Answer on Question #85041 - Math - Calculus

Question

Describe and draw a rough sketch of the level curves of the function f(x,y)=underroot (4x square - y square).

Solution

By the definition, level curves of the function f(x, y) are curves where the function takes on a given constant value c. In this example $f(x, y) = c \ge 0$.

$$f(x,y) = c = \sqrt{4x^2 - y^2} \Rightarrow c^2 = 4x^2 - y^2 \Rightarrow \frac{x^2}{\left(\frac{c}{2}\right)^2} - \frac{y^2}{c^2} = 1$$

This is an equation of hyperbola with parameters a = c/2 and b = c.

Let's draw few curves:



