

Answer to Question #87969 – Math – Analytic Geometry

Question

Find the vertices, eccentricity, focus and asymptotes of the hyperbola $x^2/8 - y^2/4 = 1$. Also trace it. Under what condition on λ the line $x + \lambda y = 2$ will be tangent to this hyperbola? Explain geometrically

Solution

$$\frac{x^2}{8} - \frac{y^2}{4} = 1$$

Rewrite in the form of a standard hyperbola equation

$$\frac{(x-0)^2}{(2\sqrt{2})^2} - \frac{(y-0)^2}{2^2} = 1$$

$$\therefore (h, k) = (0, 0), a = 2\sqrt{2}, b = 2$$

$$\text{Vertices} = (0, 0)$$

$$\text{The eccentricity} = e = \frac{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}{a}$$

$$e = \frac{\sqrt{(2\sqrt{2})^2 + 2^2}}{2\sqrt{2}} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$\text{For right-left hyperbola the asymptotes are } y = \pm \frac{b}{a}(x - h) + k$$

$$y = \frac{2}{2\sqrt{2}}(x - 0) + 0, \quad y = -\frac{2}{2\sqrt{2}}(x - 0) + 0$$

$$y = \frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad y = -\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\text{The Foci are } (h + c, k), (h - c, k), \text{ where } c = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

$$c = \sqrt{(2\sqrt{2})^2 + 2^2} = 2\sqrt{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, foci} &= (0 + 2\sqrt{3}, 0), (0 - 2\sqrt{3}, 0) \\ &= (2\sqrt{3}, 0), (-2\sqrt{3}, 0) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Slope of tangent to curve} = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

On differentiating,

$$\frac{x^2}{8} - \frac{y^2}{4} = 1 \dots (i)$$

$$\frac{2x}{8} - \frac{2y}{4} \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-\frac{2x}{8}}{-\frac{2y}{4}} = \frac{x}{2y}$$

$$\text{From (i), } y = \pm \sqrt{4\left(\frac{x^2}{8} - 1\right)}$$

$$y = \pm \sqrt{\frac{x^2}{2} - 4}$$

$$\text{so, } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{\pm 2\sqrt{\frac{x^2}{2} - 4}}$$

Given line : $x + \lambda y = 2$

$$y = \frac{-x}{\lambda} + \frac{2}{\lambda}$$

$$\text{Slope} = \frac{-1}{\lambda}$$

We get,

$$\frac{x}{\pm 2\sqrt{\frac{x^2}{2} - 4}} = \frac{-1}{\lambda}$$

$$\text{Thus, } \lambda = \mp \frac{2\sqrt{\frac{x^2}{2} - 4}}{x}$$

Applying these elements and tracing the hyperbola, we get following graph:

