

Name

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1. Find *center, foci, vertices, eccentricity, directrix* of the curve

$$9x^2 + 4(y - 1)^2 = 36.$$

SOLUTION The conic may be written in the form

$$\frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{(y - 1)^2}{9} = 1.$$

We translate the axis by putting  $x' = x, y' = y - 1$  which means moving 1 unit up. Notice that any point in the plane is related by  $(x, y) \longleftrightarrow (x', y' + 1)$ . So, we now have

$$\frac{x'^2}{4} + \frac{y'^2}{9} = 1,$$

which is an ellipse with a *vertical* focal axis. In the  $x'y'$  coordinates, the ellipse has; *center*  $(0, 0)$ , *vertices*  $(0, \pm 3)$ , *center-focus distance*  $c = \sqrt{9 - 4} = \sqrt{5}$ , *foci*  $(0, \pm \sqrt{5})$ , *eccentricity*  $e = \sqrt{5}/3$ , *directrix*  $y' = \pm \frac{9}{\sqrt{5}}$ . By translation of axis, the eccentricity and center-focus distance remain unchanged. In the  $xy$  coordinates, *vertices*  $(0, 1 \pm 3)$ , *foci*  $(0, 1 \pm \sqrt{5})$  and *directrix*  $y = 1 \pm \frac{9}{\sqrt{5}}$

2. Find a new representation of  $x^2 + 4xy - 2y^2 - 6 = 0$  after rotating through an angle  $\alpha = \arctan(1/2)$ . Sketch the curve, showing both the old and new coordinate systems.

SOLUTION We have the equations of rotation from  $xy$  coordinates to  $x'y'$  coordinates

$$\begin{aligned} x &= x' \cos \alpha - y' \sin \alpha \\ y &= x' \sin \alpha + y' \cos \alpha \end{aligned}$$

Notice that the rotation is by an acute angle  $\alpha$  whose tangent is  $1/2$ . By forming a right triangle whose vertical sides has length 1 and 2 and hence hypotenuse length  $\sqrt{5}$ , we find that

$$\sin \alpha = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \quad \text{and} \quad \cos \alpha = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}},$$

and it follows from the equations of rotation that

$$x = \frac{2x' - y'}{\sqrt{5}} \quad \text{and} \quad y = \frac{x' + 2y'}{\sqrt{5}}.$$

Replacing the latter equation in the original conic, we have

$$\frac{(2x' - y')^2}{5} + 4 \frac{2x' - y'}{\sqrt{5}} \frac{x' + 2y'}{\sqrt{5}} - 2 \frac{(x' + 2y')^2}{5} - 6 = 0,$$

and is simplified to give

$$2x'^2 - 3y'^2 = 6 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{x'^2}{3} - \frac{y'^2}{2} = 1.$$

This is a hyperbola whose *focal axis is horizontal* and has properties ; *center*  $(0, 0)$ , *vertices*  $(\pm \sqrt{3}, 0)$ , *center-focus distance*  $\sqrt{5}$ , *foci*  $(\pm \sqrt{5}, 0)$  and *asymptotes*  $y' = \pm \sqrt{2/3}x'$ , *eccentricity*  $e = \sqrt{5}/3$ , *directrix*  $x' = \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}$  in the  $x'y'$  coordinates.

Those who wonders the corresponding values in the  $xy$  coordinate may use the rotation equations to find them.