

FROM PARABOLA THEORY TO PARABOLIC ANTENNA: ELECTRICAL PRACTICE

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Abstract

In this article, the parabola topic, which is part of the "second-order curves" section of higher mathematics, is integrated with electrical engineering. The theoretical foundations, geometric properties, and analytical equations of parabolas are illustrated using a practical example - a parabolic antenna. In the study, a mathematical model was constructed based on the dimensions of the offset parabolic antenna, widely used in home conditions, and such parameters as focal length, directrix, depth, eccentricity were calculated. Analytical geometry and computational methods were used as the research methodology. This approach strengthens the practical aspect of higher mathematics and serves to deepen students' understanding of the topic. This approach is also an effective way of interdisciplinary integration.

Keywords: parabola, parabolic antenna, second-order curves, focus, directrix, eccentricity, offset antenna, analytic geometry.

Introduction

The rapid development of modern science and technology, especially in the fields of electrical engineering, communications, and satellite technologies, requires a

deep understanding of the devices used in real practice. One such technical device is **the parabolic antenna**, which plays an important role in radio communication, satellite television transmission, and many other telecommunication systems. The main operating principle of this device is directly based on the geometric properties **of second-order curves, in particular, parabola.**

In this work, **Andijan State Technical Institute** in order for students of the electrical engineering direction to have deep mathematical knowledge, especially to understand the theoretical topics of higher mathematics in connection with real technical fields, a detailed analysis was carried out using the example **of a parabolic antenna** based on the topic **second-order curves** entering the section **parabola** .

In accordance with the syllabus of the Andijan State Technical Institute of Higher Mathematics, students are provided with in-depth knowledge of second-degree equations, conic sections (circle, ellipse, hyperbola, parabola), their analytical equations, and practical applications. However, these knowledge is often conveyed to students in an abstract form, and their connection with technical objects in life is not sufficiently realized.

Therefore, in this practical work, the main focus is on integrating the topic through such elements as the geometry, equations, focus, and directrix of a parabolic antenna, their functional significance, and physical meaning. It is known that a **parabolic antenna** is a device designed to redirect electromagnetic waves collected by a receiver or transmitter located at the focus, the principle of operation of which is based on the properties of a complete parabola.

Within the framework of this project, the following steps were implemented:

- The **canonical equation of the parabola** and its geometric description were studied;
- A **mathematical model** was created based on the real size of the antenna ;
- **Key parameters**, such as focal length, depth, directrix, eccentricity, were calculated ;
- The graph of the parabola was constructed and **mathematical visualization** related to the real device was performed ;
- **Physico-mathematical explanation** of how the parabola equation affects the antenna's operating principle

Also, during the work, taking into account that the mirror surface of the antenna is in the form of an ellipse, by calculating the parameters of the ellipse, students were given a brief practical skill about another second-order curve - ellipse.

This approach helps electrical engineering students understand not only the geometry of the parabola, but also the operating principles, design mechanisms, and real-life significance of the important technical device arising from it. This is an important step in increasing the practical value of higher mathematics, generating interest in the topic, and ensuring interdisciplinary integration.

Curves whose equations are in the second degree with respect to the variable coordinates are called second-order curves.

The general equation of a second-order curve on a plane can be written as follows:

$$Ax^2 + Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F = 0 \quad (1)$$

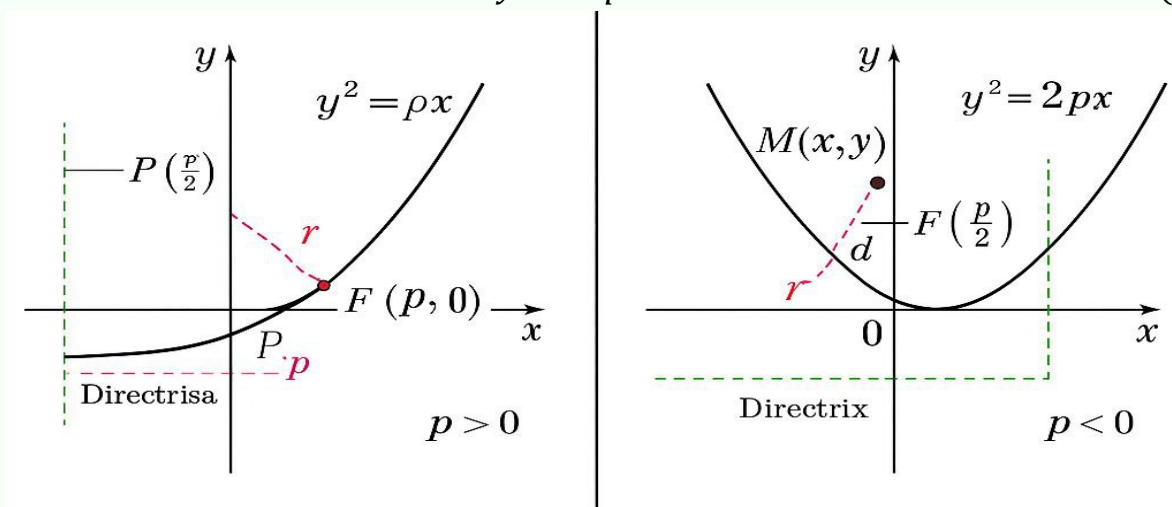
A, B, C, D, E, F – A, B, C Here are constant coefficients, at least one of which must be different from zero.

The special cases of second-order curves are circles, ellipses, hyperbolas, and parabolas.

$F\left(\frac{p}{2}; 0\right)$ The geometric locus of points on a plane whose distances from each point of the plane to a point called the focus and a straight line called the directrix are equal to each other is called **a parabola**.

Canonical equation of a parabola, the vertex of which is at the origin, and the axis of symmetry is the axis;

$$y^2 = 2px \quad (2)$$



If we denote the distance from an arbitrary point of a parabola to its focus by, r and the distance from that point to its directrix by, d , then by definition of a parabola:

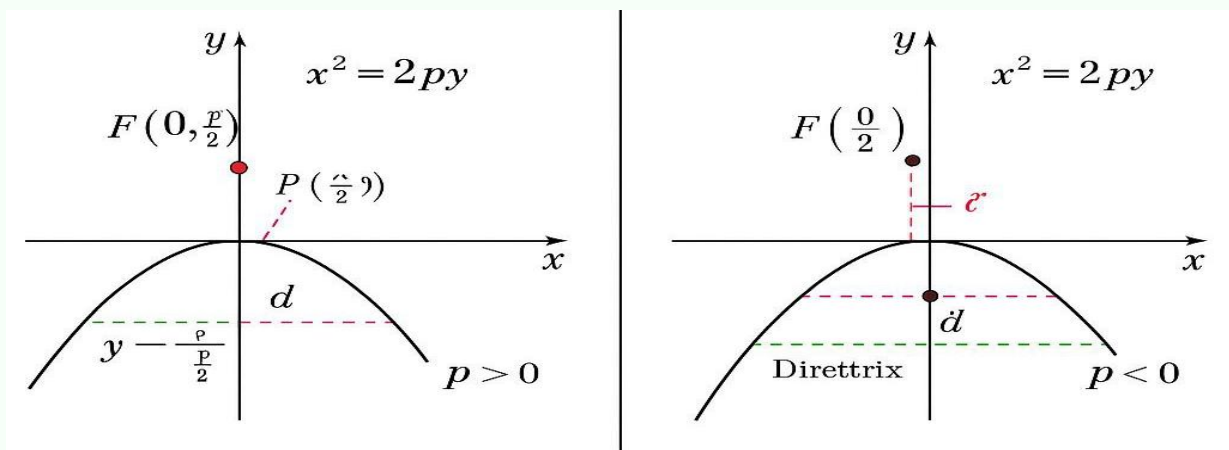
$$r = d$$

The equality holds. Then the eccentricity of the parabola;

$$\varepsilon = \frac{r}{d} = 1$$

Canonical equation of a parabola, the vertex of which is at the origin, and the axis of symmetry is the axis;

$$x^2 = 2py \quad (3)$$



1. Typically Used Parabolic Antenna (Home)

Most users use parabolic satellite dishes. Most common:

Model: 60 cm or 90 cm Offset Parabolic dish

Dimensions:

horizontal diameter (width): 90 cm;

vertical height: 80 cm (not a full circle due to offset);

depth (depending on depth/focal distance): approximately 13-15 cm.

2. Mathematical model: Equation of a parabola. If the shape of the antenna is a fully parabolic reflector, we can model it as follows:

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

Here:

f –focal length;

x –horizontal coordinate (by diameter);

y –vertical coordinate (depth).

$D = 90 \text{ smd} = 13.5 \text{ sm}^3$. Calculation of focal length. If the antenna's diameter and depth are, the focus is calculated as follows:

$$f = \frac{D^2}{16d} = \frac{90^2}{16 \cdot 13.5} = \frac{8100}{216} = 37.5 \text{ sm}$$

f 4. Directrix and other elements. Direction: on the opposite side at a distance from the focus of the parabola:

$$y = -f = -37.5 \text{ s}$$

(0,37.5)Focus.

5. Equation of a parabola:

$$y = \frac{1}{4 \cdot 37.5} x^2$$

This line gives the cross-section of a parabolic antenna.

6. Graph (Simplified). Let's take the points:

Table 1

$x \text{ (sm)}$	0	± 15	± 30	± 45
$y = \frac{1}{150} x^2$	0	1.5.	6.	13.5

Blue line-parabola:

$$y = \frac{1}{150} x^2;$$

Red dots - main coordinates;

(0,37.5)Green dot-foku:.

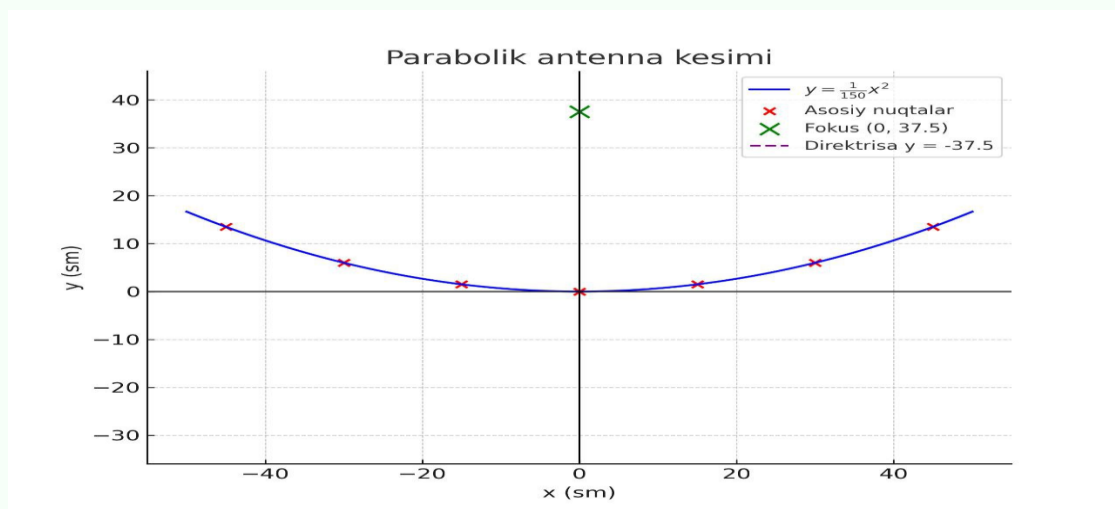


Figure 1

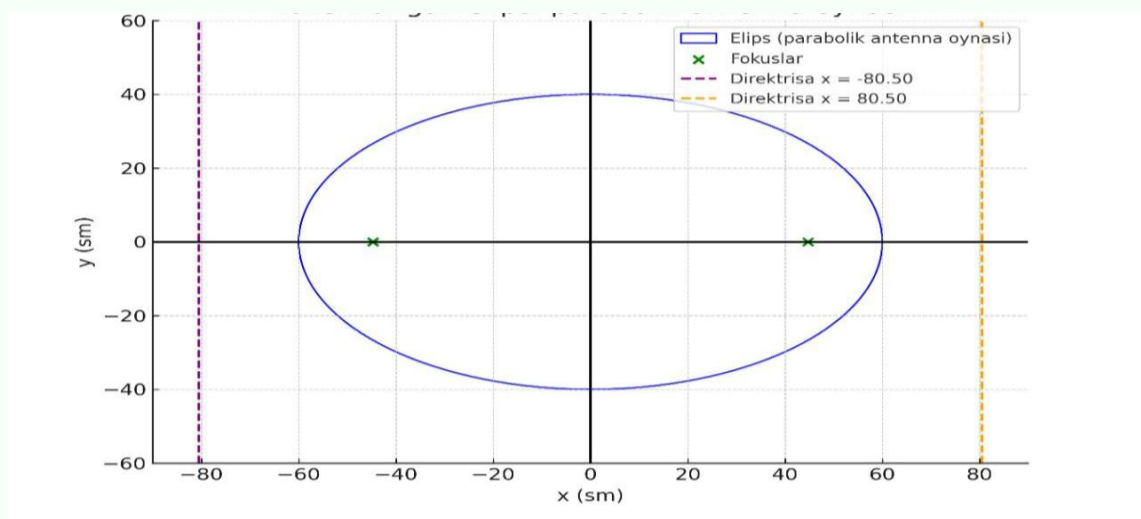
7. Additional parameters. Window surface: approximately elliptical, surface area:

$$A = \pi \cdot \frac{a}{2} \cdot \frac{b}{2} = \pi \cdot 45 \cdot 40 = 5654 \text{ sm}^2$$

$a = 60 \text{ sm}$ major semi-axis;

$b = 40 \text{ sm}$ minor semi-axis;

$c^2 = a^2 - b^2$ Focus distance;



$$c^2 = a^2 - b^2,$$

$$c^2 = 60^2 - 40^2,$$

$$c = 44.7 \text{ sm};$$

$\varepsilon = \frac{c}{a}$ Eccentricity:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{c}{a} = \frac{44.7}{60} = 0.745;$$

$x = \pm \frac{a}{\varepsilon}$ Directrix equation:

$$x = \pm \frac{a}{\varepsilon} = \pm \frac{60}{0.745} = \pm 80.5.$$

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