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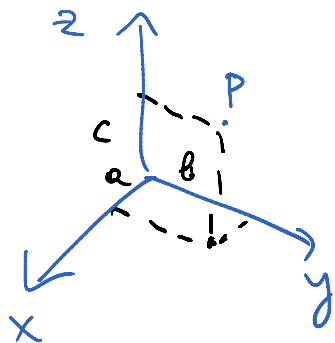
Monday, August 26, 2019 1:06 AM

## 12 Vectors and Geometry of Space

### 12.1: Three-dimensional Coordinate System

The three-dimensional coordinate system consists of the **origin**  $O$  and the **coordinate axes**:  $x$ -axis,  $y$ -axis,  $z$ -axis. The coordinate axes determine 3 **coordinate planes**: the  $xy$ -plane, the  $xz$ -plane and  $yz$ -plane. The coordinate planes divide space into 8 parts, called octants.

Representation of point  $P(a, b, c)$  and its projections on the coordinate planes:



EXAMPLE 1. Describe in words the regions of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  represented by the following equation:

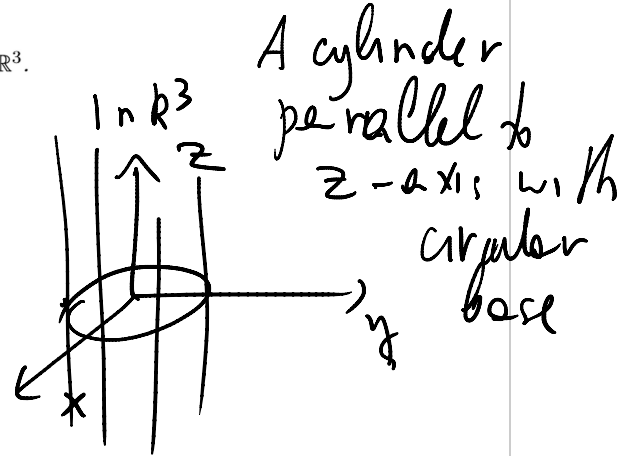
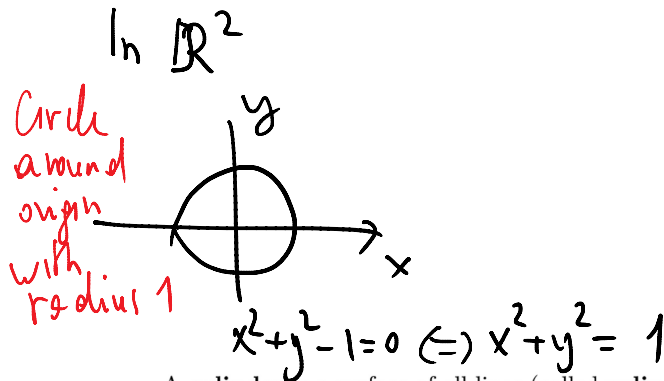
(a)  $z = 0$  The set of all points  $(x, y, 0)$ , i.e.,  
 $xy$ -plane

(b)  $y = 0$  The set of all point  $(x, 0, z)$ , i.e.,  
 $xz$ -plane

(c)  $x = 0$   
 $yz$ -plane

Note that in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  the graph of the equation involving  $x$  and  $y$  is a curve. In  $\mathbb{R}^3$  an equation in  $x, y, z$  represents a **surface**. (It does not mean that we can't graph curves in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .)

EXAMPLE 2. Sketch the graph of  $x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R}^3$ .



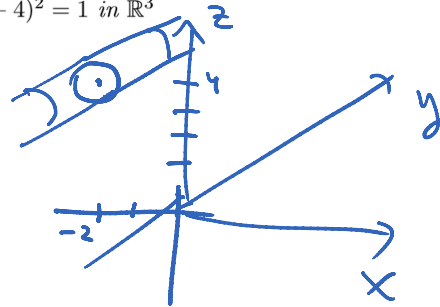
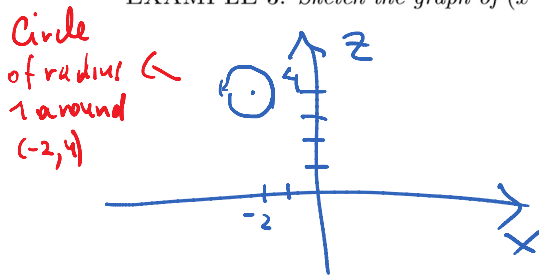
A **cylinder** is a surface of all lines (called **rulings**) that are parallel to a given line and pass through a given plane curve.

An equation that contains only two of the variables  $x, y, z$  represents a **cylindrical surface** in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

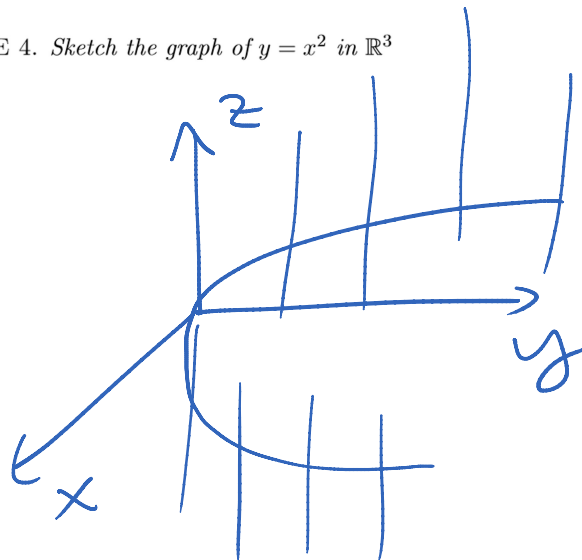
How to graph cylindrical surface:

1. graph the equation in the coordinate plane of the two variables that appear in the given equation;
2. translate that graph parallel to the axis of the missing variable.

EXAMPLE 3. Sketch the graph of  $(x+2)^2 + (z-4)^2 = 1$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$



EXAMPLE 4. Sketch the graph of  $y = x^2$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$



EXAMPLE 5. Let  $S$  be the graph of  $x^2 + z^2 - 10z + 21 = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

$$(a \pm b)^2 = a^2 \pm 2ab + b^2$$

(a) Describe  $S$ .

$$x^2 + z^2 - 10z + 21 = 0$$

Completing squares:  $x^2 + (z^2 - 2 \cdot 5z + 25) - 25 + 21 = 0 \Leftrightarrow$

$$x^2 + (z-5)^2 - 4 = 0 \Leftrightarrow x^2 + (z-5)^2 = 4 \rightarrow S \text{ is a cylinder parallel to } y\text{-axis with the base which is a circle of radius 2 around } (0, 0, 5) \text{ in } xz\text{-plane}$$

(b) The intersection of  $S$  with the  $xz$ -plane is the same circle  $\rightarrow$

$$\begin{cases} y=0 \\ x^2 + (z-5)^2 = 4 \end{cases}$$

(c) The intersection of  $S$  with the  $yz$ -plane is

two lines  $(0, y, 7)$  &  $(0, y, 3)$

$$\begin{cases} x=0 \\ x^2 + (z-5)^2 = 4 \end{cases} \Rightarrow (z-5)^2 = 4 \Leftrightarrow \begin{matrix} \text{Either } z-5=2 \Rightarrow z=7 \\ \text{or } z-5=-2 \Rightarrow z=3 \end{matrix}$$

(d) The intersection of  $S$  with the  $xy$ -plane is

empty set

$$\begin{cases} z=0 \\ x^2 + (z-5)^2 = 4 \end{cases} \Rightarrow x^2 + 25 = 4 \Rightarrow x^2 = -21 \rightarrow \text{no solutions.}$$

Spheres

• **Distance formula in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :** The distance between the points  $P(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  and  $Q(x_2, y_2, z_2)$  is

$$|PQ| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2}$$

Based on Pythagorean Thm used twice

EXAMPLE 6. Show that the equation  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + 2x - 4y + 8z + 17 = 0$  represents a sphere, and find its center and radius.

$$(x^2 + 2x + 1) - 1 + (y^2 - 4y + 4) - 4 + (z^2 + 8z + 16) - 16 + 17 = 0$$

$$(x+1)^2 + (y-2)^2 + (z+4)^2 - 4 = 0$$

$$(x+1)^2 + (y-2)^2 + (z+4)^2 - 4 = 0 \Leftrightarrow (x+1)^2 + (y-2)^2 + (z+4)^2 = 4$$

A sphere of radius 2 around  $(-1, 2, -4)$ .

In general, completing the squares in

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + Gx + Hy + Iz + J = 0$$

produces an equation of the form

$$(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 + (z - c)^2 = k$$

- If  $k > 0$  then the graph of this equation is a sphere of radius  $\sqrt{k}$  around  $(a, b, c)$
- If  $k = 0$ , then the graph is a point  $(a, b, c)$
- If  $k < 0$  then empty set

### Regions in $\mathbb{R}^3$

EXAMPLE 7. Describe the set of all points in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  whose coordinates satisfy the following inequality:  
 $x^2 + y^2 < 16$

$x^2 + y^2 = 16$  is a cylinder parallel to  $z$ -axis with the base which is circle of radius 4 around the origin in  $xy$ -plane  $\Rightarrow$

$x^2 + y^2 < 16$  is the interior of this cylinder (not including the boundary)

EXAMPLE 8. Describe the following region:  $\{(x, y, z) | 9 \leq x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \leq 16\}$

The region between two spheres of radiuses 3 and 4 with centers at the origin (including the boundary spheres).