

hello everyone we will continue our discussion on conic sections in particular we will study about ellipse and hyperbola in this lecture and the next

so in the last lecture we discussed about equation of tangent normal etcetera to an ellipse this lecture will continue first with ellipse

so first thing we will derive is formula for equation of chord of contact of tangents from an external point x_1, y_1 to an ellipse

so consider the ellipse $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$ and let x_1, y_1 be a point outside the ellipse

so we have this ellipse and we have some point x_1, y_1 which lies outside the ellipse now from this point x_1, y_1 two tangents can be drawn to the ellipse and what we are required is to find the chord of contact

so let p be this point and q and r with the points on the ellipse where the tangents are drawn and then we want to find the equation of this chord qr

so let this is say point p suppose pq and pr are the two tangents where q and r lie on the ellipse

so let q be the point x', y' and r with the point x'', y'' on the ellipse then the equation of the tangent line

so recall equation of tangent at some point x', y' is given by $xx' + yy' = a^2 + b^2$

so therefore this in this case will be the equation of line pq and similarly equation of line pr is $xx'' + yy'' = a^2 + b^2$

so these are the equation of the line pq and pr are now since the point $p(x_1, y_1)$ lies on both pq and pr we have

so if we put x_1, y_1 in this equation for pq and we get $x_1 x' + y_1 y' = a^2 + b^2$ and $x_1 x'' + y_1 y'' = a^2 + b^2$ this is also equal to one

so we get these two equations one and two what we had to find we have to find the equation of the line qr

so we need equation of the chord qr

so notice that q and r these are the points (x', y') and (x'', y'') as

so if we have any straight line on which these two points lie then that will be the equation of the straight line qr

so consider the equation $x_1 x + y_1 y = a^2 + b^2$ this is equation of a straight line note that one and two implies one implies point q which is (x', y') lies on the above line and two implies the point r whose coordinates are (x'', y'') this also lies on the same line now there is a unique straight line passing through any two points therefore this equation is nothing but equation of the line joining q and r

so since there is a unique straight line passing through two distinct points the equation is of the line joining q and r thus what we get is that equation of qr is $x_1 x + y_1 y = a^2 + b^2$

so note that this equation looks very similar to the equation of the tangent line at a point x_1, y_1 but in this case the point x_1, y_1 lies outside the ellipse

so we have this ellipse and we have any point x_1, y_1 and then the equation of the chord joining this two point q and r is nothing but plugging in x_1, y_1 in the equation of the tangent line at a point on the ellipse this gives us the formula for the equation of the chord next we will do this problem prove that the normal at any point on the ellipse bisects the angle between the lines to the foci

so lets draw a diagram we have an ellipse and suppose there is a point p

so we have there are two foci let's call them f_1 and f_2 and suppose we take any point p on the ellipse and then we look at the line joining the focus foci to this point p what we have to prove is that the normal at this point p this is the normal line this bisects the angle this

so to show the normal at p bisects angle $f_1 p f_2$

so what we will do is let us look at this ellipse and let's look at the point p and the two foci f_1 and f_2 and here is ok

so let us look at the angle bisector of this

so let $p n$ be the angle bisector of angle $f_1 p f_2$ and what we have to show is that we need to show that this is the normal

so when need to

so that $p n$ is normal to the ellipse

so since we have taken this angle bisector let us call these angles to be θ now let us say let us look at the line which is perpendicular to this $p n$ then this angle is $\pi/2 - \theta$ this is also $\pi/2 - \theta$

so consider the line passing through p which is perpendicular to $p n$

so proving that $p n$ is normal is equivalent to proving that this line is tangent

so will show that this line is tangent to the ellipse which means that we have to show that if there is any other point q on this line then q must not lie on the ellipse

so take a point q on this perpendicular line let me draw the picture again this is the point p this is n this is f_1 and f_2 now suppose the equation of the ellipses $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$ then consider a point lying on this line $f_2 p$ which is at distance $2a$ way from the focus f_2

so this distance $p l$ is two times a

so consider the point l on the line $f_2 p$ such that the distance $f_2 l$ this is equal to $2a$ now we take any point q on this line we have to prove that this q lies outside the ellipse

so this distance is $2a$ what is the

so now notice this $2a$ is equal to distance of $l f_2$ which is less than the distance of $q f_2$ plus $q l$

so if i join this point q to f_2 and l this is just this sum of two sides of a triangle is greater than the third side

so $q f_2$ plus $q l$ is strictly bigger than the distance $l f_2$ which is $2a$ but what can i say about ok let us look at this $q f_1$

so note that since $p n$ bisects angle $f_1 p f_2$ we get that $p q$ bisects angle $f_1 p l$ this is because this is perpendicular lines

so if you want to see this if this angle is θ and this angle is also θ

so this angle is $\pi/2 - \theta$ this is also $\pi/2 - \theta$ and therefore this angle is again $\pi/2 - \theta$ these two angles are equal

so we see that $p q$ is the bisector of angle $f_1 p l$ and therefore these two triangles are congruent and therefore $q l$ is equal to $q f_1$

so therefore $q l$ is equal to $q f_1$

so what does this imply this implies $2a$ is strictly less than $q f_2$ plus $q f_1$ now recall that the ellipse is such that for any point on the ellipse the sum of the distance from the two foci is equal to $2a$ because here the sum of the distance is greater than $2a$ this implies q lies outside the ellipse and when hence we have proven that this $p n$ is normal to the ellipse ok next problem need to find the locus of the foot of perpendicular from the foci of an ellipse to the tangents

so suppose we have consider the ellipse in the standard form $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$ with $a > b$

so we have this ellipse now what we have required to do suppose i take any general tangent to the ellipse and then if you look at the two foci f_1 and f_2 you can draw perpendicular to the tangent from the foci f_1 and f_2 then we have to find the locus of all such points

so we know that the equation of tangent

so recall that the equation of tangent whose slope is m is given by y equal to $m x$ plus c where c^2 is $a^2 - m^2 b^2$

so for any fixed value of m there are two tangents that is y is equal to $m x$ plus or minus square root of $a^2 - m^2 b^2$ this gives us the equation of the tangent for different values of m now if we have to find suppose this is any general point h, k is the foot of perpendicular then the equation

so if h, k is the foot of perpendicular from foci $\pm a e$ then this slope of line joining h, k to foci is $\pm \frac{1}{m}$ because this is perpendicular to the tangent line and therefore the equation would be $k - y_1 = \pm \frac{1}{m}(x - x_1)$ where (x_1, y_1) is $(\pm a e, 0)$ this implies $m k \pm x = h$ sorry $m k \pm h$ square is equal to $a^2 - e^2$ this is one equation also h, k lies on the tangent line therefore where equation of tangent line is this

so $k - m h$ square is equal to $a^2 - m^2 b^2$ this is equation two if we add one and two then we get $m^2 k^2 + h^2 + 2 m h k + k^2 + m^2 h^2 - 2 m h k = a^2 - e^2 + a^2 - m^2 b^2$

so we see that this cancels here this will imply $1 + m^2$ is common and we get $h^2 + k^2 = a^2 - \frac{b^2}{a^2} (a^2 - m^2 b^2)$

so this is equal to $a^2 - b^2 + m^2 b^2$ square b^2 cancels and this is equal to $a^2 (1 + m^2)$

so $1 + m^2$ can be cancelled and this gives $h^2 + k^2 = a^2$ since this is true for any h, k which is foot of the perpendicular therefore the locus is $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$

so in this picture this h, k lies on circle of radius a centered at the center of the ellipse

so this this is called auxiliary circle

so the foot of the perpendicular from foci to tangent is the auxiliary circle of the ellipse ok next problem we want to determine what is the maximum possible area of a triangle inscribed in an ellipse

so to solve this problem let us use the parameter for a general point on the ellipse

so let's $a \cos \theta, b \sin \theta$

so $a \cos \theta, b \sin \theta, c \cos \psi, b \sin \psi$ any three points on the ellipse $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$

so we are considering any three points on the ellipse where θ, ϕ and ψ are the eccentric angles

so that is θ, ϕ, ψ are the eccentric angles of the points

so we saw in the last class that if we have this ellipse and if we take any point here a, b and c then this eccentric angle is nothing but if i look at the auxiliary circle then we look at the corresponding points on the auxiliary circle

so let us look at this point p this point q and corresponding to c there is a point this is c and this is point r

so this θ, ϕ and ψ are actually the angle of the point p

so p is the point $a \cos \theta, b \sin \theta$ sorry $a \cos \theta, a \sin \theta$

so let me write it in the next space

so let p equal to $a \cos \theta$ $a \sin \theta$ q equal to $a \cos \phi$ $a \sin \phi$ now r equal to $a \cos \psi$ $a \sin \psi$ b the corresponding points on the auxiliary circle $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$ now recall if we have the coordinates of any three points as x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2 and x_3, y_3 then area of triangle whose vertices are $x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2, x_3, y_3$ is half of we look at determinant of $x_1, y_1, 1, x_2, y_2, 1$ and $x_3, y_3, 1$ and the absolute value of this gives the area of the triangle

so we will use this formula therefore area of triangle abc is equal to half times look at the determinant of $x_1 = a \cos \theta, y_1 = b \sin \theta, 1, x_2 = a \cos \phi, y_2 = b \sin \phi, 1$ and $x_3 = a \cos \psi, y_3 = b \sin \psi, 1$ this is equal to half a is common from the first column and b is common from the second column

so half $a b$ times $\cos \theta \sin \theta, 1, \cos \phi \sin \phi, 1$ and $\cos \psi \sin \psi, 1$.

also what is area of triangle pqr where now p, q, r are points on the auxiliary circle of radius a

so here the difference is only the y coordinates are instead of $b \sin \theta$ we have $a \sin \theta$ similarly $a \cos \phi, a \sin \phi, 1, a \cos \psi, a \sin \psi, 1$ this is equal to half a^2 times $\cos \theta \sin \theta, 1, \cos \phi \sin \phi, 1$ and $\cos \psi \sin \psi, 1$

so this is same in here

so what we see is that therefore area of triangle abc by area of triangle pqr is equal to if we divide these two we get this ratio is b by a

so we see that area of any triangle inscribed on the ellipse is of constant ratio b by a to the area of the corresponding triangle pqr on the auxiliary circle therefore area of triangle abc is equal to b by a times area of triangle pqr now this pqr is a triangle inscribed in a circle of radius a

so we know when this has maximum area

so again recall this fact triangle pqr inscribed inside a circle has maximum area when the triangle is equilateral

so if we have this circle of radius a and then we want maximum possible area of this triangle pqr this happens exactly when this triangle is equilateral triangle

so if we have this pqr this is the center of the circle we are taking this radius to be equal to a and therefore we can find what is the maximum possible area of this equilateral triangle because if you look at this angle is $\pi/6$

so this is the side length will be $2 a \cos \pi/6$ which is equal to $2 a \cos \pi/6$

so if a is the radius of this circle then the side length qr is $\sqrt{3}$ times a and therefore maximum area of triangle pqr is equal to $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}$ times side length squared $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} (\sqrt{3} a)^2$ which is equal to this will be $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4} a^2$ and hence maximum area of triangle abc will be b by a times this $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4} a^2$ which is equal to $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4} a b$

so this is the maximum possible area of a triangle inscribed in an ellipse ok

so this brings us to the end of this lecture in the next lecture we will do some problems on hyperbola and rectangular hyperbola thank you