

welcome to the first lecture on conic sections in the next series of lectures will be discussing the properties and equations of many different conic sections like circles parabolas ellipses hyperbolas

so in this lecture we will start with circles

so let us see what the circle means

so let us say that we have a fixed point o as can be seen here

so circle is said to be the set of all points that are at the same distance from a certain fixed point

so let us say that this fixed distance is r

so can we find one point let us say let us try to find the some point which is at a distance r from this fixed point o

so again when we talk of distance we are talking of the two dimensional plane

so we are talking of a surface like this

so to find a point which is at a distance r from this fixed point let us first draw a vertical line and a horizontal line which intersect at this fixed point o now to get another point which is at a distance of lets say some fixed distance r from this point o one way is that we consider any straight line passing from this point o

so let us say let us draw any straight line

so for example lets consider this straight line which passes from o obviously this straight line is at some angle θ with respect to this horizontal line and then it is not very difficult to get a point r

so we can just think of because if we if we start at this point o and if we just walk along this line

so we can either go in this direction or this direction if we go in this direction

so for example suppose if we move from here to here then we have covered some distance

so we can keep on increasing this distance till we reach a certain point let us say p which is at that fixed distance r that we initially wanted to have

so let us say that

so starting from o we go in this direction on this green straight line and when we as we move further away from o the distance between where we are and this fixed point o will increase until we reach a point p such that this distance is r now instead of going in this direction we could have gone in the other direction and if we go in the other direction then obviously we will get some other point lets say this point q

so this distance is also r

so now we have two points p and q which are at a distance of r from this fixed point o we find more points like this of course we can find its not very difficult because we can draw another straight line which again passes through but at some other angle instead of θ it could be some other angle θ'

so for example we have this straight line and it is it is at some other angle with respect to the horizontal line again on this straight line there will definitely exist some point i can call it

so i will call this p_1 q_1 for the first line and then starting from o if i go in this direction on the second line then there will definitely exist some point let us say p_2 such that $o p_2$ is equal to r and similarly on this side also will get a point q_2 such that $o q_2$ is also r

so now we have four points p_1 p_2 q_1 q_2 which are at the same distance r from this fixed point o and it turns out that since we can make infinitely many straight lines because a straight line in this case

so we are only considering those straight lines which are passing through this

fixed point O but there are infinitely many because we just need to change the angle θ between the horizontal blue line and the straight line that we are drawing as θ changes continuously it takes all real values from 0 to 360 degrees and therefore corresponding to any possible angle θ between zero and three sixty corresponding to any such angle that we choose there will exist a straight line for example if we take θ equal to zero degree then we have this line itself this horizontal line itself and on the horizontal line let us say we have this point P such that OP is equal to r and this point Q such that OQ is also r if we take θ equal to ninety degrees then we are on this vertical line and then we get let us say this point here P three Q three so this is also r this is also r and then we can take θ equal to one twenty any possible angle

so since there are infinitely many angles between zero and three sixty what it means is that we have infinitely many points which are at the same distance r from this fixed point O and now if I join if I join all these infinitely many points which I am showing with this dotted blue line over here now let us say these are those infinitely many points right

so if I just plot all those points and if I connect them we get our circle so in short a circle is a collection of points which are at a fixed distance from a given fixed point in this case the fixed point is O the fixed distance is r as an example as an example the fixed point O here could be the origin in our coordinate system this point O could be zero comma zero and r could be in this case let us say three and a half units also this fixed point O is called the is called the center of the circle

so the fixed point O is the center of the circle and this fixed distance is called the radius of the circle now if we take any two points on the circle

so let us say this point here and any other point let us say this one here or let us say not that let us say we take this point and this point

so we take let us say P_4 and Q_4 and let us say

so these two points are they belong to the circle they are on the circle and we connect them by a line segment then such a line segment is called a chord is called a chord

so chord is any line segment joining any two

so the chord is a line segment joining any two points on the circle

so we do have a special chord where suppose if we for example if we take r case so suppose we take P_1 and Q_1

so we say P_1 and Q_1 both of them they are on the circle and therefore this line segment between Q_1 and P_1 is a chord but its a special chord is a special chord because it passes through the center of the circle therefore such a and such a chord is given a special name called as diameter is called a diameter

so in this case P_1 Q_1 is a diameter similarly P_2 Q_2 is a diameter also and as you can see there are infinitely many diameters now what is the length of this ah diameter this line segment if you see any diameter then it is composed of two radius for example in the case of P_1 Q_1 because a diameter passes through the center this length P_1 Q_1 is P_1O plus OQ_1 because P_1 Q_1 is a straight line and we know that both P_1O and OQ_1 are equal to r then therefore P_1 Q_1 is two times r

so from that we see that diameter is always twice the radius

so so far we have seen how to precisely define or what we basically mean by a circle but in maths we have to always express things formally in terms of equations just as we define the equation of a straight line

so if we go back to equation of a straight line

so suppose this is our these are our coordinate axis this point is the origin

and suppose that we have this straight line

so this straight line is essentially defined by all those

so how do we how did we formally define the straight line

so straight line is nothing but the collection of all the points that lie on this straight line and then we said that lets say we have any arbitrary point here whose x coordinate will lets say x and whose y coordinate is let us say y so we have a point p here now then we went to find out then we went on finding out what property this x and y should satisfy

so that it will lie on this straight line now if you see here this straight line passes through this point x zero y one which is this point further this angle here is forty five degrees that is because the slope of this line is one and that is very easy to see because we see that this straight line also passes through this other point here whose coordinates are x one y two then therefore the slope of the line is two minus one

so $y_2 - y_1$ divided by $x_2 - x_1$ which is one slope equal to one means that the angle between this straight line and the horizontal axis is 45 degrees now since the slope is equal to 1 it now becomes very easy because if i try to if we have this point x y and if it is said that it lies on the straight line the same straight line then if i calculate the slope of this line segment between p and zero one then the slope of this line segment should also be one itself

so it will be one if and only if this point x y belongs on the straight line

so the slope of this line segment is $y - 1$ divided by $x - 0$ and the slope should be one because we calculated that the slope of this straight line is equal to one

so we that is how we get this equation and then if we simplify it we get y equal to x plus one then we say that this straight line is a collection of all those points for which the y coordinate one more than the x coordinate for example if somebody give me a point gives me a point six comma eight x is six y is eight i can immediately check whether this point belongs to this straight line or not because and one can see that it does not belong because y is eight and x plus one is seven and eight is not seven

so i just put ah y equal to eight and x equal to six and i see that this equation is not satisfied by this point and therefore this point does not lie on this straight line and then its very easy to write down ah this

so essentially what we have is a characterization of the entire straight line

so now for the case of circle or our objective is to get a similar characterization or basically some kind of a rule like this which the coordinates of any point on the circle must satisfy let us go back and lets say that this is our con these are the coordinate axes next axis y axis suppose we have a circle whose center has coordinates h comma k

so the x coordinate of the center is h the y coordinate is k and let us say that the radius is r now suppose if we say that there is a point p whose coordinates are x and y and let us say that p lies on this circle having center s k n radius r can we now form a rule for which this x and y must satisfy

so that given any point just like in the case of the straight line even any point if we are knowing its coordinates if we know that this rule then we should be able to check and tell whether that point is going to lie on the circle or not

so let us first connect the center with the point p now since the radius is r the length of this line segment o p will be r let us draw a horizontal line passing through the center row

so obviously the x axis and this line are parallel now and we make a vertical line passing through point p obviously this vertical line and the y axis are

parallel and because the x and y axis are at ninety degrees it is easy to see that see that this angle is also ninety degree let us denote this point of intersection of these two lines which i constructed by q

so now what we have is a right angle triangle here

so we have a right angle triangle opq now from the pythagoras theorem then follows that op^2 is equal to $ok^2 + oq^2$ but op^2 is r^2 how much is oq^2 if we see because the x coordinate of this point p it is x this horizontal distance is x the x coordinate of the centre o is h therefore this distance is $x - h$ and therefore it is easy to see that oq^2 will be $(x - h)^2$ and similarly this vertical distance is y which is the y coordinate of this point p this vertical distance is k which is the y coordinate of the center o and therefore pq^2 is $(y - k)^2$

so this is the rule that we were talking about

so here just as for the case of straight lines even in the case of circles we get a general rule which the coordinates of any point on the circles the which the coordinate of any point on the circle must satisfy for example let us say that we have a circle whose center is the point one comma two and radius is five units

so let us say we have a point x y which is equal to minus one comma three and now we have to check whether this point minus one comma three lies on this circle

so the circle is specified by the center one comma two and the radius five

so it is not very difficult to check

so in this case this is r this is h and this is k this is x this is y

so first we just try to put these values here and check if we get an equality the left hand side of course is five square which is twenty five on the right hand side we have $(x - h)^2$

so $(-1 - 1)^2$ which is $(-2)^2$

so $(-2)^2$ is four $(y - k)^2$ $(3 - 2)^2$ is one

so $(3 - 2)^2$ is one

so on the right hand side we have five on the left hand side we have twenty five and they are not equal hence this point minus one comma three does not lie on the circle having center at one comma two and radius five this particular form of equation of a circle is called the center radius form and it is quite clear why we have that name center radius because just by looking at the this expression we see that the center is h comma k and the radius is r which is on the left hand side for example if ah if i give if i tell that

so let us consider this equation of some circle in the

so this equation is an equation of a circle in the center radius form and just by looking at it we can very easily say that the center of the circle is three comma seven and the radius is

so this is r^2

so r is 8 radius is it but this is not the only way of specifying the equation of a circle there are some other ways

so one such way is known as the parametric form

so what we have in the parametric form is that let us again draw the coordinate axis this of course is the origin and suppose we again have suppose we again have a circle with center at h comma k and radius r

so let us say this is the center s comma k radius is r now we need to go back to that construction of all the points of on a circle based on drawing a straight line drawing any straight line passing through the center now if we draw a straight line let us say this line here

so this line which of course passes through the center of the circle h comma k

and let this straight line have make an angle of θ with the x axis
so i draw a dotted line here parallel to the x axis and this straight line makes an angle of θ

so always measure θ in the anti clockwise direction

so if i go like this i have positive θ if i go like this i have negative θ let us say that here have a point p whose x and y coordinates we have to find or let us say if you remember the way we found this point p given this radius r was that we started moving on the straight line in this direction and we moved until we reached this point p such that op is equal to r

so that is how we started finding points on the circle if we go back to the first or second slide of today's lecture

so this is r

so if this is r and if i also draw a line parallel to the y axis then it is clear that these two lines constructed by me will meet at some point q over here at an angle of ninety degrees and then i have this little right angle triangle here opq where we know that op is equal to r but because op is r from our knowledge on the trigonometric ratios we know that oq will be equal to $r \cos \theta$ which is here

so this is $r \cos \theta$ and qp will be $r \sin \theta$ which is this now from this we should be able to find out the two coordinates of this point here which lies on the circle

so now what we are going to do is we are going to express the x and y coordinates of this point p which lies on the circle in terms of r and this angle θ and that is not very difficult because the x coordinate of this point p is equal to this distance

so let us say that we have $p(x, y)$

so the x coordinate is this much this is x but this x is nothing but

so in fact this is also x but this x is nothing but this distance plus this therefore x is this distance is equal to the x coordinate of the center which is h plus and this distance oq we have already found it to be $r \cos \theta$ similarly the y coordinate of this point p which is this distance here this is y is nothing but this plus qp but this is nothing but equal to the y coordinate of the center o which is k

so y is equal to this much which is k plus qp but qp is already $r \sin \theta$

so indeed we now have expression for the x and y coordinate of this point p in terms of the coordinates of the centre of the circle the radius r of the circle and the angle θ between the straight line and the horizontal x axis but can this be formed into some kind of a rule just as we had in the center radius formulation and it is not very difficult we can define the entire circle to be all those points x and y where x is h plus $r \cos \theta$ y is k plus $r \sin \theta$ indeed if we go back we can see that $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$

so $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$ indeed if we go back we can see that $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$ indeed if we go back we can see that $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$ indeed if we go back we can see that $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$

so if we add these two we end up getting this which means that any point p on the circle can firstly be written the coordinates of any point p on the circle can always be written like this where θ is some angle between zero and two π further if for any θ we choose between zero and two π if we form a point having x and y coordinates as $h + r \cos \theta$ and y coordinate has $k + r \sin \theta$ then such a point will obviously lie on the circle and that is what we proved here

so with both these arguments what we can conclude is that the circle is nothing

but the set of all points x and y where the x and the y coordinate are essentially $h + r \cos \theta$ and $k + r \sin \theta$ where θ belonging to the interval 0 to 2π

so as we vary it is very clear that as we vary θ from 0 to 2π we are essentially moving

so when θ equal to 0 our point is somewhere here and then we start moving like this and then if you further increase θ will reach somewhere here

so so if we reach here then we are basically having θ equal to 90 degrees because in that case this will be the straight line and this angle will be now 90 degrees and then we can go beyond θ 90 and then complete an entire revolution

so when we express the circle in this form it is in terms of a parameter θ and therefore this type of equation of a circle is known as the parametric point parametric equation of a circle

so essentially what we have said is that we have said two things if a point (x, y) belongs to a circle having center (h, k) and radius r then x must be then next must be equal to $h + r \cos \theta$ and y must be equal to $k + r \sin \theta$ for some θ belonging to 0 to 2π

so there should exist some θ such that x is this and y is $k + r \sin \theta$

so this is one thing that we have said the other thing that we have said is that for any angle θ belonging to 0 to 2π the point $(h + r \cos \theta, k + r \sin \theta)$

so this particular point belongs to the circle having center (h, k) and radius r

so these two things we have shown if we go back to our center radius form and if we recollect it it was of this form but if you open up these squares we get $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$ or $x^2 - 2hx + h^2 + y^2 - 2ky + k^2 = r^2$ or $x^2 + y^2 - 2hx - 2ky + h^2 + k^2 - r^2 = 0$

so starting from the center radius form we eventually get this and our claim is that the equation of a circle can in general be written in this type of form which is $x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0$

so the coefficient of both x^2 and y^2 will be the same then that is because $h^2 + k^2 - r^2$ that is starting basically starting from here and then we will have a term containing x only multiplied with some coefficient

so here just like we had this term then another term linear in y

so this is another term which is y times some constant plus a constant c in this case in the case of the center radius form c is $h^2 + k^2 - r^2$ g is $-h$ f is $-k$

so this is the most general form of a circle this is basically a second degree equation in x and y but with this pair with this with $h^2 + k^2 - r^2$ some special properties that the coefficient of x^2 and y^2 are the same and secondly that there is no term which contains the term xy because in a general second degree equation as general second degree equation is of this form $ax^2 + by^2 + cxy + 2dx + 2ey + f = 0$

so this is the form of a

so this is the form of a general second degree equation but here if we see the coefficient of x^2 and y^2 need not be the same in general plus this coefficient of xy need not be zero but if in this second general second degree equation if we have $a = b$ and $c = 0$ if these two conditions are satisfied then what we get is an equation of a circle because if we put $a = b$ and $c = 0$ here then we will get $ax^2 + ay^2 + 2dx + 2ey + f = 0$

because b is a and then $c \cdot x \cdot y$ will disappear because $c \neq 2d \cdot x$ plus and if we divide everything by a we get and this obviously is of the form $x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0$

so that is why this is the most general form more general form of an equation of a circle now when we have a circle in this form how do we find the center and radius well we can simplify this

so we bring these two terms together $y^2 + 2fy$ together and then we complete this you put a plus g^2 and a minus g^2 you put a plus f^2 square under minus f^2 square

so what we get is $(x + g)^2 + (y + f)^2 = g^2 + f^2 - c$ and this reminds us of the form of the center radius form which is $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$ now this obviously represents a circle only if and only if this right hand is r^2 r^2 is always non negative and therefore this represents a circle if and only if this is non negative

so this condition must always hold if this is negative if we get an equation of and if we calculate $d^2 + f^2 - c$ to be negative then this is not an equation of a circle but if it is non negative then it is clear that it is an equation of a circle because this is the same as this over here in which case the radius is simply because r^2 is this therefore the radius is square root of $d^2 + f^2 - c$ and the center is h, k but h is $-g$ because this and this are equal and k is $-f$ and therefore we can conclude by saying that the general equation of this form is a circle if and only if $d^2 + f^2 - c$ is non negative um in which case the radius of the circle is $r = \sqrt{d^2 + f^2 - c}$ that is from here because this r^2 and this term have to be the same and the center of the circle is in the center of the circle is $-g, -f$ that again we can see from here because g has to be equal to $-h$ and therefore h is $-g$ similarly k has to be $-f$ hence we conclude this lecture with the the understanding of this general form of the equation of a circle where we saw that this represents a circle if and only if $d^2 + f^2 - c$ is non negative in this case this is the radius of the circle and $-g, -f$ is the center of the circle

so essentially if we are given any equation of this form we should be able to find first we should be able to check whether it is a circle or not and then we should be able to find the radius and the center of the circle

so we will take more on this and other methods other type of forms of equations of a circle in the next class you