

14 The Conic Sections

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Set the slit horizontally on the OHP and put the double cone in its path. Slowly rotate the slit to produce the following in turn:

1. when the slit is horizontal: the circle.
2. when the slit is inclined: the ellipse.
3. when the plane of section is parallel to a cone generator: the parabola.
4. When the plane of section cuts both the upper and the lower cone: the hyperbola.

When the slit is vertical, translate it to produce a pair of lines as the limiting case of the hyperbola.

Compare 13.

