

# Package ‘conics’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Plot Conics

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**Description** plot conics (ellipses, hyperbolas, parabolas)

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**URL** <http://www.r-project.org>

**Collate** main.R

**Encoding** latin1

**Imports** graphics

## R topics documented:

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**conicAsymptotes**      *Asymptotes of a conic*

## Description

Find the slopes of the asymptotic directions of a conic.

## Usage

`conicAsymptotes(x)`

## Arguments

`x`      a 6-length vector or a symmetric 3x3 matrix

## Details

The `conicAsymptotes` function calculates the slopes of the asymptotic directions of a conic specified by its coefficients or by its symmetric matrix.

If the equation of the conic is

$$v_1 x_1^2 + v_2 x_1 x_2 + v_3 x_2^2 + v_4 x_1 + v_5 x_2 + v_6 = 0$$

the slopes of the asymptotes are the roots of the equation at infinity of the conic:

$$v_1 + v_2 t + v_3 t^2 = 0$$

where  $t=x_2/x_1$ .

## Value

A vector containing the slopes: two values in the case of a hyperbola or of intersecting lines, one value in the case of a parabola or of parallel lines. In the case of an ellipse (which has no points at infinity), the function returns an empty vector.

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## See Also

`conicAxes`, `conicCenter`, `conicMatrix`, `conicPlot`

## Examples

```
# Hyperbola
# Equation: 2*x_1^2 + 2*x_1*x_2 - 2*x_2^2 - 20*x_1 + 20*x_2 + 10 = 0
v <- c(2,2,-2,-20,20,10)
conicAsymptotes(v)

# Ellipse
# Equation: 2*x_1^2 + 2*x_1*x_2 + 2*x_2^2 - 20*x_1 - 28*x_2 + 10 = 0
v <- c(2,2,2,-20,-28,10)
# Should return an empty vector (an ellipse has no asymptotes!):
conicAsymptotes(v)
```

conicAxes

*Axes of a conic*

## Description

Find the symmetry axes of a conic.

## Usage

```
conicAxes(x)
```

## Arguments

|   |   |
|---|---|
| x | a 6-length vector or a symmetric 3x3 matrix |
|---|---|

## Details

The `conicAxes` function calculates the coordinates of the symmetry axes of a conic specified by its coefficients or by its symmetric matrix.

The direction vectors of the axes are the eigenvectors of the top-left 2x2 submatrix of the matrix representing the conic.

## Value

A 2x2 matrix whose columns are the direction vectors of the axes. In order to find the coordinates of the center, see the function [conicCenter](#).

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## See Also

[conicAsymptotes](#), [conicCenter](#), [conicMatrix](#), [conicPlot](#)

## Examples

```
# Ellipse
# Equation: 2*x_1^2 + 2*x_1*x_2 + 2*x_2^2 - 20*x_1 - 28*x_2 + 10 = 0
v <- c(2,2,2,-20,-28,10)
conicAxes(v)

# Hyperbola
# Equation: 2*x_1^2 + 2*x_1*x_2 - 2*x_2^2 - 20*x_1 + 20*x_2 + 10 = 0
v <- c(2,2,-2,-20,20,10)
conicAxes(v)
```

**conicCenter**

*Center of a conic*

## Description

Find the center of a conic.

## Usage

```
conicCenter(x)
```

## Arguments

|   |   |
|---|---|
| x | a 6-length vector or a symmetric 3x3 matrix |
|---|---|

## Details

The `conicCenter` function calculates the coordinates of the center of a conic specified by its coefficients or by its symmetric matrix.

## Value

A two-elements vector containing the coordinates of the center. If the conic has no center the function raises an error.

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## See Also

[conicAsymptotes](#), [conicAxes](#), [conicMatrix](#), [conicPlot](#)

## Examples

```
# Ellipse
# Equation: 2*x_1^2 + 2*x_1*x_2 + 2*x_2^2 - 20*x_1 - 28*x_2 + 10 = 0
v <- c(2,2,2,-20,-28,10)
conicCenter(v)

# Hyperbola
# Equation: 2*x_1^2 + 2*x_1*x_2 - 2*x_2^2 - 20*x_1 + 20*x_2 + 10 = 0
v <- c(2,2,-2,-20,20,10)
conicCenter(v)
```

conicMatrix

*Matrix representing a conic*

## Description

Build a symmetric matrix representing a quadratic polynomial in two variables.

## Usage

```
conicMatrix(v)
```

## Arguments

v (vector) a 6-length vector containing the coefficients of a quadratic polynomial.

## Details

The v argument is a 6-length vector containing the coefficients of a quadratic polynomial of the form:

$$P(x_1, x_2) = v_1 x_1^2 + v_2 x_1 x_2 + v_3 x_2^2 + v_4 x_1 + v_5 x_2 + v_6$$

The associated quadratic form is:

$$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = v_1 x_1^2 + v_2 x_1 x_2 + v_3 x_2^2 + v_4 x_1 x_3 + v_5 x_2 x_3 + v_6 x_3^2$$

## Value

Return the symmetric 3x3 matrix representing the associated quadratic form.

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## See Also

[conicAsymptotes](#), [conicAxes](#), [conicCenter](#), [conicPlot](#)

## Examples

```
# Equation: 2*x_1^2 + 2*x_1*x_2 + 2*x_2^2 - 20*x_1 - 28*x_2 + 10 = 0
v <- c(2,2,2,-20,-28,10)
conicMatrix(v)
```

conicPlot

*Plot a conic*

## Description

Plot a conic (ellipse, hyperbola, or parabola) specified by a quadratic polynomial or by a symmetric 3x3 matrix.

## Usage

```
conicPlot(x, type=1, npoints=100,
          sym.axes=FALSE, center=FALSE, asymptotes=FALSE,
          add=FALSE, xlim=NULL, ylim=NULL,
          ax.lty=1, ax.col=palette()[1],
          as.lty=1, as.col=palette()[1], ...)
```

## Arguments

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <code>x</code>          | a 6-length vector or a symmetric 3x3 matrix   |
| <code>type</code>       | (character) the type of plot to draw (same meaning as with the <a href="#">plot</a> function) |
| <code>npoints</code>    | (numeric) number of points to draw  |
| <code>sym.axes</code>   | (logical) if TRUE, display the axes of the conic  |
| <code>center</code>     | (logical) if TRUE, display the center of the conic (if any)                                   |
| <code>asymptotes</code> | (logical) if TRUE, display the asymptotes (hyperbolas)  |
| <code>add</code>        | (logical) if TRUE, plot over the current graphical device                                     |
| <code>xlim</code>       | (vector) interval for the x-coordinate  |
| <code>ylim</code>       | (vector) interval for the y-coordinate  |
| <code>ax.lty</code>     | (character or numeric) line type of the axes  |
| <code>ax.col</code>     | (character or numeric) color of the axes  |
| <code>as.lty</code>     | (character or numeric) line type of the asymptotes  |
| <code>as.col</code>     | (character or numeric) color of the asymptotes  |
| <code>...</code>        | other parameters passed to the <a href="#">plot</a> function                                  |

## Details

The `conicPlot` function identifies the type of the conic and plots it in the current graphical device. The conic is specified either by a 6-length vector representing the coefficients of the quadratic polynomial, or by the symmetric matrix representing the associated quadratic form. See the function `conicMatrix` to build this matrix given the coefficients of the polynomial.

It is usually a good idea to set explicitly the aspect ratio to 1 (as an additional argument `asp=1` in the `conicPlot` function) in order to avoid distortions between the units of the x-axis and the y-axis. See examples below.

**Value**

The return value is invisible, i.e. it is not printed on the console by default but can be stored in a variable. It is a list of relevant computed values corresponding to various elements of the conic. The following elements can be found in the return list, depending on the kind of the conic:

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| kind         | the kind of the conic: "ellipse", "hyperbola", "parabola", or "lines".                |
| axes         | the symmetry axes. See also the function <a href="#">conicAxes</a> .                  |
| center       | the center of the conic. See also the function <a href="#">conicCenter</a> .          |
| asymptotes   | the slopes of the asymptotes. See also the function <a href="#">conicAsymptotes</a> . |
| vertices     | the vertices of the conic.  |
| foci         | the focal points of the conic.  |
| eccentricity | the eccentricity of the conic.  |
| intercepts   | the intercepts in the case of parallel lines.   |
| points       | the coordinates of the points used to plot the conic.                                 |

The points component is returned only if the *type* option is equal to n and if the conic is non-degenerate. In that case, nothing is drawn.

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**See Also**

[conicAsymptotes](#), [conicAxes](#), [conicCenter](#), [conicMatrix](#)

**Examples**

```
# Ellipse
# -----
# Equation: 2*x_1^2 + 2*x_1*x_2 + 2*x_2^2 - 20*x_1 - 28*x_2 + 10 = 0
v <- c(2,2,2,-20,-28,10)
conicPlot(v)
v[6] <- 20
conicPlot(v, type=p, col="red", add=TRUE)

# Symmetric matrix
m <- rbind( c(5, -3, -21),
            c(-3, 5, -19),
            c(-21, -19, 93) )
conicPlot(m)

# Hyperbola
# -----
# Equation: 2*x_1^2 + 2*x_1*x_2 - 2*x_2^2 - 20*x_1 + 20*x_2 + 10 = 0
v <- c(2,2,-2,-20,20,10)
conicPlot(v, center=TRUE, sym.axes=TRUE, asp=1)
conicPlot(v, asymptote=TRUE, as.col="grey30", as.lty=2,
          sym.axes=TRUE, ax.col="red", ax.lty=6, col="blue", asp=1)
```

```

# Parabola
# -----
# Equation: 4*x_1^2 + 4*x_1*x_2 + 1*x_2^2 + 20*x_1 + 20*x_2 + 20 = 0
v <- c(4,4,1,20,20,20)
conicPlot(v, sym.axes=TRUE, ax.lty=2, asp=1)

# Degenerate conics
# -----
# Intersecting lines
# Equation: x_1^2 - 2*x_1*x_2 - 8*x_2^2 - 2*x_1 + 14*x_2 - 3 = 0
v <- c(1,-2,-8,-2,14,-3)
conicPlot(v)
# Parallel lines
# Equation: x_1^2 - 2*x_1*x_2 + x_2^2 + 4*x_1 - 4*x_2 + 3 = 0
v <- c(1,-2,1,4,-4,3)
conicPlot(v)
# Coincident lines
# Equation: 4*x_1^2 + 12*x_1*x_2 + 9*x_2^2 - 4*x_1 - 6*x_2 + 1 = 0
v <- c(4,12,9,-4,-6,1)
conicPlot(v)

# Return value
# -----
v <- c(2,2,2,-20,-28,10)
cp <- conicPlot(v)
cp$kind
cp$vertices
cp$center
cp$axes
cp <- conicPlot(v,type=n)
cp$points

```

## Description

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Package: | conics     |
| Type:    | Package    |
| Version: | 0.3        |
| Date:    | 2013-12-10 |
| License: | GPL (>= 2) |

## Details

The `conics` package provides simple functions to plot conics. A conic is a plane algebraic curve of degree 2: it is the set of zeroes of a polynomial of degree 2 in 2 variables, that is to say the set of points  $(x_1, x_2)$  satisfying an equation of the form

$$P(x_1, x_2) = v_1 x_1^2 + v_2 x_1 x_2 + v_3 x_2^2 + v_4 x_1 + v_5 x_2 + v_6 = 0$$

Non-degenerate conics include the ellipses, the hyperbolas and the parabolas. Degenerate conics are pairs of lines.

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### References

For more information about the algebraic background of conics and their matrix representation, see the vignette accompanying this package. To display the vignette, type the following instruction in the R console :

```
> vignette("conics")
```

### See Also

The following functions are available: [conicAsymptotes](#), [conicAxes](#), [conicCenter](#), [conicMatrix](#), [conicPlot](#)

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