# Lesson 6. Cylinders and Quadric Surfaces

# 1 In this lesson...

- Special families of surfaces in 3D space
- Drawing different types of surfaces in 3D space

### 2 Cylinders

- A cylinder is a surface composed of all lines that
  - are parallel to a given line and
  - pass through a given plane curve
- In 3D, if one of the variables *x*, *y*, *z* is missing from the equation of a surface, then the surface is a cylinder

**Example 1.** Sketch the graph of the surface  $z = x^2$ .



**Example 2.** Sketch the graph of the surface  $y^2 + z^2 = 1$ .



**Example 3.** Sketch the graph of the surface xy = 1.



#### 3 Traces

- A trace of a surface is the curve of intersection of the surface with planes parallel to the coordinate planes
- Idea:
  - Start with an equation in 3 variables x, y, z
  - Plug in a value for one of the variables
  - Graph the resulting equation in 2 variables (i.e., graph a trace of the surface)
  - Repeat for other values and other variables
  - "Glue" the traces together

**Example 4.** Use traces to sketch the surface  $z = 4x^2 + y^2$ .





# 4 Quadric surfaces

• Ellipsoid



• Elliptic paraboloid



• Hyperbolic paraboloid

• Equation:

- All traces are ellipses
- If a = b = c, the ellipsoid is a sphere

• Equation:

- Horizontal traces are ellipses
- Vertical traces are parabolas
- The variable raised to the first power indicates the axis of the paraboloid



• Cone



• Equation:

- Horizontal traces are hyperbolas
- Vertical traces are parabolas
- The case when c < 0 is illustrated

• Equation:

- Horizontal traces are ellipses
- Vertical traces are planes or hyperbolas

• Hyperboloid of one sheet



• Equation:

- Horizontal traces are ellipses
- Vertical traces are hyperbolas

• Hyperboloid of two sheets



- Equation:
- Horizontal traces (when z = k) are ellipses if k > c or k < -c
- Vertical traces are hyperbolas
- Equations given above are in "standard form"
  - $\circ~$  May need to do some algebra to get an equation into standard form
- Equations given above are for surfaces that are symmetric about the *z*-axis
  - $\circ~$  May need to switch the variables around to match an equation with the surface type

**Example 6.** Sketch the quadric surface  $z = y^2 - x^2$ . What is this quadric surface called? *Hint*. Draw traces for this surface when x = 0, y = 0, y = 1, and y = -1.



**Example 7.** Sketch the quadric surface  $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 1$ . What is this quadric surface called? *Hint*. Draw traces for this surface when z = 0, z = 1, z = -1, and x = 0.



**Example 8.** Identify and sketch the quadric surface  $2z^2 - 4x^2 - y^2 - 4 = 0$  by matching the equation to the standard equations given above.



**Example 9.** Identify and sketch the quadric surface  $2y^2 = x^2 + 4z^2$  by matching the equation to the standard equations given above.

