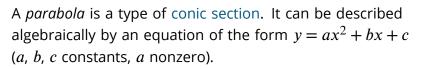
Parabola



The path of a thrown object is a parabola.

A parabola has an *axis* (the line of symmetry of the curve) and a focus on the axis. For the parabola with equation $y = x^2/4a$, its axis is x = 0 and its focus is at (0, a).

Light travelling towards a parabolic mirror parallel to its axis will be reflected to pass through the focus.

