# Lesson 1. Three Dimensional Space

#### 1 Today...

- 3D rectangular coordinate system
- Graphing equations in 3D
- Distance formula in 3D
  - Equation for a sphere

### 2 3D rectangular coordinate system

- How do we locate points in space?
- 3 mutually perpendicular **coordinate axes** through origin *O*:



• 3 coordinate planes



- The coordinate planes divide space into 8 octants
  - The **first octant** is the octant with positive axes

• Any point *P* in space can be represented as an ordered triple (*a*, *b*, *c*):



- (*a*, *b*, *c*) are the **rectangular coordinates** of *P* (also known as **Cartesian coordinates**)
  - *a* is called the *x*-coordinate of *P*
  - b is called the *y*-coordinate of *P*
  - $\circ c$  is called the *z*-coordinate of *P*
- Recall we often refer to the two-dimensional plane as  $\mathbb{R}^2$
- We often refer to three-dimensional space as  $\mathbb{R}^3$

**Example 1.** Plot *P*(3, -2, 2).





## 3 Graphing equations in 3D

- Recall that in 2D: the graph of an equation in *x* and *y* is a curve in  $\mathbb{R}^2$
- In 3D: an equation in *x*, *y*, and *z* is a **surface** in  $\mathbb{R}^3$

**Example 3.** Which points satisfy y = 1 in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ?



**Example 4.** Which points satisfy  $y = x^2$ , z = 0 in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ?



**Example 5.** Which points satisfy  $y = x^2$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ?



### 4 Distance formula in 3D

• Recall the 2D distance formula: the distance between two points  $P_1(x_1, y_1)$  and  $P_2(x_2, y_2)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is

$$|P_1P_2| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

• The **distance** between two points  $P_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  and  $P_2(x_2, y_2, z_2)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is

**Example 6.** What is the distance from the point P(2, -1, 0) and Q(4, 1, 1)?

- A sphere is the set of all points P(x, y, z) whose distance from a center C(h, k, l) is radius *r*, or
- The standard equation for a sphere with radius r and center (h, k, l) is

**Example 7.** What region in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is represented by the following inequalities?

$$1 \le x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \le 4$$
  $z \le 0$