

Definition: A **surface** is a set in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that

- looks locally like  $\mathbb{R}^2$

⇔

- can be made out of sheet metal.

Examples:



Plane



Sphere

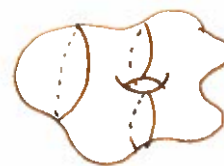


graph of

$$f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\uparrow$$

$$\mathbb{R}^2$$



blob

Parametrization:

Recall: a curve is parametrized by a vector-valued function

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle \quad a \leq t \leq b.$$

+ needs one variable  $t$ .

A surface is parametrized by two variables

$$\vec{r}(u, v) = \langle x(u, v), y(u, v), z(u, v) \rangle, \quad (u, v) \in D \subset \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Note:  $\vec{r}$  should be 1-1, except possibly on the boundary of  $D$ .

Example: parametrize the plane through  $P$  containing  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$ :  $\vec{r}(u, v) = P + u\vec{v} + v\vec{w}$ .

Example: parametrize the sphere of radius 1 around  $\vec{0}$ .

↳ in spherical coordinates,  $\rho = 1$ .

take as parameters  $\phi, \theta$

$$\text{↳ } x(\phi, \theta) = \sin\phi \cos\theta, \quad y(\phi, \theta) = \sin\phi \sin\theta, \quad z(\phi, \theta) = \cos\phi.$$

$$D = \{(\phi, \theta) \mid 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi\}.$$

☐ Change the domain

Example: parametrize the graph of  $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

$$\Gamma_f = \{(x, y, z) \mid z = f(x, y)\}.$$

$$\text{↳ } x = u, \quad y = v, \quad z = f(u, v), \quad -\infty \leq u, v < \infty.$$

Example Parametrize the cylinder  $y^2 + z^2 = 4$ .

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$$(x, y, z) = (x, 2\cos\theta, 2\sin\theta) \quad \text{cylindrical coordinates}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mapsto \text{parameters } (x, \theta) \quad & -\infty < x < \infty \\ & 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi. \end{aligned}$$

[2] let  $D = \left\{ (u, v) \mid \begin{array}{l} -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq v \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \\ 0 \leq u \leq 2\pi \end{array} \right\}$ , and define  $\vec{r}: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  by

$$\vec{r}(u, v) = (\sin v, \cos u \sin 2v, \sin u \sin 2v)$$

Remarks:

- this is a surface of revolution
- the curves  $\vec{r}(u_0, v)$  and  $\vec{r}(u, v_0)$  are called grid curves.

### § TANGENT PLANES.

- Let  $P = \vec{r}(u_0, v_0)$  be a point in  $S$ .
  - it lies on the grid curve  $C_1$  given by  $\vec{r}(u_0, v)$  and  $C_2$  given by  $\vec{r}(u, v_0)$ .
- the tangent lines to these curves at  $P$  have direction vector  $\vec{r}_v(u_0, v_0)$  and  $\vec{r}_u(u_0, v_0)$ .

Definition: we say that  $S$  is smooth at  $P$  if

$$\vec{r}_u(u_0, v_0) \times \vec{r}_v(u_0, v_0) \neq \vec{0}.$$

In that case, the vectors  $\vec{r}_u(u_0, v_0)$ ,  $\vec{r}_v(u_0, v_0)$  determine a unique plane  $\mathbb{P}$  containing both these vectors and the point  $P$

- with normal vector  $\vec{r}_u(u_0, v_0) \times \vec{r}_v(u_0, v_0)$ .

Definition: this plane is the tangent plane to  $S$  at  $P$ .

Example Consider  $S$  parametrized by  $D = [0, 2\pi) \times [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ ,

$$\vec{r}(u, v) = (\sin v, \cos u \sin 2v, \sin u \sin 2v) \quad \text{as above.}$$

Find the tangent plane to  $S$  at  $P = (\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -1, 0)$

Step 1: Find  $(u_0, v_0)$  with  $\vec{r}(u_0, v_0) = P = (\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -1, 0)$

•  $\sin v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \Rightarrow v = \frac{\pi}{4}$

•  $\cos u \sin 2v = \cos u \sin \frac{\pi}{2} = \cos u = -1$   
 $\Rightarrow u = \pi$

(check:  $\sin u \sin 2v = \sin \pi \sin \frac{\pi}{2} = 0$  " )

Step 2: Find  $\vec{r}_u(u_0, v_0) \times \vec{r}_v(u_0, v_0) = \vec{n}$

•  $\vec{r}_u(u, v) = \langle 0, -\sin u \sin 2v, \cos u \sin 2v \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \vec{r}_u(u_0, v_0) = \langle 0, 0, -1 \rangle$

•  $\vec{r}_v(u, v) = \langle \cos v, 2\cos u \cos 2v, 2\sin u \cos 2v \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \vec{r}_v(u_0, v_0) = \langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, 0 \rangle$

•  $\vec{r}_u(u_0, v_0) \times \vec{r}_v(u_0, v_0) = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = \vec{i} \cdot 0 - \vec{j}(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}) + \vec{k} \cdot 0$   
 $= \langle 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0 \rangle$

Step 3: Find the equation of the plane with  $\vec{n} = \langle 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0 \rangle$ , passing through  $P = (\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -1, 0)$ :

$-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(y+1) = 0$

i.e.  $y = -1$ . (check with picture)

Example Parametrize the paraboloid  $z = x^2 + y^2$ .

□ Find the tangent plane to the paraboloid at  $(1, 1, 2)$ .

[solution on slides]

