

Conic Sections Cheat Sheet

Math III

Circles:

KeyConcept Equations of Circles		
Standard Form of Equation	$x^2 + y^2 = r^2$	$(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$
Center	(0, 0)	(h, k)
Radius	r	r

Parabolas:

KeyConcept Equations of Parabolas		
Form of Equation	$y = a(x - h)^2 + k$	$x = a(y - k)^2 + h$
Direction of Opening	upward if $a > 0$, downward if $a < 0$	right if $a > 0$, left if $a < 0$
Vertex	(h, k)	(h, k)
Axis of Symmetry	$x = h$	$y = k$
Focus	$(h, k + \frac{1}{4a})$	$(h + \frac{1}{4a}, k)$
Directrix	$y = k - \frac{1}{4a}$	$x = h - \frac{1}{4a}$
Length of Latus Rectum	$ \frac{1}{a} $ units	$ \frac{1}{a} $ units

Ellipses:

KeyConcept Equations of Ellipses Centered at the Origin		
Standard Form	$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$	$\frac{y^2}{a^2} + \frac{x^2}{b^2} = 1$
Orientation	horizontal	vertical
Foci	(c, 0), (-c, 0)	(0, c), (0, -c)
Length of Major Axis	2a units	2a units
Length of Minor Axis	2b units	2b units

KeyConcept Equations of Ellipses Centered at (h, k)		
Standard Form	$\frac{(x - h)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(y - k)^2}{b^2} = 1$	$\frac{(y - k)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(x - h)^2}{b^2} = 1$
Orientation	horizontal	vertical
Foci	(h ± c, k)	(h, k ± c)
Vertices	(h ± a, k)	(h, k ± a)
Co-vertices	(h, k ± b)	(h ± b, k)

Hyperbolas:

KeyConcept Equations of Hyperbolas Centered at the Origin

Standard Form	$\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$	$\frac{y^2}{a^2} - \frac{x^2}{b^2} = 1$
Orientation	horizontal	vertical
Foci	$(\pm c, 0)$	$(0, \pm c)$
Length of Transverse Axis	$2a$ units	$2a$ units
Length of Conjugate Axis	$2b$ units	$2b$ units
Equations of Asymptotes	$y = \pm \frac{b}{a}x$	$y = \pm \frac{a}{b}x$

KeyConcept Equations of Hyperbolas Centered at (h, k)

Standard Form	$\frac{(x-h)^2}{a^2} - \frac{(y-k)^2}{b^2} = 1$	$\frac{(y-k)^2}{a^2} - \frac{(x-h)^2}{b^2} = 1$
Orientation	horizontal	vertical
Foci	$(h \pm c, k)$	$(h, k \pm c)$
Vertices	$(h \pm a, k)$	$(h, k \pm a)$
Co-vertices	$(h, k \pm b)$	$(h \pm b, k)$
Equations of Asymptotes	$y - k = \pm \frac{b}{a}(x - h)$	$y - k = \pm \frac{a}{b}(x - h)$