

Section 10.9 Polar Equations of Conics

Objective: In this lesson you learned how to define a conic in terms of eccentricity and to write equations of conics in polar form.

Course Number

Instructor

Date

I. Alternative Definition of Conics (Page 791)

The locus of a point in the plane that moves so that its distance from a fixed point (focus) is in a constant ratio to its distance from a fixed line (directrix) is a conic. The constant ratio is the eccentricity of the conic and is denoted by e . Moreover, the conic is an ellipse if $e < 1$, a parabola if $e = 1$, and a hyperbola if $e > 1$.

For each type of conic, the focus is at the pole.

What you should learn
How to define conics in terms of eccentricity

II. Polar Equations of Conics (Pages 791–793)

The graph of the polar equation $r = ep/(1 + e \cos \theta)$ is a conic with a vertical directrix to the right of the pole, where $e > 0$ is the eccentricity and $|p|$ is the distance between the focus (pole) and the directrix.

The graph of the polar equation $r = ep/(1 - e \cos \theta)$ is a conic with a vertical directrix to the left of the pole, where $e > 0$ is the eccentricity and $|p|$ is the distance between the focus (pole) and the directrix.

The graph of the polar equation $r = ep/(1 + e \sin \theta)$ is a conic with a horizontal directrix above the pole, where $e > 0$ is the eccentricity and $|p|$ is the distance between the focus (pole) and the directrix.

What you should learn
How to write and graph equations of conics in polar form

The graph of the polar equation $r = ep/(1 - e \sin \theta)$ is a conic with a horizontal directrix below the pole, where $e > 0$ is the eccentricity and $|p|$ is the distance between the focus (pole) and the directrix.

Example 1: Identify the type of conic from the polar equation

$$r = \frac{36}{10 + 12 \sin \theta}, \text{ and describe its orientation.}$$

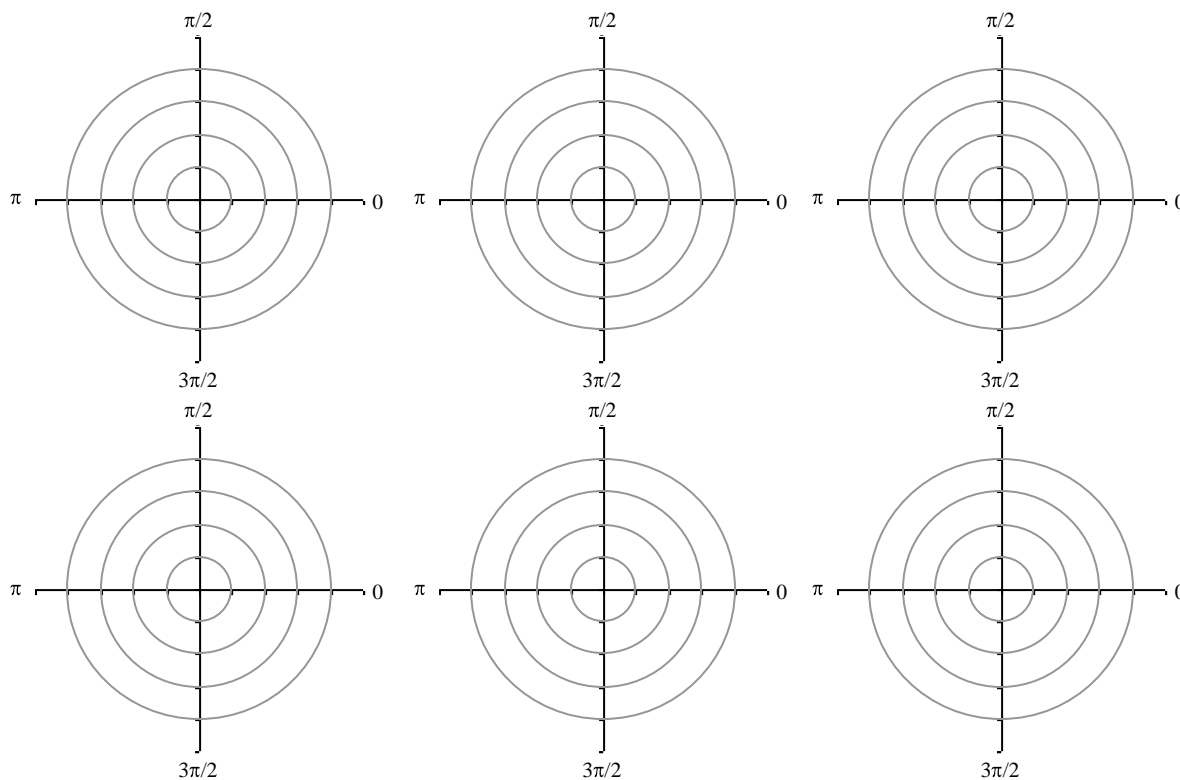
Hyperbola with a horizontal directrix above the pole

III. Applications (Page 794)

Describe a real-life application of polar equations of conics.

Answers will vary.

What you should learn
How to use equations of conics in polar form to model real-life problems



Homework Assignment

Page(s)

Exercises