

Chapter 11. **Three dimensional analytic geometry and vectors.**  
 Section 11.5 **Quadric surfaces.**

Curves in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  :

ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$

hyperbola  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$

parabola  $y = ax^2$  or  $x = by^2$

A **quadric surface** is the graph of a second degree equation in three variables. The most general such equation is

$$Ax^2 + By^2 + Cz^2 + Dxy + Exz + Fyz + Gx + Hy + Iz + J = 0,$$

where  $A, B, C, \dots, J$  are constants. By translation and rotation the equation can be brought into one of two standard forms

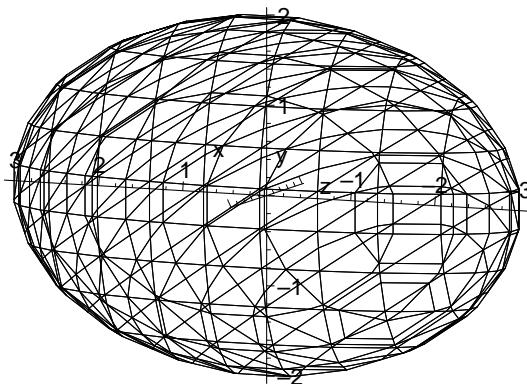
$$Ax^2 + By^2 + Cz^2 + J = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad Ax^2 + By^2 + Iz = 0$$

In order to sketch the graph of a quadric surface, it is useful to determine the curves of intersection of the surface with planes parallel to the coordinate planes. These curves are called **traces** of the surface.

**Ellipsoids** The quadric surface with equation

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$$

is called an ellipsoid because all of its traces are ellipses.



The six intercepts of the ellipsoid are  $(\pm a, 0, 0)$ ,  $(0, \pm b, 0)$ , and  $(0, 0, \pm c)$  and the ellipsoid lies in the box

$$|x| \leq a, \quad |y| \leq b, \quad |z| \leq c$$

Since the ellipsoid involves only even powers of  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$ , the ellipsoid is symmetric with respect to each coordinate plane.

**Example 1.** Find the traces of the surface

$$4x^2 + 9y^2 + 36z^2 = 36$$

in the planes  $x = k$ ,  $y = k$ , and  $z = k$ . Identify the surface and sketch it.

### Hyperboloids

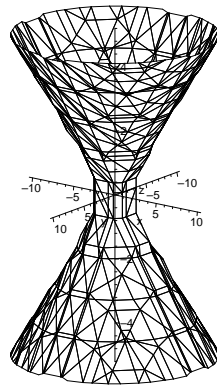
**Hyperboloid of one sheet.** The quadric surface with equations

1.  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} - \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$

2.  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$

3.  $-\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$

are called **hyperboloids of one sheet** since two of its traces are hyperbolas and one is an ellipse, and its surface consists of just one piece.



**Example 2.** Find the traces of the surface

$$x^2 - y^2 + z^2 = 1$$

in the planes  $x = k$ ,  $y = k$ , and  $z = k$ . Identify the surface and sketch it.

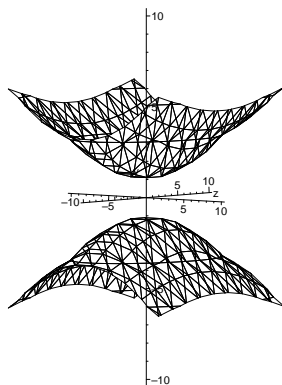
**Hyperboloid of two sheets.** The quadric surface with equations

1.  $-\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$

2.  $-\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} - \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$

3.  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} - \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$

are called **hyperboloids of two sheets** since two of its traces are hyperbolas and one is an ellipse, and its surface is two sheets.



**Example 3.** Find the traces of the surface

$$9x^2 - y^2 - z^2 = 9$$

in the planes  $x = k$ ,  $y = k$ , and  $z = k$ . Identify the surface and sketch it.

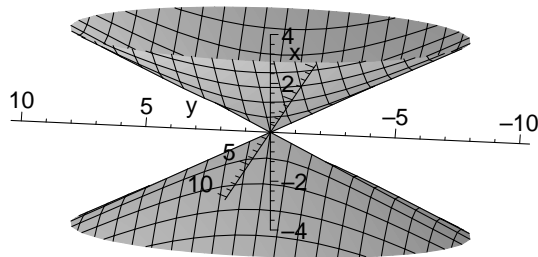
**Cone.** The quadric surface with equations

1.  $\frac{z^2}{c^2} = \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2}$

2.  $\frac{y^2}{b^2} = \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2}$

$$3. \frac{x^2}{a^2} = \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2}$$

are called **cones**.



If  $P$  is any point on the cone, then the line  $OP$  lies entirely on the cone. The traces in horizontal planes  $z = k$  are ellipses and traces in vertical planes  $x = k$  or  $y = k$  are hyperbolas if  $k \neq 0$  but are pairs of lines if  $k = 0$ .

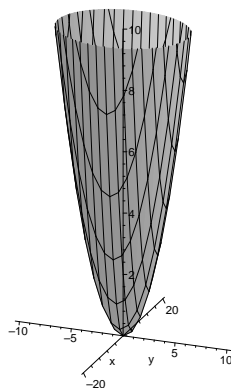
**Paraboloids.** The quadric surface with equations

$$1. \frac{z}{c} = \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2}$$

$$2. \frac{y}{b} = \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2}$$

$$3. \frac{x}{a} = \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2}$$

are called **elliptic paraboloids** because its traces in horizontal planes  $z = k$  are ellipses, whereas its in vertical planes  $x = k$  or  $y = k$  are parabolas.



**Example 4.** Find the traces of the surface

$$y = x^2 + z^2$$

in the planes  $x = k$ ,  $y = k$ , and  $z = k$ . Identify the surface and sketch it.

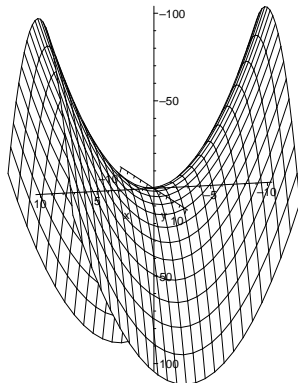
### The hyperbolic paraboloid

$$1. \frac{z}{c} = \frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2}$$

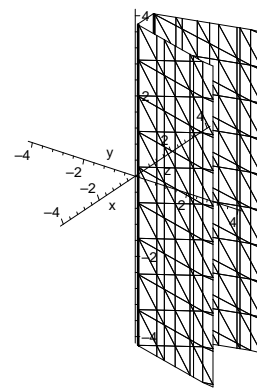
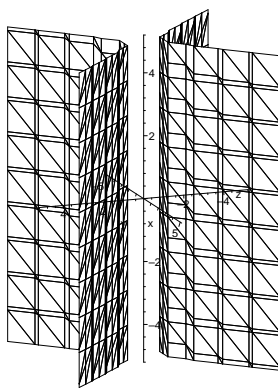
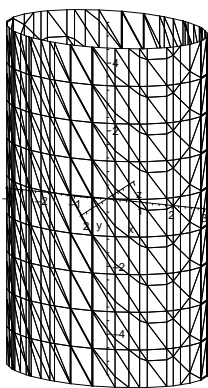
$$2. \frac{y}{b} = \frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{z^2}{c^2}$$

$$3. \frac{x}{a} = \frac{y^2}{b^2} - \frac{z^2}{c^2}$$

also has parabolas as its vertical traces, but its has hyperbolas as its horizontal traces.



**Quadric cylinders.** When one of the variables is missing from the equation of a surface, then the surface is a cylinder. The equation  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  represents the elliptic cylinder, the equation  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  represents a hyperbolic cylinder, and the equation  $y = ax^2$  represents the parabolic cylinder.



**Example 5.** Classify the quadric surface  $4x^2 - y^2 + z^2 + 8x + 8z + 24 = 0$  and sketch it.