

## The Hyperbola

**Hyperbola:** The collection of all points in the plane, the difference of whose distances from two fixed points, called the **foci**, is a constant.

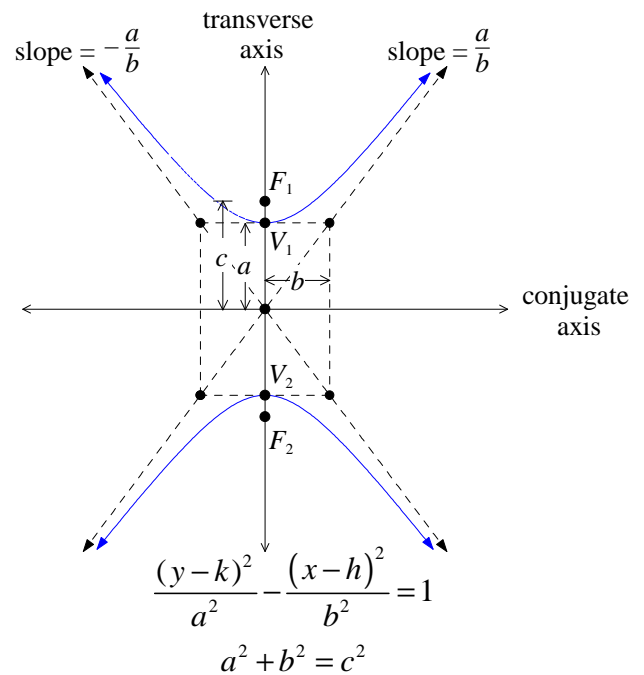
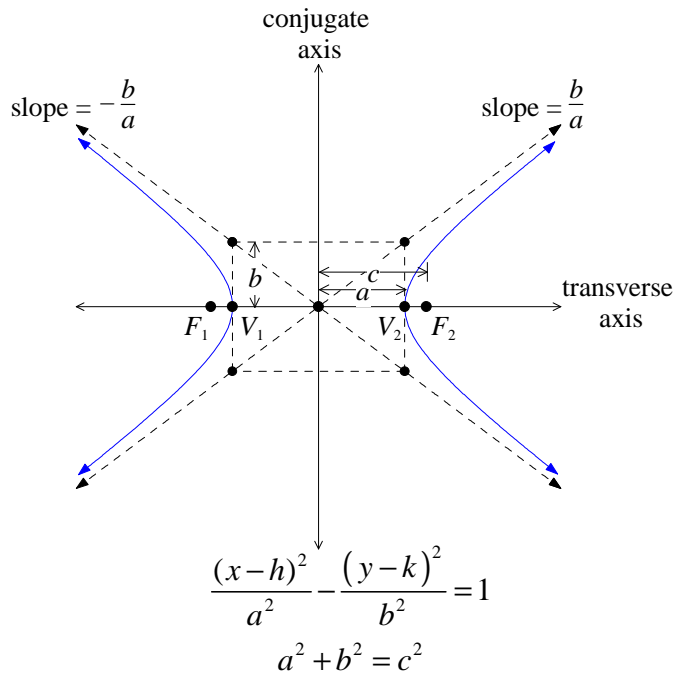
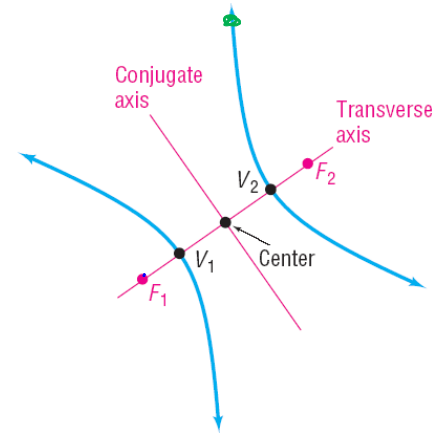
**Transverse Axis:** The line containing the foci.

**Center:** The midpoint of the line segment joining the foci.

**Conjugate Axis:** The line through the center and perpendicular to the transverse axis.

**Branches:** The separate curves of the hyperbola. They are symmetric with respect to the transverse axis, conjugate axis, and center.

**Vertices:** The points of intersection of the hyperbola and the transverse axis.



$a$  = distance from center to vertices

$c$  = distance from center to foci

$b$  used to find the width of branches and slope of asymptotes

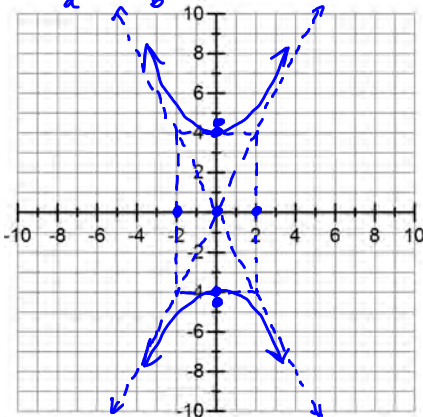
When finding the equations of the asymptotes, remember that  $m = \frac{\text{change in } y}{\text{change in } x}$ , or, in this case,

$m = \pm \frac{\sqrt{\# \text{ under } y^2 \text{ term}}}{\sqrt{\# \text{ under } x^2 \text{ term}}}$ , then use point slope form  $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$  with the center  $(h, k)$  as  $(x_1, y_1)$ .

**Examples:** Find the center, transverse axis, vertices, foci, and asymptotes. Graph each equation.

a)  $\frac{y^2}{16} - \frac{x^2}{4} = 1$

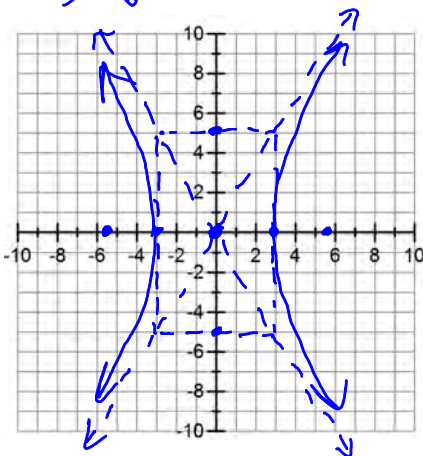
$\updownarrow 4$   $\leftrightarrow 2$   
 $a$   $b$



center:  $(0, 0)$   
 vertices:  $(0, 4) \neq (0, -4)$   
 trans. axis:  $y$ -axis ( $x=0$ )  
 $c^2 = a^2 + b^2$   
 $c^2 = 16 + 4 = 20$   
 $c = \sqrt{20} = 2\sqrt{5} \approx 4.5$   
 foci:  $(0, 2\sqrt{5}) \neq (0, -2\sqrt{5})$   
 asymptotes:  $m = \frac{\updownarrow}{\leftrightarrow} = \pm \frac{4}{2} = \pm 2$   
 $y = \pm 2x$

b)  $\frac{x^2}{9} - \frac{y^2}{25} = 1$

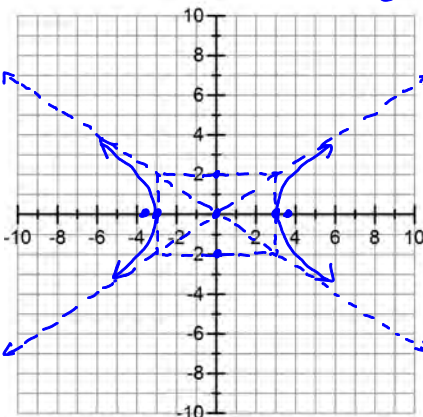
$\leftrightarrow 3$   $\updownarrow 5$



center:  $(0, 0)$   
 vertices:  $(3, 0) \neq (-3, 0)$   
 trans. axis:  $x$ -axis ( $y=0$ )  
 $c^2 = a^2 + b^2 = 9 + 25 = 34$   
 $c = \sqrt{34} \approx 5.8$   
 foci:  $(\sqrt{34}, 0) \neq (-\sqrt{34}, 0)$   
 asymptotes:  $m = \frac{\updownarrow}{\leftrightarrow} = \pm \frac{5}{3}$   
 $y = \pm \frac{5}{3}x$

c)  $\frac{4x^2}{36} - \frac{9y^2}{36} = 1$

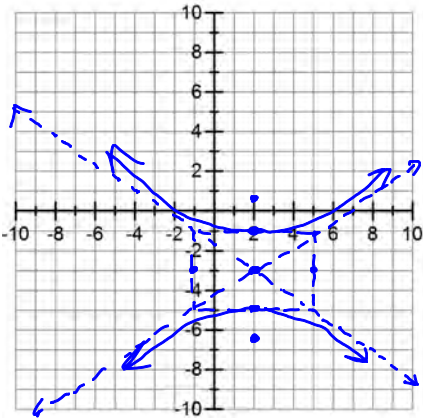
$\frac{x^2}{9} - \frac{y^2}{4} = 1$   
 $\leftrightarrow 3$   $\updownarrow 2$



center:  $(0, 0)$   
 vertices:  $(3, 0) \neq (-3, 0)$   
 transverse axis:  $x$ -axis ( $y=0$ )  
 $c^2 = a^2 + b^2 = 9 + 4 = 13$   
 $c = \sqrt{13} \approx 3.6$   
 foci:  $(\sqrt{13}, 0) \neq (-\sqrt{13}, 0)$   
 asymptotes:  $m = \frac{\updownarrow}{\leftrightarrow} = \pm \frac{2}{3}$   
 $y = \pm \frac{2}{3}x$

$$d) \frac{(y+3)^2}{4} - \frac{(x-2)^2}{9} = 1$$

$\uparrow 2$        $\leftrightarrow 3$



point-slope form for Line:  
 $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$   
 asymptotes:  $y - k = m(x - h)$

asymptotes  
 pass through  
 $(h, k)$   
 $\uparrow$      $\uparrow$   
 $x_1$     $y_1$

Center:  $(2, -3)$  ← careful! # w/ x first  
 Vertices:  $(2, -1) \neq (2, -5)$

trans. axis:  $x = 2$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 = 4 + 9 = 13$$

$$c = \sqrt{13} \approx 3.6$$

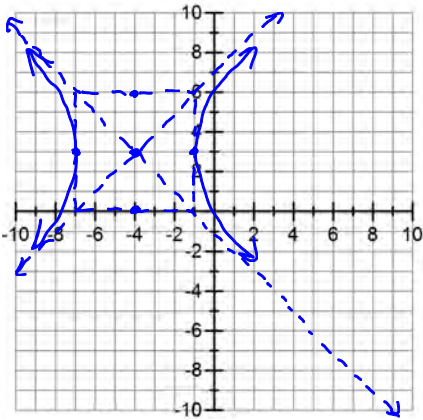
foci:  $(2, -3 + \sqrt{13}) \neq (2, -3 - \sqrt{13})$

asymptotes:  $m = \frac{\uparrow}{\leftrightarrow} = \pm \frac{2}{3}$

$$y + 3 = \pm \frac{2}{3}(x - 2)$$

$$e) \frac{(x+4)^2}{9} - \frac{(y-3)^2}{9} = 1$$

$\leftrightarrow 3$        $\uparrow 3$



$$\frac{(x+4)^2}{9} - \frac{(y-3)^2}{9} = 1$$

$\leftrightarrow 3$        $\uparrow 3$

center:  $(-4, 3)$

vertices:  $(-7, 3) \neq (-1, 3)$

transverse axis:  $y = 3$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 = 9 + 9 = 18$$

$$c = \sqrt{18} = 3\sqrt{2} \approx 4.2$$

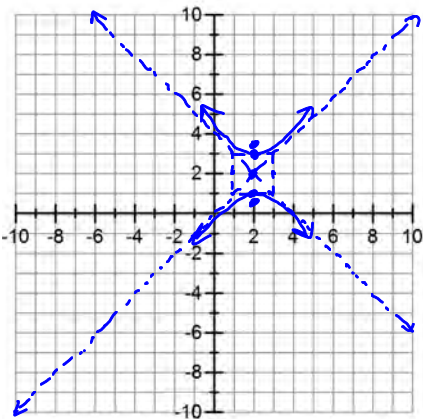
foci:  $(-4 - 3\sqrt{2}, 3) \neq (-4 + 3\sqrt{2}, 3)$

asymptotes:  $m = \frac{\uparrow}{\leftrightarrow} = \pm \frac{3}{3} = \pm 1$

$$(y - 3) = \pm (x + 4)$$

$$f) y^2 - x^2 - 4y + 4x - 1 = 0$$

$\uparrow$   
 $+(-x^2)$



$$(y^2 - 4y) + (-x^2 + 4x) = 1$$

Factor out negative!

$$\frac{-4}{2} = -2$$

$$\left(\frac{-2}{2}\right)^2 = 4$$

$$(y^2 - 4y + 4) - (x^2 - 4x + 4) = 1 + 4 - 4$$

Actually added -4

$$(y - 2)^2 - (x - 2)^2 = 1$$

$\uparrow$

$\leftrightarrow$

$\sim$

$\curvearrowright$

Center:  $(2, 2)$

Vertices:  $(2, 3) \neq (2, 1)$

trans. axis:  $x = 2$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 = 1 + 1 = 2$$

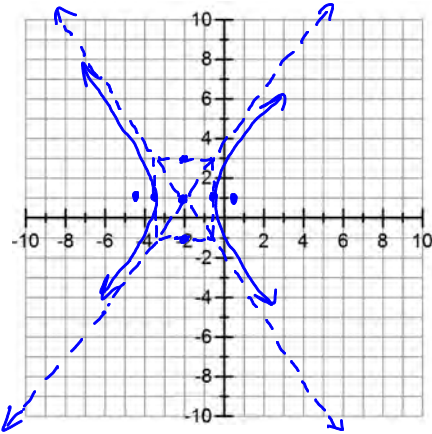
$$c = \sqrt{2} \approx 1.4$$

foci:  $(2, 2 + \sqrt{2}) \neq (2, 2 - \sqrt{2})$

asymptotes:  $m = \frac{\uparrow}{\leftrightarrow} = \pm \frac{1}{1} = \pm 1$

$$y - 2 = \pm (x - 2)$$

g)  $2x^2 - y^2 + 8x + 2y + 3 = 0$



Factor out 2      Factor out negative  
 $(2x^2 + 8x) + (-y^2 + 2y) = -3$

$\frac{4}{2} = 2$      $2^2 = 4$   
 $-\frac{2}{2} = -1$      $(-1)^2 = 1$

$2(x^2 + 4x + 4) - (y^2 - 2y + 1) = -3 + 8 - 1$

added  $2(4) = 8$       added  $-1$

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

transverse axis:  $y = 1$

$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 = 2 + 4 = 6$   
 $c = \sqrt{6} \approx 2.4$

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

foci:  $(-2 + \sqrt{6}, 1)$   
 $(-2 - \sqrt{6}, 1)$

↔ ↻

$\Leftrightarrow \sqrt{2} \approx 1.4$      $\updownarrow 2$

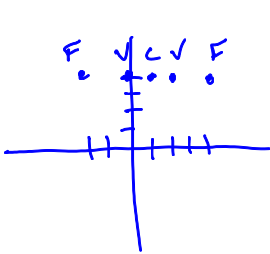
asymptotes:  
 $m = \frac{\updownarrow}{\updownarrow} = \pm \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} = \pm \sqrt{2}$

Center:  $(-2, 1)$   
 vertices:  $(-2 + \sqrt{2}, 1)$   
 $(-2 - \sqrt{2}, 1)$

$y - 1 = \pm \sqrt{2}(x + 2)$

**Examples:** Write the equation of the hyperbola described.

a) Center at  $(1, 4)$ ; Focus at  $(-2, 4)$ ; Vertex at  $(0, 4)$



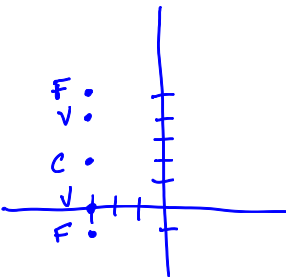
↔ ↻  
 $\Leftrightarrow a = 1$  (under x)  
 $c = 3$  ( $a^2 = 1$ )

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

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

$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$   
 $1^2 + b^2 = 3^2$   
 $b^2 = 3^2 - 1^2 = 8$  (under y)  
 $(b^2 = 8)$

b) Focus at  $(-3, 5)$ ; Vertices at  $(-3, 4)$  and  $(-3, 0)$



Center:  $(-3, 2)$

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

$\frac{(y-2)^2}{4} - \frac{(x+3)^2}{5} = 1$

$\downarrow a = 2$  (under y)  
 $a^2 = 4$   
 $c = 3$   
 $2^2 + b^2 = 3^2$   
 $b^2 = 3^2 - 2^2 = 5$   
 (under x)  
 $(b^2 = 5)$