

13.6 Quadric Surfaces (part 1)

in $\mathbb{R}^2$ equations like $y = x^2$ are curves

in $\mathbb{R}^3$ equations in terms of x, y, z are surfaces

for example, $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$ is a sphere centered at $(0, 0, 0)$
radius 1

$(x-2) + 2(y+3) - 3(z+4) = 0$ is a plane
through point $(2, -3, -4)$

normal vector $\langle 1, 2, -3 \rangle$ or $\langle -1, -2, 3 \rangle$

Sometimes one or more variables is missing

→ that variable is not related or constrained by the others

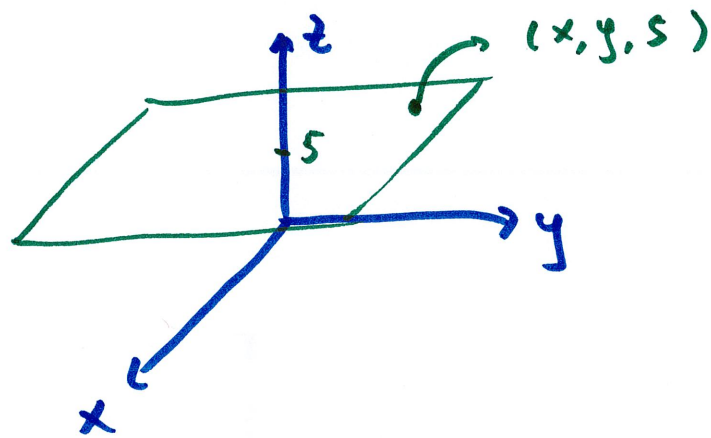
→ "free variable"

it can be any value in its domain

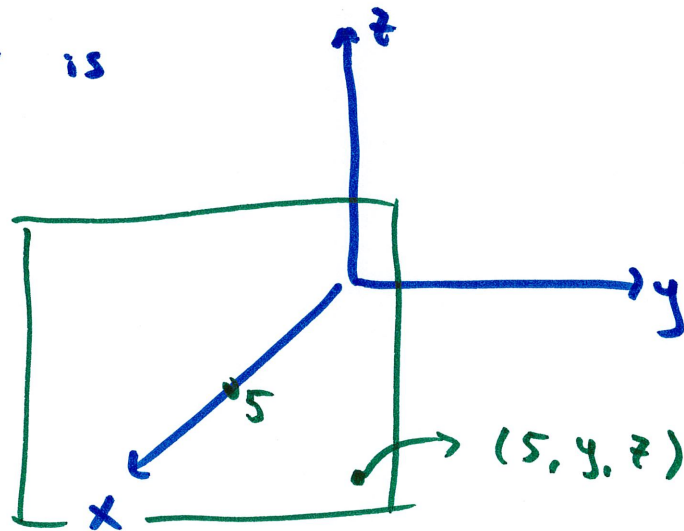
for example, $z = 5$ in $\mathbb{R}^3$ is missing x and y

this means this surface is made up of points $(x, y, 5)$

$$-\infty < x < \infty, -\infty < y < \infty$$

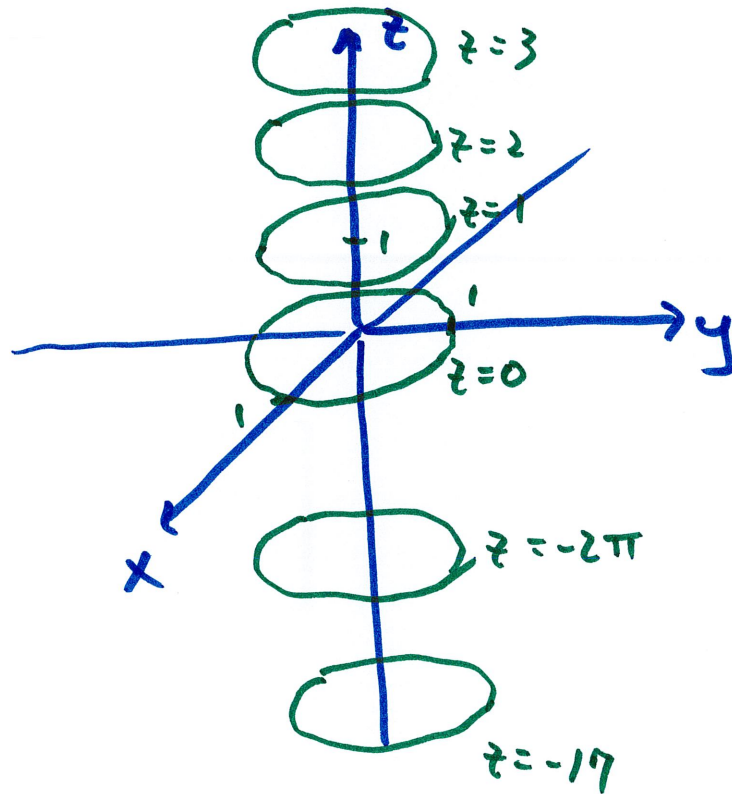


likewise, $x = 5$ is

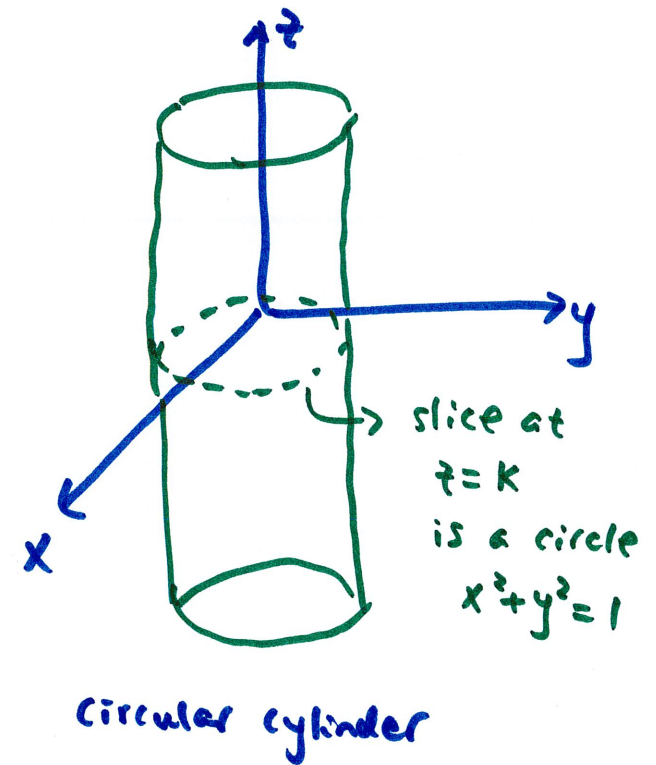


$x^2 + y^2 = 1$ in $\mathbb{R}^3$ has no z

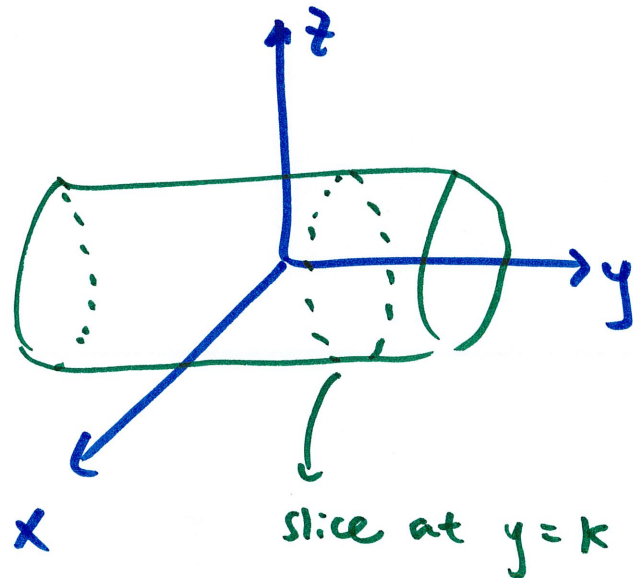
Surface is made up of points (x, y, z) such that $x^2 + y^2 = 1$, $-\infty < z < \infty$



stack them:



$x^2 + z^2 = 1$ no y , slices at $y = k$ are $x^2 + z^2 = 1$ (circles radius 1, centered at $(0, y, 0)$)



these slices (intersections of surface with x, y, z equaling a constant) are called traces

intersection of a surface with the xy -plane is called the xy -trace
" " " " " "
 xz -plane " " " "
and so on

cylinders do not have to have circular cross sections

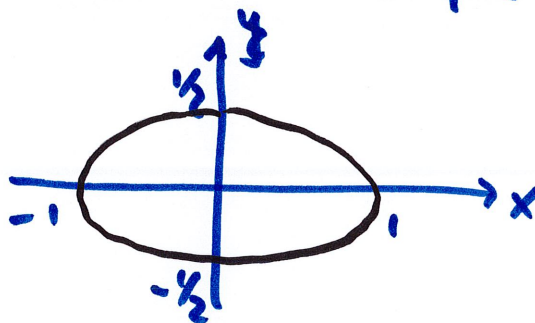
$$x^2 + 4y^2 = 1 \text{ has } z \text{ missing}$$

for each $z = k$, the cross section is an ellipse

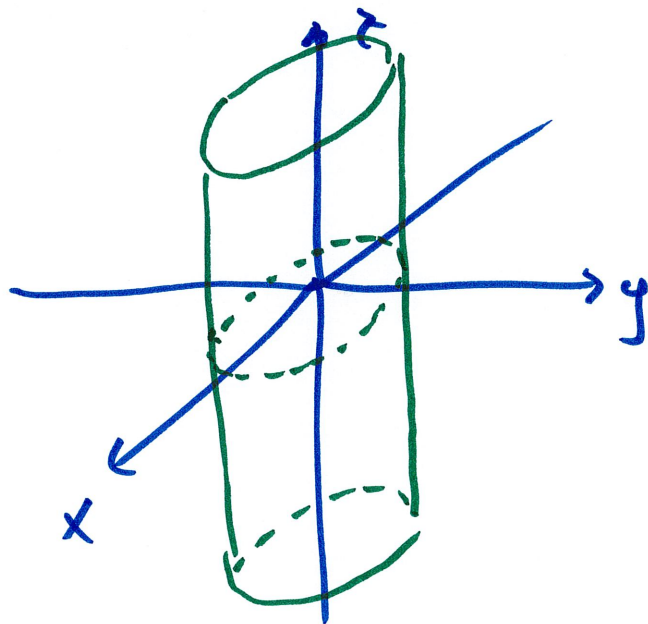
$$x^2 + 4y^2 = 1$$

$$x\text{-ints: } x = \pm 1$$

$$y\text{-ints: } y = \pm \frac{1}{2}$$

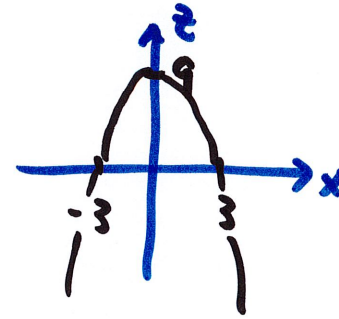


this gives us an ~~elliptic~~ elliptical cylinder

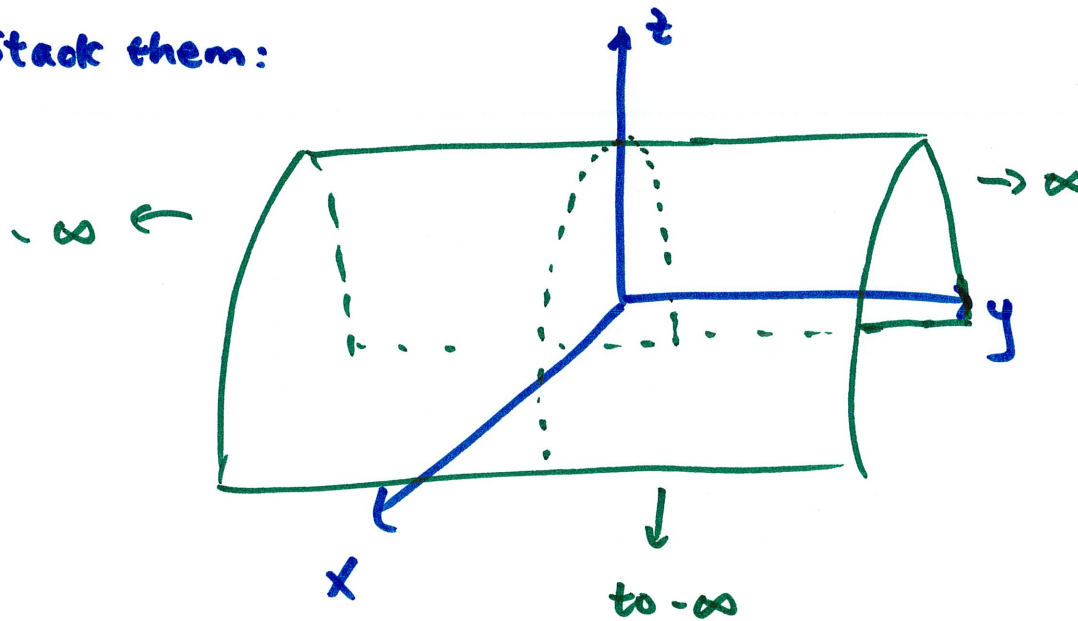


$$z = 9 - x^2 \quad \text{no } y$$

for each $y = k$ the trace is a parabola



Stack them:



parabolic cylinder

stacking traces is a very good way to sketch quadric surfaces

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 16 \quad (\text{pretend we didn't know this is a sphere})$$

x -intercepts: $x = \pm 4$

y -intercepts: $y = \pm 4$

z -intercepts: $z = \pm 4$

xy -trace ($z=0$): $x^2 + y^2 = 16$
circle radius 4

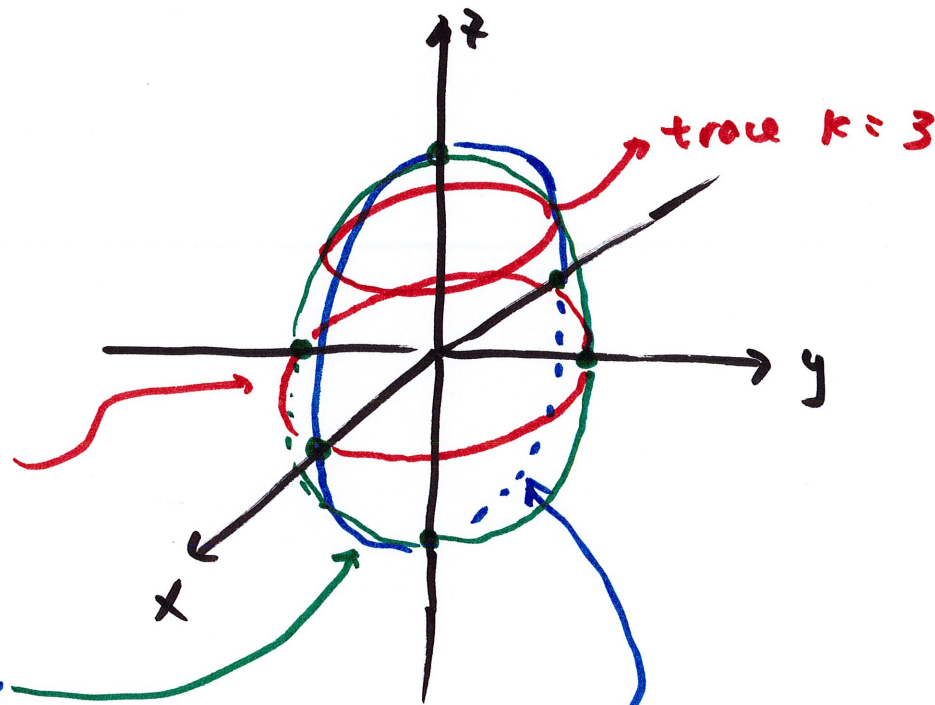
yz -trace ($x=0$): $y^2 + z^2 = 16$
circle radius 4

xz -trace ($y=0$): $x^2 + z^2 = 16$
circle radius 4

→ trace $z=k$

$$x^2 + y^2 = 16 - k^2 \quad \text{circle radius } \sqrt{16 - k^2}$$

$$-4 \leq k \leq 4$$



example

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

$$x\text{-ints: } x=0$$

$$y\text{-ints: } y=0$$

$$z\text{-ints: } z=0$$

} origin

$$xy\text{-trace } (z=0): x^2 + y^2 = 0 \text{ point at origin}$$

$$yz\text{-trace } (x=0): y^2 = z^2 \rightarrow y = \pm z \text{ lines}$$

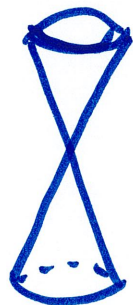
$$xz\text{-trace } (y=0): x^2 = z^2 \rightarrow z = \pm x \text{ lines}$$

→ trace with $z=k$

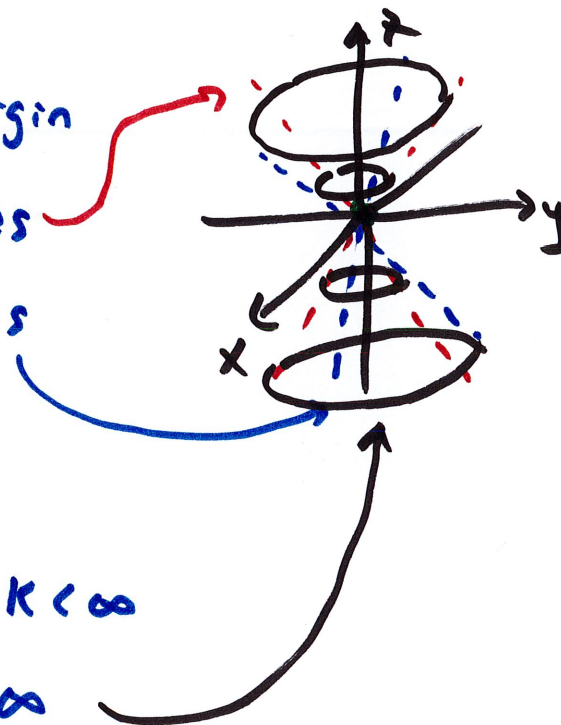
$$x^2 + y^2 = k^2 \text{ circles radius } |k| \quad -\infty < k < \infty$$

circle gets bigger as $k \rightarrow \infty$ or $k \rightarrow -\infty$

we get



double cone



example

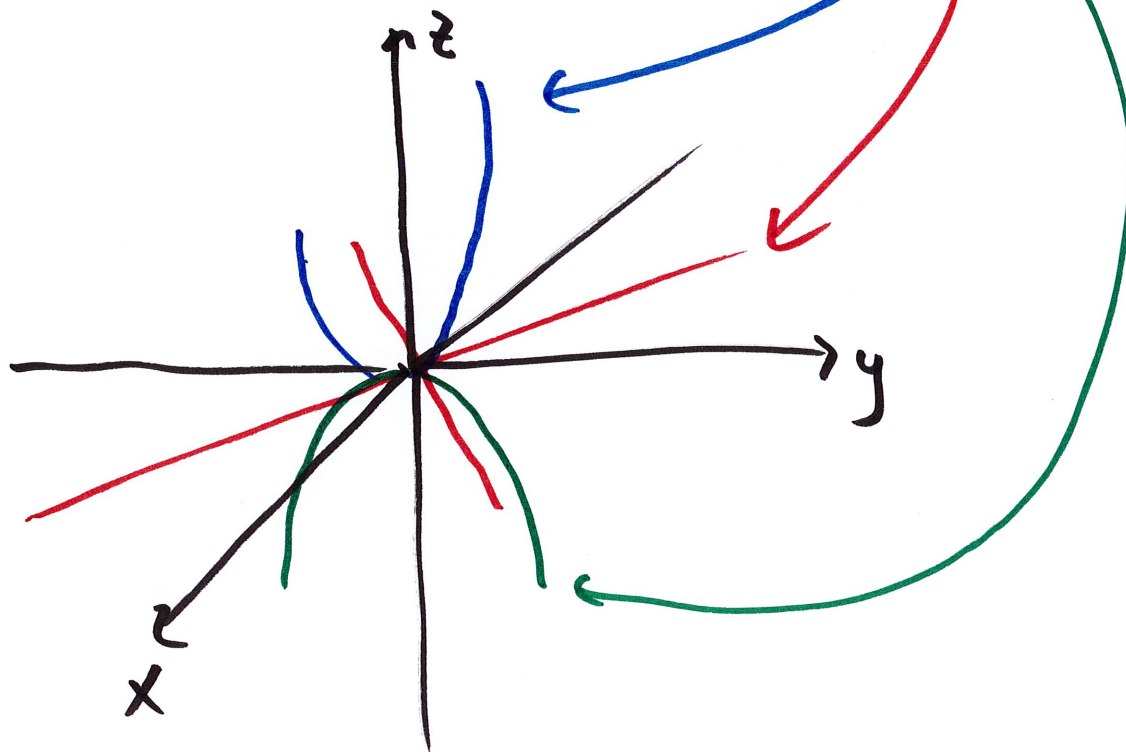
$$z = x^2 - y^2$$

x, y, z ints are all 0

xy -trace ($z=0$): $y = \pm x$ lines

yz -trace ($x=0$): $z = -y^2$ parabola

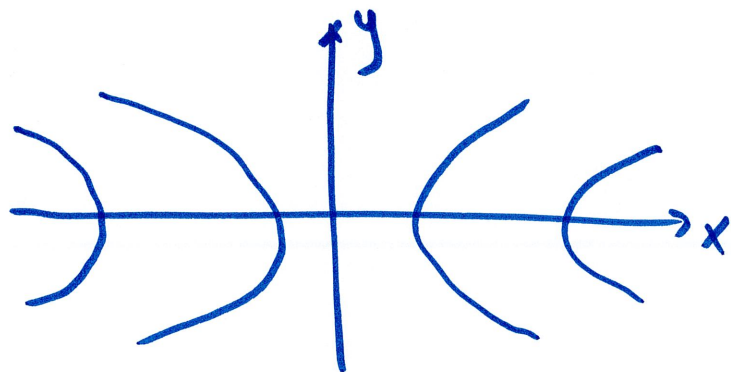
xz -trace ($y=0$): $z = x^2$ parabola



need more info...

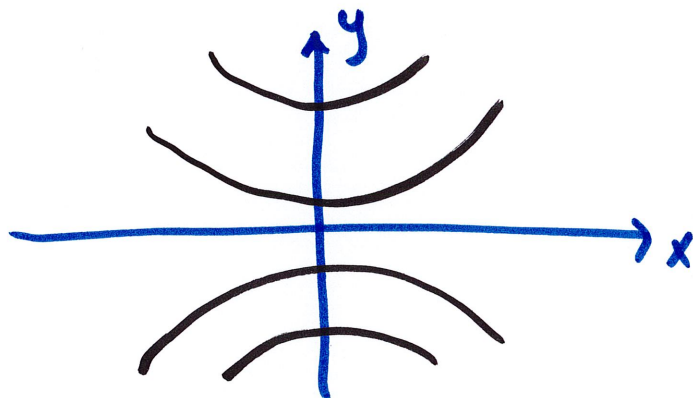
trace w/ $z=k$ ($k>0$)

$x^2 - y^2 = k$ hyperbola with intercepts on the x-axis



the higher the k , the more they spread out

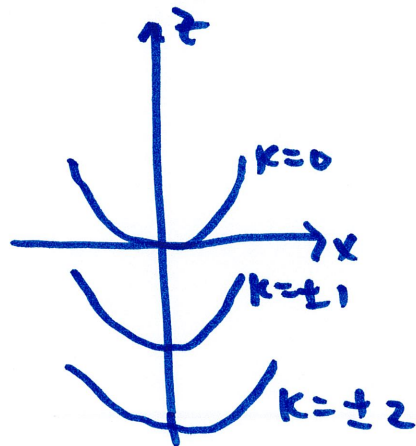
if $k < 0$



intercepts on y-axis

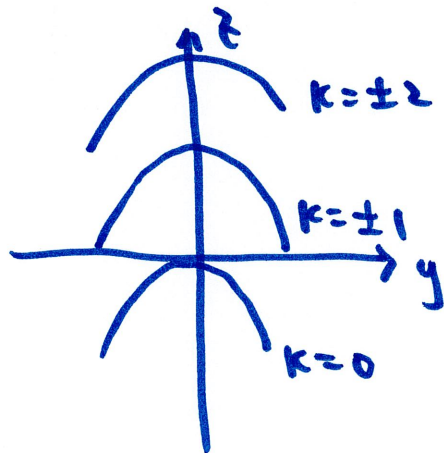
the smaller k is, the more they spread out

trace w/ $y=k$: $z = x^2 - k^2$ parabola w/ vertex at $z = -k^2$

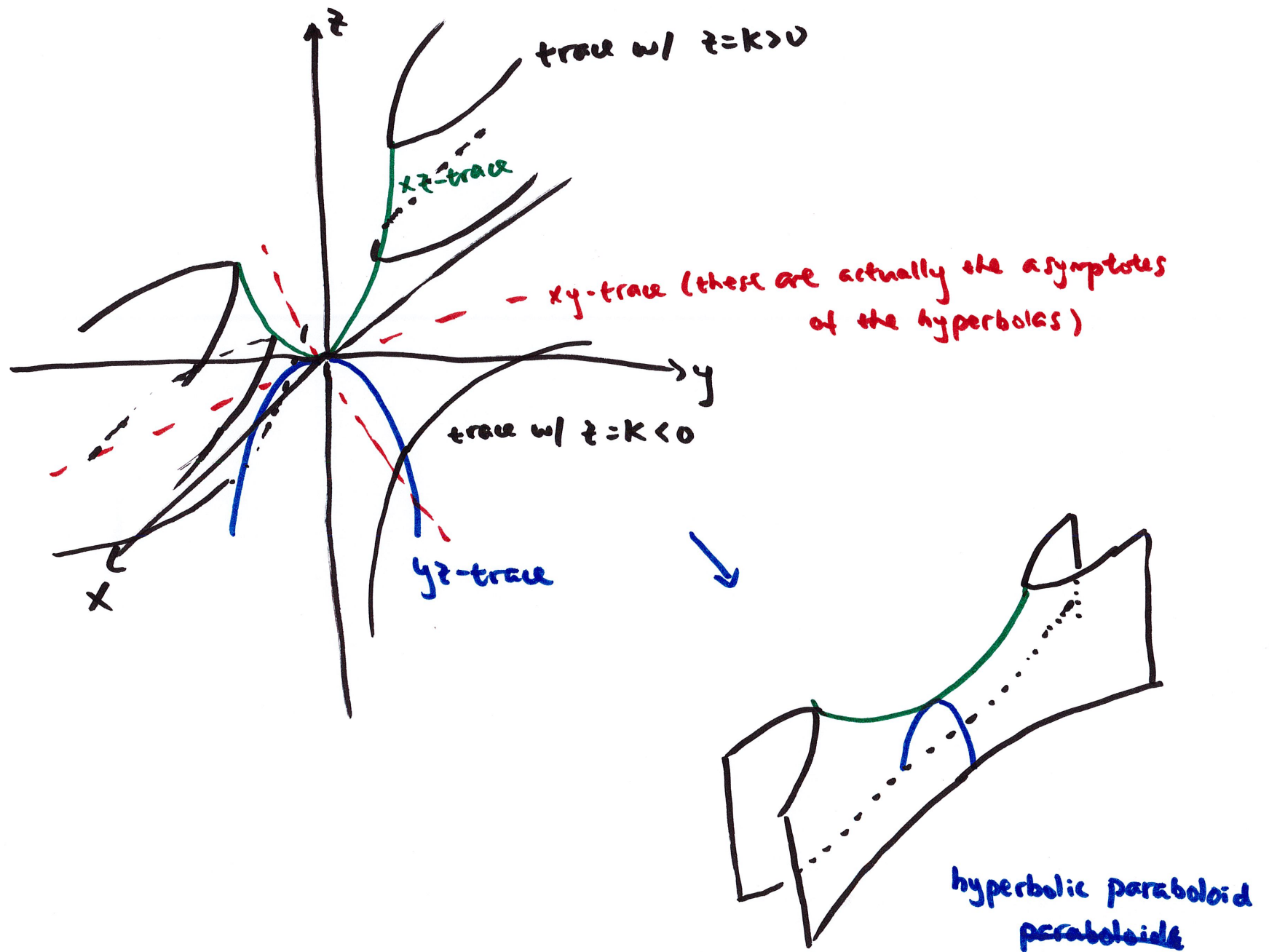


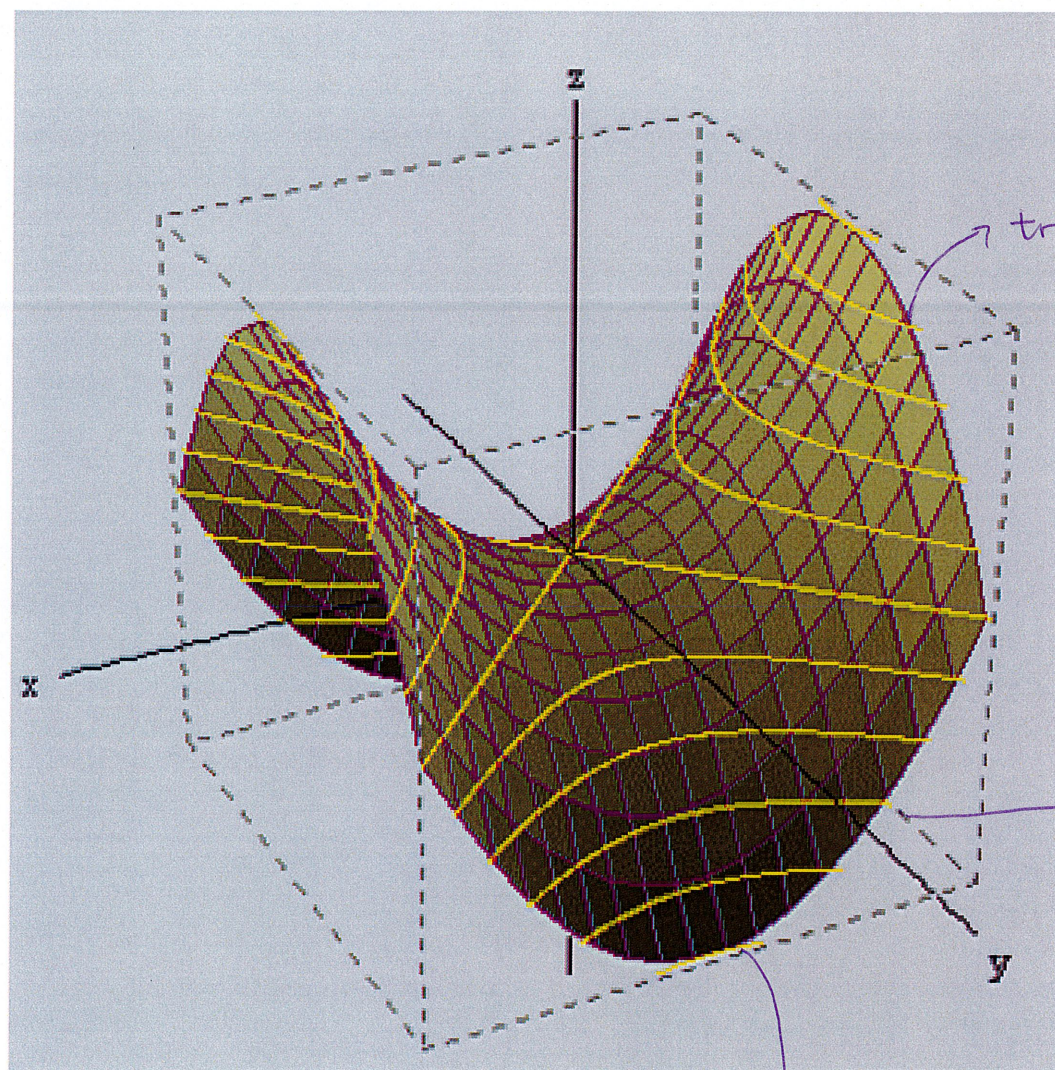
parabola gets lower as $|k|$ increases

trace w/ $x=k$: $z = k^2 - y^2$ parabola again



now put them all together





trace w/ $z=k>0$
(black on last page)

trace w/ $z=k<0$

yz -trace (blue on last page)

all of these quadric surfaces can be expressed as

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

and not all A, B, C are zero

we will look at more examples next time