

(Replace the inequality by an equation, which defines a curve representing the boundary of the solution set we are looking for)

$$4 - x^2 - 4y^2 = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 + 4y^2 = 4 \Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{1} = 1$$

(This is an ellipse centered at the origin with horizontal major axis of length $2a = 4$ and vertical minor axis of length $2b = 2$.)



(Pick a test point from each region and check whether the coordinates of the test point satisfy the inequality; if it does, all points in the same region as that test point is part of the solution set; otherwise, the region that the test point belongs to is not part of the solution set)

Test point $(0,0)$: $4 - 0^2 - 4(0^2) \geq 0$? Yes!

Test point $(3,0)$: $4 - 3^2 - 4(0^2) \geq 0$? No!

Moreover, since the points on the ellipse satisfy the equation $4 - x^2 - 4y^2 = 0$, they also satisfy the inequality $4 - x^2 - 4y^2 \geq 0$.

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Hence the solution set of the inequality contains all the points inside the ellipse, including the points on the ellipse.

Hyperbola ($a > b$):

- centered at (h, k) with foci (and vertices) on a horizontal line (same y -coordinates):

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

- centered at (h, k) with foci (and vertices) on a vertical line (same x -coordinates):

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

Exercise Find the center and the vertices of the hyperbola

$4y^2 - x^2 + 24y + 4x + 28 = 0$, and then sketch the graph.

[Answer: center: $(2, -3)$, vertices: $(2, -4)$, $(2, -2)$]