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Alternatively, one can define a conic section purely in terms of plane geometry: it is the locus of all points P whose distance to a fixed point F (called the focus) is a constant multiple (called the eccentricity e) of the distance from P to a fixed line L (called the directrix).For  $0 < e < 1$  we obtain an ellipse, for  $e = 1$  a parabola, and for  $e > 1$  a hyperbola.

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1. The special case of a circle (where radius=a=b):  $x^2/a^2 + y^2/a^2 = 1$ . And for a hyperbola it is:

#### Conic Sections - MATH

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