

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA**  
**SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS**  
**MAT 2110: Conic Section**

**Tutorial Sheet 1**

\* Submit questions 7, 14 and 19. Due date: 06/04/2018

1. Find the coordinates of the focus and the equation of the directrix for each of the following parabolas and sketch the graph:

(a)  $x^2 = 4y$    (b)  $y = \frac{x^2}{32}$    (c)  $7y = -5x^2$

2. A parabola has focus at  $(3, 4)$  and the x-axis as its directrix. Find the equation of the parabola and sketch it, clearly showing the vertex and y-intercept.
3. Under what conditions is the graph

$$y = Ax^2 + Bx + C$$

a parabola? If it is indeed a parabola and passes through the points  $(1, 3)$ ,  $(2, 4)$  and  $(3, 7)$ , find the unknown constants.

4. Find the foci and distance sum for of each of the following ellipses and sketch the graph:

(a)  $\frac{x^2}{9} + \frac{y^2}{25} = 1$    (b)  $\frac{x^2}{25} + 4y^2 = 1$    (c)  $100x^2 + 5100y^2 = 1$

5. An ellipse is centered at the origin and passes through the points  $(3, \sqrt{7})$  and  $(-\sqrt{3}, 3)$ . Find the equation and sketch it.
6. Write down the standard form for the equation of the hyperbola with

(a)  $\pm(|PF_1| - |PF_2|) = 8$  and foci at  $(0, \pm 5)$   
(b)  $\pm(|PF_1| - |PF_2|) = 1$  and foci at  $(0, \pm 5)$

7. Let  $k > 0$ . Show that the graph of  $xy = \frac{k^2}{2}$  is a hyperbola, by showing that this equation is the equation of the hyperbola with foci at  $(k, k)$  and  $(-k, -k)$  and distance difference  $2k$ . Sketch the hyperbola when  $k = \sqrt{2}$ .
8. Find the equation of the hyperbola that goes through the point  $(2, 3)$  and has foci at  $(\pm 2, 0)$
9. Find the equation of the hyperbola that goes through the points  $(\sqrt{6}, 4)$  and  $(4, 6)$  if its foci are on the y-axis and the hyperbola has the x-axis as the axis of symmetry.
10. If the vertex of each of the following parabolas is at the origin, what is the equation of the parabola?

- (a) focus is at  $(8, 0)$  (b) directrix is  $y = 11$ .
11. Show that the line  $5x + 2y = 25$  passes through the focus of the parabola  $y^2 = 20x$ .
12. Prove that the length of latus rectum of any parabola with vertex at the origin is  $4p$ . Hence, find the length of latus rectum for each of the following parabolas:
- (i)  $2y^2 = 3x$  (ii)  $4x^2 = 6y$  (iii)  $x^2 = -10y$  (iv)  $5x^2 = -2y$  (v)  $y^2 = -\frac{3}{10}$
13. The focus of a parabolic mirror is at a distance 10 metres from the vertex. If the mirror is 40 centimetres deep, find the diameter of the outermost circular surface of the mirror.
14. A beam is supported at its ends by two supports which are 16 metres apart. Since the load is concentrated at the center, there is a deflection of 1 metre at the center. How far from the center is the deflection of 0.5 metres?
15. Find the eccentricity of each of the following conics:
- (a)  $169x^2 + 25y^2 = 4225$  (b)  $y^2 - 4y - 8x - 12 = 0$  (c)  $64x^2 - 36y^2 = 2304$  (d)  $16x^2 + 25y^2 = 400$
16. Find the equation of the ellipse in the form  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$ ,  $a > b$ , if
- (a) major axis is 10 and  $e = \frac{1}{2}$   
 (b) minor axis is 8 and  $e = \frac{2}{3}$   
 (c) minor axis is 10 and foci at  $(0, \pm 4)$   
 (d) distance sum is 0.2 and foci at  $(\frac{1}{\sqrt{102}}, 0)$   
 (e) distance between the foci is 32, major axis is along x-axis and  $e = \frac{1}{3}$   
 (f) distance between the foci is 16 and distance between directrices is 30.
17. Find the equation of the hyperbola in the form  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$ , if
- (i) Transverse axis is 12 and  $e = 2$   
 (ii) vertices are at  $(\pm 2, 0)$  and foci at  $(\pm 6, 0)$   
 (iii) directrices is  $y = 2$  and  $e = 5$   
 (iv) focus is at  $(\sqrt{5}, 0)$  and asymptotes are  $2y = \pm x$ .
18. Show that the vertical distance between the asymptotes and the hyperbola  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  approaches 0.
19. Given that an ellipse centred at the origin is shifted  $c$  units to the left so that one focus is at the origin, show that for any given point  $P(x, y)$  on the ellipse, the "focus-directrix" equation

$$|PF| = e \cdot |PD|$$

holds.