

For a non-rotated coordinate system, a conic takes on the form of $Ax^2 + Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F = 0$

A conic in a rotated coordinate system takes on the form of $A'x'^2 + B'x'y' + C'y'^2 + D'x' + E'y' + F' = 0$, where the prime notation represents the rotated axes and associated coefficients.

If the conic isn't rotated then $B = 0$.

For a non-rotated conic:

- A. Parabola if A or $C = 0$ therefore **$AC = 0$**
- B. Ellipse or Circle if A & C are the same sign therefore **$AC > 0$**
- C. Hyperbola if A & C are different sign therefore **$AC < 0$**

Take the discriminate $B^2 - 4AC$ for both old and new coordinates:

We know:

$$A' = A\cos^2\theta + B\cos\theta\sin\theta + C\sin^2\theta$$

$$B' = 2(C - A)\sin\theta\cos\theta + B(\cos^2\theta - \sin^2\theta)$$

$$C' = A\cos^2\theta - B\cos\theta\sin\theta + C\sin^2\theta$$

So:

$$B'^2 - 4A'C' =$$

$$(2(C - A)\sin\theta\cos\theta + B(\cos^2\theta - \sin^2\theta))^2 - 4(A\cos^2\theta + B\cos\theta\sin\theta + C\sin^2\theta)(A\cos^2\theta - B\cos\theta\sin\theta + C\sin^2\theta) =$$

$$(2C\sin\theta\cos\theta - 2A\sin\theta\cos\theta + B\cos^2\theta - B\sin^2\theta)^2 + (-4A\cos^2\theta - 4B\cos\theta\sin\theta - 4C\sin^2\theta)(A\cos^2\theta - B\cos\theta\sin\theta + C\sin^2\theta) =$$

$$\begin{aligned} & 4C^2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta - 4AC\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta + 2BC\sin\theta\cos^3\theta - 2BC\sin^3\theta\cos\theta - 4AC\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta + \\ & 4A^2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta - 2AB\sin\theta\cos^3\theta + 2AB\sin^3\theta\cos\theta + 2BC\sin\theta\cos^3\theta - 2AB\sin\theta\cos^3\theta + B^2\cos^4\theta - \\ & B^2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta - 2BC\sin^3\theta\cos\theta + 2AB\sin^3\theta\cos\theta - B^2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta + B^2\sin^4\theta - 4A^2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta + \\ & 4AB\sin\theta\cos^3\theta - 4AC\cos^4\theta - 4AB\sin^3\theta\cos\theta + 4B^2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta - 4BC\sin\theta\cos^3\theta - 4AC\sin^4\theta + \\ & 4BC\sin^3\theta\cos\theta - 4C^2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta = \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & -4AC\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta - 4AC\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta + B^2\cos^4\theta - B^2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta - B^2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta + B^2\sin^4\theta - \\ & 4AC\cos^4\theta + 4B^2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta - 4AC\sin^4\theta = \end{aligned}$$

$$-8AC\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta + 2B^2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta + B^2\sin^4\theta - 4AC\sin^4\theta + B^2\cos^4\theta - 4AC\cos^4\theta =$$

$$2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta(B^2 - 4AC) + \sin^4\theta(B^2 - 4AC) + \cos^4\theta(B^2 - 4AC) =$$

$$(B^2 - 4AC)(\sin^4\theta + 2\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta + \cos^4\theta) =$$

$$(B^2 - 4AC)(\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta)^2 =$$

$$(B^2 - 4AC)1^2 = (B^2 - 4AC)$$

The Discriminate is invariant under Rotation of Axes

$$\text{Thus } B'^2 - 4A'C' = B^2 - 4AC$$

Now: if we rotate axes by $\theta = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{B}{A-C}\right)$, we would eliminate rotation, ie $B'=0$

So

$$(B^2 - 4AC) = -4A'C'$$

(Discriminate of rotated conic in old coordinate system = discriminate of non-rotated conic in the new coordinate system where $B'=0$)

- A. Parabola in new coordinate system- axes line up with conic thus $A'C' = 0$
 $(B^2 - 4AC) = -4A'C' = 0$, thus $(B^2 - 4AC) = 0$
- B. Ellipse or Circle in new coordinate system- axes line up with conic thus $A'C' > 0$
 $(B^2 - 4AC) = -4A'C' < 0$, thus $(B^2 - 4AC) < 0$
- C. Hyperbola in new coordinate system- axes line up with conic thus $A'C' < 0$
 $(B^2 - 4AC) = -4A'C' > 0$, thus $(B^2 - 4AC) > 0$

Therefore,

$$(B^2 - 4AC) < 0 \text{ Ellipse (circle)}$$

$$(B^2 - 4AC) = 0 \text{ Parabola}$$

$$(B^2 - 4AC) > 0 \text{ Hyperbola}$$

QED