

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the
straight line, the point and
the empty set

Generated
Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

Geometry¹

First Year, Computer science

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¹These notes are not in a final form. They are continuously being improved

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straight line, the point and
the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

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Conoidal Surfaces

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Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

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Pairs of planes, the
straight line, the point and
the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

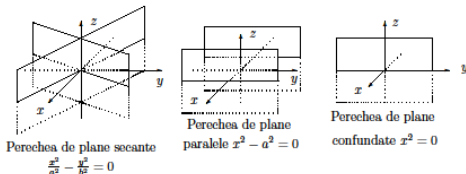
Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

- ▶ *The pair of concurrent planes* is the quadric of equation

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 0 \text{ along the analogous equations such as } \frac{y^2}{b^2} - \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 0.$$

- ▶ *The pair of parallel planes* is the quadric of equation $x^2 - a^2 = 0$ along the analogous equations.
- ▶ *The pair of parallel double planes* is the quadric of equation $x^2 = 0$ along the analogous equations.
- ▶ *The line* is the quadric of equation $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 0$, along the analogous equations.



Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the
straight line, the point and
the empty set

Generated
Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

- *The point* is the quadric of equation

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 0. \quad (1.1)$$

- *The empty set* is the quadric of equation

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = -1 \text{ or } \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = -1. \quad (1.2)$$

Consider the 3-dimensional Euclidean space \mathcal{E}_3 , together with a Cartesian system of coordinates $Oxyz$. Generally, the set

$$S = \{M(x, y, z) : F(x, y, z) = 0\},$$

where $F : D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a real function and D is a domain, is called *surface* of implicit equation $F(x, y, z) = 0$ (the quadric surfaces, defined in the previous chapter for F a polynomial of degree two, are such of surfaces). On the other hand, the set

$$S_1 = \{M(x, y, z) : x = x(u, v), y = y(u, v), z = z(u, v)\},$$

where $x, y, z : D_1 \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, is a *parameterized surface*, of parametric equations

$$\begin{cases} x = x(u, v) \\ y = y(u, v) \\ z = z(u, v) \end{cases}, \quad (u, v) \in D_1.$$

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

The intersection between two surfaces is a *curve* in 3-space (remember, for instance, that the intersection between a quadric surface and a plane is a conic section, hence the conics are plane curves). Then, the set

$$C = \{M(x, y, z) : F(x, y, z) = 0, G(x, y, z) = 0\},$$

where $F, G : D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, is the curve of *implicit* equations

$$\begin{cases} F(x, y, z) = 0 \\ G(x, y, z) = 0 \end{cases}.$$

As before, one can parameterize the curve. The set

$$C_1 = \{M(x, y, z) : x = x(t), y = y(t), z = z(t)\},$$

where $x, y, z : I \subseteq \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and I is open, is called *parameterized curve* of parametric equations

$$\begin{cases} x = x(t) \\ y = y(t) \\ z = z(t) \end{cases}, \quad t \in I.$$

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

Let be given a family of curves, depending on one single parameter λ ,

$$\mathcal{C}_\lambda : \begin{cases} F_1(x, y, z; \lambda) = 0 \\ F_2(x, y, z; \lambda) = 0 \end{cases} .$$

In general, the family \mathcal{C}_λ does not cover the entire space. By eliminating the parameter λ between the two equations of the family, one obtains the equation of the surface *generated* by the family of curves.

Suppose now that the family of curves depends on two parameters λ, μ ,

$$\mathcal{C}_{\lambda, \mu} : \begin{cases} F_1(x, y, z; \lambda, \mu) = 0 \\ F_2(x, y, z; \lambda, \mu) = 0 \end{cases} ,$$

and that the parameters are related through $\varphi(\lambda, \mu) = 0$. If it can be obtained an equation which does not depend on the parameters (by eliminating the parameters between the three equations), then the set of all the points which verify it is called surface *generated* by the family (or the sub-family) of curves.

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

Definition 2.1

The surface generated by a variable line (the generatrix), which remains parallel to a fixed line d and intersects a given curve \mathcal{C} , is called cylindrical surface. The curve \mathcal{C} is called the director curve of the cylindrical surface.

Theorem 2.2

The cylindrical surface, with the generatrix parallel to the line d , where

$$d : \begin{cases} \pi_1 = 0 \\ \pi_2 = 0 \end{cases},$$

and having the director curve \mathcal{C} , where

$$\mathcal{C} : \begin{cases} F_1(x, y, z) = 0 \\ F_2(x, y, z) = 0 \end{cases},$$

(assume that d and \mathcal{C} are not coplanar), is characterized

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

by an equation of the form

$$\varphi(\pi_1, \pi_2) = 0. \quad (2.1)$$

Proof.

The equations of an arbitrary line, which is parallel to

$$d : \begin{cases} \pi_1(x, y, z) = 0 \\ \pi_2(x, y, z) = 0 \end{cases}, \text{ are } d_{\lambda, \mu} : \begin{cases} \pi_1(x, y, z) = \lambda \\ \pi_2(x, y, z) = \mu \end{cases}.$$

Not every line from the family $d_{\lambda, \mu}$ intersects the curve \mathcal{C} .
This happens only when the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} F_1(x, y, z) = 0 \\ F_2(x, y, z) = 0 \\ \pi_1(x, y, z) = \lambda \\ \pi_2(x, y, z) = \mu \end{cases}$$

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces



is compatible. By eliminating x , y and z between the four equations of the system, one obtains a *compatibility condition* $\varphi(\lambda, \mu) = 0$ for the parameters λ and μ . The equation of the surface can be determined now from the system

$$\begin{cases} \pi_1(x, y, z) = \lambda \\ \pi_2(x, y, z) = \mu \\ \varphi(\lambda, \mu) = 0 \end{cases},$$

and it is immediate that $\varphi(\pi_1, \pi_2) = 0$. □

Remark: Any equation of the form (2.1), where π_1 and π_2 are linear function of x , y and z , represents a cylindrical surface, having the generatrices parallel to $d : \begin{cases} \pi_1 = 0 \\ \pi_2 = 0 \end{cases}$.

Example Let us find the equation of the cylindrical surface having the generatrices parallel to

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

$$d : \begin{cases} x + y = 0 \\ z = 0 \end{cases}$$

and the director curve given by

$$\mathcal{C} : \begin{cases} x^2 - 2y^2 - z = 0 \\ x - 1 = 0 \end{cases}.$$

The equations of the generatrices d are

$$d_{\lambda, \mu} : \begin{cases} x + y = \lambda \\ z = \mu \end{cases}.$$

They must intersect the curve \mathcal{C} , i.e. the system

$$\begin{cases} x^2 - 2y^2 - z = 0 \\ x - 1 = 0 \\ x + y = \lambda \\ z = \mu \end{cases}$$

has to be compatible.

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

A solution of the system can be obtained using the three last equations

$$\begin{cases} x = 1 \\ y = \lambda - 1 \\ z = \mu \end{cases}$$

and, replacing in the first one, one obtains the compatibility condition

$$2(\lambda - 1)^2 + \mu - 1 = 0.$$

The equation of the surface is obtained by eliminating the parameters in

$$\begin{cases} x + y = \lambda \\ z = \mu \\ 2(\lambda - 1)^2 + \mu - 1 = 0 \end{cases}.$$

Then,

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

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

Definition 2.4

The surface generated by a variable line, which passes through a fixed point V and intersects a given curve \mathcal{C} , is called conical surface. The point V is called the vertex of the surface and the curve \mathcal{C} director curve.

Theorem 2.5

The conical surface, of vertex $V(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ and director curve

$$\mathcal{C} : \begin{cases} F_1(x, y, z) = 0 \\ F_2(x, y, z) = 0 \end{cases},$$

(suppose that V and \mathcal{C} are not coplanar), is characterized by an equation of the form

$$\varphi \left(\frac{x - x_0}{z - z_0}, \frac{y - y_0}{z - z_0} \right) = 0. \quad (2.2)$$

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

Proof.

The equations of an arbitrary line through $V(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ are

$$d_{\lambda\mu} : \begin{cases} x - x_0 = \lambda(z - z_0) \\ y - y_0 = \mu(z - z_0) \end{cases} .$$

A generatrix has to intersect the curve \mathcal{C} , hence the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} x - x_0 = \lambda(z - z_0) \\ y - y_0 = \mu(z - z_0) \\ F_1(x, y, z) = 0 \\ F_2(x, y, z) = 0 \end{cases}$$

must be compatible. This happens for some values of the parameters λ and μ , which verify a *compatibility condition*

$$\varphi(\lambda, \mu),$$

obtained by eliminating x , y and z in the the previous

system of equations. In these conditions, the surface is generated and its equation rises from the system

$$\begin{cases} x - x_0 = \lambda(z - z_0) \\ y - y_0 = \mu(z - z_0) \\ \varphi(\lambda, \mu) = 0 \end{cases}.$$

It follows that

$$\varphi\left(\frac{x - x_0}{z - z_0}, \frac{y - y_0}{z - z_0}\right) = 0.$$



Remark: If φ is an algebraic function, then the equation (2.2) can be written in the form

$$\phi(x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0) = 0,$$

where ϕ is homogeneous with respect to $x - x_0$, $y - y_0$ and $z - z_0$.

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

If φ is algebraic and V is the origin of the system of coordinates, then the equation of the conical surface is $\phi(x, y, z) = 0$, with ϕ a homogeneous polynomial. Conversely, an algebraic homogeneous equation in x , y and z represents a conical surface with the vertex at the origin.

Example: Let us determine the equation of the conical surface, having the vertex $V(1, 1, 1)$ and the director curve

$$C : \begin{cases} (x^2 + y^2)^2 - xy = 0 \\ z = 0 \end{cases}.$$

The family of lines passing through V has the equations

$$d_{\lambda\mu} : \begin{cases} x - 1 = \lambda(z - 1) \\ y - 1 = \mu(z - 1) \end{cases}.$$

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

The system of equations

$$\begin{cases} (x^2 + y^2)^2 - xy = 0 \\ z = 0 \\ x - 1 = \lambda(z - 1) \\ y - 1 = \mu(z - 1) \end{cases}$$

must be compatible. A solution is

$$\begin{cases} x = 1 - \lambda \\ y = 1 - \mu \\ z = 0 \end{cases},$$

and, replaced in the first equation of the system, gives the compatibility condition

$$[(1 - \lambda)^2 + (1 - \mu)^2]^2 - (1 - \lambda)(1 - \mu) = 0.$$

The equation of the conical surface is obtained by eliminating the parameters λ and μ in

$$\begin{cases} x - 1 = \lambda(z - 1) \\ y - 1 = \mu(z - 1) \\ ((1 - \lambda)^2 + (1 - \mu)^2)^2 - (1 - \lambda)(1 - \mu) = 0 \end{cases}.$$

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

Definition 2.6

The surface generated by a variable line, which intersects a given line d and a given curve \mathcal{C} , and remains parallel to a given plane π , is called conoidal surface. The curve \mathcal{C} is the director curve and the plane π is the director plane of the conoidal surface.

Theorem 2.7

The conoidal surface whose generatrix intersects the line

$$d : \begin{cases} \pi_1 = 0 \\ \pi_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

and the curve

$$\mathcal{C} : \begin{cases} F_1(x, y, z) = 0 \\ F_2(x, y, z) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

and has the director plane $\pi = 0$, (suppose that π is not parallel to d and that \mathcal{C} is not contained into π), is characterized by an equation of the form

$$\varphi \left(\pi, \frac{\pi_1}{\pi_2} \right) = 0. \quad (2.3)$$

Proof.

An arbitrary generatrix of the conoidal surface is contained into a plane parallel to π and, on the other hand, comes from the bundle of planes containing d . Then, the equations of a generatrix are

$$d_{\lambda\mu} : \begin{cases} \pi = \lambda \\ \pi_1 = \mu\pi_2 \end{cases}.$$



Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

Again, the generatrix must intersect the director curve,
hence the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} \pi = \lambda \\ \pi_1 = \mu\pi_2 \\ F_1(x, y, z) = 0 \\ F_2(x, y, z) = 0 \end{cases}$$

has to be compatible. This leads to a compatibility
condition

$$\varphi(\lambda, \mu) = 0,$$

and the equation of the conoidal surface is obtained from

$$\begin{cases} \pi = \lambda \\ \pi_1 = \mu\pi_2 \\ \varphi(\lambda, \mu) = 0 \end{cases}.$$

By expressing λ and μ , one obtains (2.3).



Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the
straight line, the point and
the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

Example 2.9

Let us find the equation of the conoidal surface, whose generatrices are parallel to xOy and intersect Oz and the curve

$$\begin{cases} y^2 - 2z + 2 = 0 \\ x^2 - 2z + 1 = 0 \end{cases} .$$

The equations of xOy and Oz are, respectively,

$$xOy : z = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad Oz : \begin{cases} x = 0 \\ z = 0 \end{cases} ,$$

so that the equations of the generatrix are

$$d_{\lambda,\mu} : \begin{cases} x = \lambda y \\ z = \mu \end{cases} .$$

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

From the compatibility of the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} x = \lambda y \\ z = \mu \\ y^2 - 2z + 2 = 0 \\ x^2 - 2z + 1 = 0 \end{cases},$$

one obtains the compatibility condition

$$2\lambda^2\mu - 2\lambda^2 - 2\mu + 1 = 0,$$

and, replacing $\lambda = \frac{y}{x}$ and $\mu = z$, the equation of the conoidal surface is

$$2x^2z - 2y^2z - 2x^2 + y^2 = 0.$$

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

Definition 2.10

The surface generated after the rotation of a given curve \mathcal{C} around a given line d is said to be a revolution surface.

Theorem 2.11

The equation of the revolution surface generated by the curve

$$\mathcal{C} : \begin{cases} F_1(x, y, z) = 0 \\ F_2(x, y, z) = 0 \end{cases},$$

in its rotation around the line

$$d : \frac{x - x_0}{p} = \frac{y - y_0}{q} = \frac{z - z_0}{r},$$

is of the form

$$\varphi((x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2 + (z - z_0)^2, px + qy + rz) = 0. \quad (2.4)$$

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

Proof.

An arbitrary point on the curve \mathcal{C} will describe, in its rotation around d , a circle situated into a plane orthogonal on d and having the center on the line d . This circle can be seen as the intersection between a sphere, having the center on d and of variable radius, and a plane, orthogonal on d , so that its equations are

$$\mathcal{C}_{\lambda,\mu} : \begin{cases} (x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2 + (z - z_0)^2 = \lambda \\ px + qy + rz = \mu \end{cases}.$$

The circle has to intersect the curve \mathcal{C} , therefore the system

$$\begin{cases} F_1(x, y, z) = 0 \\ F_2(x, y, z) = 0 \\ (x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2 + (z - z_0)^2 = \lambda \\ px + qy + rz = \mu \end{cases}$$

must be compatible. One obtains the compatibility

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the
straight line, the point and
the empty set

Generated
Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces





Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces

$$\varphi(\lambda, \mu) = 0,$$

which, after replacing the parameters, gives the equation
of the surface (2.4). □

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Quadrics

Pairs of planes, the straight line, the point and the empty set

Generated Surfaces

Cylindrical Surfaces

Conical Surfaces

Conoidal Surfaces

Revolution Surfaces