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Subject: Re: One ellipse to rule them all

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Tue, 12 Feb 2008 00:40:56 GMT

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On Feb 11, 5:55 pm, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:

> On Feb 11, 5:06 pm, ianpaul.free...@gmail.com wrote:

>

>> On Feb 11, 4:51 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

>

>>> ianpaul.free...@gmail.com writes:

>>>> I'm hoping someone has done this before and can help me out.

>

>>>> I have a bunch of x,y points, and I'd like to find the ellipse (with

>>>> minimum area) that encompasses all of them. Any thoughts?

>

>>> I can show you how to find an ellipse:

>

>>> [http://www.dfanning.com/ip\\_tips/fit\\_ellipse.html](http://www.dfanning.com/ip_tips/fit_ellipse.html)

>

>>> To enclose all the points I would, uh, expand it

>>> slowly. :-)

>

>>> Cheers,

>

>>> David

>

>>> --

>>> David Fanning, Ph.D.

>>> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

>>> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming ([www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com))

>>> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

>

>> My gut tells me I should be able to do it analytically. I *think* the

>> two points that have the largest separation should define the major

>> axis and position angle. Then I just need to fit for the minor axis

>> from the rest of the points, and the largest one is the winner.

>

> Look here - and references therein:[http://www-eleves-isia.cma.fr/documentation/CgalDoc2.4/basic\\_lib/Opti...](http://www-eleves-isia.cma.fr/documentation/CgalDoc2.4/basic_lib/Opti...)

Here's Welzl's paper: <http://citeseer.ist.psu.edu/235065.html>

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