

# Conic Sections and Quadric Surfaces Part I

# CONIC SECTIONS

Intersection of a cone with a plane



1. point
2. line
- ③. circle
- ④. ellipse
- ⑤. Hyperbola
- ⑥. parabola
7. Double line

In general, an equation of a conic section is given by:  $Ax^2 + Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F = 0$

1.  $B^2 - 4AC < 0 \iff$  Ellipse, circle, or no curve

2.  $B^2 - 4AC = 0 \iff$  Parabola, 2 parallel lines  
one line or no curve

3.  $B^2 - 4AC > 0 \iff$  Hyperbola, 2 intersecting lines.

1. Circle:  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$

2. Ellipse:  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$

3. Hyperbola:  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$ ,  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = -1$   
or  $xy = c$ .

4. Parabola:

$$y^2 = ax, \quad x = by^2$$